

Memories of Moseley Art School

by Ann Barran

I was at Moseley Art School from 1949 to 1951. I really enjoyed my time there because art was what I loved. My brother also went there from 1952 to 1955. He now lives in Canada and has many patents in his name from the machinery he designed. For my art in the 1950s there was very little outlet, so I ended up working in an office.



They used Moseley Baths to teach us to swim but never succeeded with me. One term was not enough time. I could still only jump in.

For our sports afternoon we would go to Highbury Park in Kings Heath, which had tennis courts and also netball or hockey. This happened on Thursday afternoons and we had to walk from school to the park, as there were no coaches or bus rides then.

After leaving school I went to work at Harry Monty Mfg Ltd. off Mary St in Balsall Heath, where they manufactured dresses. I hoped to get the chance to move into their design department but that never happened as I was told that I was far too useful in the office. So after staying there until I was 22, I decided to change my job.

I lived in Tetley Road, Hall Green and caught the no.1 bus, getting off at the bottom of Salisbury Road, and walking through to Mary Street.

I went back to painting again in my late forties so at least I have it as a hobby. My brother took these photos of the outside of the Art School (above) and the main entrance hall (right) when he visited England in the late 1990s.



Ann Barran