

## Broadbottom Evacuee and Ex-pupil

Broadbottom primary school was contacted in November by Cyril Isted. Cyril was an evacuee in 1941. Cyril arrived from London on the train and came to live in Broadbottom. He lived with Mr & Mrs Ashworth opposite the train station. He went to Broadbottom and Mottram primary school and has very fond memories of both schools as he is now 84 years of age.

Unfortunately, school has no records of this time (even though Mrs Heydon has looked in the cellar for 13 years, for any information) this prompted Mrs Heydon to put out a 'Can you Help' on the community Facebook page and too our delight Mr Fred Smith contacted the school.

Fred had previously visited school in 2019 to have a look around and reminisce about his school days. Fred was born in Hanley, Stoke-on-Trent, in 1930 and moved to Broadbottom in 1934. Because of mill closures at that time there were plenty of cheap houses for rent and plenty of work for Fred's father in Manchester and he started his schooling days in Broadbottom in 1935 and enjoyed every minute. Fred attended both schools, going to Mottram St.Michael's in 1941 and luckily as it turned out went from the wonderful teaching of Miss Edith Evans to the wonderful teaching of Mr Frank Edward Mason and became Head Boy.

*Fred says, there was always a 'class' divide between those above the railway station and those below and as I lived in Mill Street (now demolished) I knew my place!*

Attached is a photo of Fred and the whole school which was taken about 1937. Also attached is an individual school photograph of Fred, probably taken at the same time along with his last school report from this school.





Report July 1911  
Fred Smith

Subject	Marks pass	Actual
Reading	20	20
Recitation	20	20
E. Language	50	47
Composition	40	38
Writing	10	8
Arithmetic	100	78
History	50	41
Geography	50	47
A.P.	20	14
Drawing	30	23
	<u>390</u>	<u>336</u>

Position in Class: A

Teachers Remarks - Very excellent results & conscientious, steady, reliable worker, worthy of a high 6 years.

Fred has been in touch with Cyril by telephone and have had a good chat and catchup about the good old days and they have promised to keep in touch with one another.

Fred has: -

One or two stories for you !

*The 'vaccies' were a nine day wonder - after that they were one of us to the extent that when the blitz had a rest one of the vaccies took me to his home in Gorton for tea! I had to be back before dark though!*

*We had air raid shelters in the field above the playground and we were told to keep a tin of rations in our desks, i.e. chocolates, sweets, etc., anything that would keep for a time! There weren't any air raids but I think it's fair to say that had there been we would more likely have died from hunger - there was certainly nothing left of any rations!*

*Most of the lads had metal hoops as our main toy and occasionally they would come apart at the joint - no problem. The owner of Botney Mill (Geo. Kay) kindly gave his blacksmith permission to repair these hoops on Saturday mornings (only) and we had to sit a prescribed distance from the fire while we watched him repair them.*

*We once had a wonderful flood which caused hundreds of logs from the Glossop paper mill to escape which we intercepted and hastily arranged them to form a dam at the top of a weir - and gained a wonderful swimming pool (it was high summer). A couple of days later two men from the paper mill came to estimate how many logs they could retrieve - we offered to sell them for one penny each. They laughed at us and left, so we broke the dam, and the logs continued their journey towards the Mersey!*

It has been wonderful being in contact with Cyril and Fred and Mrs Heydon has sent them a letter and information about the Broadbottom Quartley for them to have a look at and see if they remember anything of the past. Fred has joined Broadbottom Community Facebook and can see his lovely Broadbottom, he especially likes the Cenotaph and the work that has gone into it from the village.

If we have any more information, we will of course share this with you.