

# Memories of Queen Bertha's School: 1947-1949

by Gay Herbert (née Smith)

I joined Queen Bertha's School in 1947, aged 10, as a day girl travelling to Birchington by bus from Broadstairs each day. However, owing to the fact that after a certain age, the main lessons were taken during the evenings, when the Masters from Chatham House School, Ramsgate came to tutor us, plus the fact that I was in somewhat poor health, I only stayed at the school for about 18 months and left sometime in 1949 to join a school nearer home.



During my time at Queen Bertha's I remember playing Lacrosse in the lower field. I studied the piano with Miss Hunt and the school entered the Kent Music Festival in 1948, which was held in Dover that year.

1947 was the year of the "New Look" and there was much speculation as to whose Mum would be wearing the New Look at that year's Speech Day.

I remember lunches being taken in the Kindergarten. Corned Beef and Mash featured regularly on the menu, followed by Tapioca pudding. The Kindergarten was also home to a beautiful black Grand Piano, sometimes used for music exams, but music lessons with Miss Hunt were usually taken in her sitting room.

At some point in circa 1948 (I cannot now recall the actual date) a party of us were taken to St Martin's Church in Canterbury to see Queen Bertha's Tomb and her last resting place.

I made some nice friends at Queen Bertha's - Linda and Jean Budge; Mary Bailey; Susan Gunner and Judith Sugden spring to mind - and I was sorry to leave.

Class in the Kindergarten.  
The room was used for  
lunches in the late 1940s

