

The Way We Are Now

FREE by Natalie Rose Philpott



Past Clare Terrace School pupils, 2013 Photographer: Natalie Philpott

Fine art student reunites old school friends after 37 years

Falmouth based fine art student, Natalie Philpott was motivated by a newspaper column entitled, *The Way We Were*, which features in her local, Falmouth Packet Newspaper. This column prints photographs of members of her local community from past events to evoke memories and act as a source of nostalgia. Natalie chose one of these photographs from the newspaper, which included a large group of Clare Terrace School children on a trip to Butlins in 1977. Natalie's interest, surrounding a loss of relations within modern society, was pivotal in her desire to explore whether it would be possible to contact the people from the photograph, with the idea of recreating it. Natalie explains her intentions as, 'I wanted to use the photograph recreation of this image as, not only, a stepping stone for social inter-

action, but to also act as a reminder to people of how good it feels to be part of a social group. I also anticipated that the final image might, potentially, reflect a loss of relations within a community, by highlighting the people who were missing.' She goes on to say that, 'although I was aware that this could prove a positive experience for the small community involved, I hope that my concept will reach a far larger audience with the help of this newspaper.'

'Memories are trickling back now...' Dominic Haughton, participant

New 'old' photo

INSPIRED by The Packet's 'The Way We Were' pages, an art student from Falmouth University is planning to recreate a photograph of Clare Terrace School pupils on a trip to Butlins which appeared in the paper in 1977.

Natalie Philpott has contacted over 25 people from the original photograph and will take a new photograph of them all wearing bobby hats, as they did in the original image.

The new photograph will take place in Falmouth's Kimberley Park at 2.30pm on November 9. If it's pouring with rain, the venue will change to Falmouth Methodist Church.

Article from the Falmouth Packet Newspaper, October 30, 2013

CHOOSING THE LOCATION



GOOD morning campers! In April 1977 this group from Falmouth's Clare Terrace School were about to join the millions of British holidaymakers to be woken from their slumbers by those three words.

On their way to Butlins, at Bognor Regis, the ten-year-old schoolchildren and their teachers were eagerly looking forward to their week's holiday at one of the nation's favourite holiday centres.

This photograph, loaned to the *Packet* by Mrs Lorraine Rickard, of Frost Court, Falmouth, shows the young holidaymakers preparing to board their bus. They were wearing

woollen hats specially hand-knitted for them, in brown and turquoise, by their mums. Mrs Rickard's daughter, Tracey, is pictured in the front row, sixth from the left.

Clare Terrace School no longer exists but the building now houses the Link to Learning Centre.

Back row, left to right: Helen Berryman, Mrs Lane (teacher), Mr Bailey (teacher), Mr Goodman (bus driver), Miss Gribble (teacher).

Second row: Rolfe Rainbird, Joan Wells, Samantha Watt, Sophie Metcalf, Karen Thompson, Alicia Woltering, Teresa Gibbons, Liz Eddy, Shelley Sircolo, Ann Horsborough,

Tracey Williams, Melanie Philby, Nicola Pryor, Linda Pover, Robin Needham.

Third row: Micalia Wilcock, Tracey Stevens, Donna Watts, Samantha Andrews, Penny Wilkie, Ava Avril, Alison Curnow, Christine Rye, Alison Truscott, Karen Toy, Helen Rose, Michell Bax, Sarah Watts, Alice Lean.

Front row: Amanda Smee, Lindsay Sowdon, Tara Donovan, Samantha Redman, Debbie Solace, Tracey Rickard, Karen Nankivell, Alison Harris, Dominic Houlton, Shaun MacDonald, Stephen Cox.

Original article of the Clare Terrace School Children, The Falmouth Packet Newspaper

When Natalie was asked why she chose Kimberley Park in Falmouth as the location for the photograph recreation, she explained that,

'There was some confusion regarding the location of the original photograph, therefore, I had to decide on a suitable place to take the image. Initially, I considered holding it at the old Clare Terrace School grounds and, although this would have been a nostalgic location, I wanted the new photograph to look as close to the original as possible. I eventually decided that Kimberley Park would provide a visually similar background.'



Natalie setting up ready for the photograph recreation at Kimberley Park, Falmouth. Photographer: Alex Whitehouse



Photographer: Natalie Rose Philpott



The old Clare Terrace School grounds. Photographer: Natalie Rose Philpott

LOCATING PARTICIPANTS

E-MAIL

SOCIAL
NETWORKING

TEXT

FACE TO FACE

PHONE CALL

LETTERS

WORD OF
MOUTH

RADIO



LOCATING THE PARTICIPANTS PROVED A 'DIFFICULT CHALLENGE'



The initial meeting. More photographs of the day of the event on page 4

When attempting to track down the participants from the image, Natalie approached it in various ways, such as phone calls, texts, e-mails, letters, Facebook, face to face contact, radio-call outs and she also placed an advert in the local newspaper. Natalie said, *'this instantly brought an interesting aspect to the project, as there was something quite curious about how difficult it was to get in touch with people. Despite living in a society fuelled by technology and social networking sites, many people from this image were not connected at all. As a consequence, this presented me with a difficult challenge.'*

'Great day! Now in contact with them on Facebook thanks to you. Hope we all meet up again soon.' Theresa Gibbons, participant

THE MICRO-COMMUNITY OF KNITTERS

List of knitters:



Natalie collaborating with one of the knitters Photographer: Paul Toy



Photographer: Paul Toy



Photographer: Paul Toy

Another aspect which emerged during the development of this project, was a group of knitters who helped Natalie with making pom-pom hats in the original school colours, as worn by the children in 1977. During this collaboration, seven women were all keen to help, including three of the mothers who knitted hats for their children in the original image. Interestingly, Natalie said that she realised, *'the process of making the hats had become an unexpected layer to this project, as I met and shared skills with new people in a micro-community effort.'* She also explained that, *'on the day of the photograph, it was fascinating to see that the hats acted as a sort of leveller and, consequently, broke down barriers between the participants, as the hats became both a sentimental and amusing topic of conversation.'*

Mothers of the children in the photograph:

Helen Denning

Susan Toy

Anne Dunn

Local Volunteers:

Anne Annear

Stephanie Simpson

Fiona Miller

June Smith

ON THE DAY OF THE EVENT



All photographs by Alex Whitehouse

'I really enjoyed seeing my old friends again. Wish we could have stayed for longer today.'
Dominic Haughton, participant



Natalie wanted to get everyone in the positions as they were in the original image



The participants getting in place for the recreated photograph



A sea of brown and blue bobble hats



Natalie taking the recreated photograph



Bobble hats thrown into the air by the participants

VIDEO DOCUMENTATION OF THE EVENT



Screenshots taken from video documentation of the event



Past school pupils excited to meet after 37 years



**'Wearing those bobble hats reminded me of this photo Linda and me had at Butlins in a photo booth!'
Robin Needham, participant**



A photograph taken whilst at Butlins in 1977, provided by Robin Needham, after the event

FINAL OUTCOME



Clare Terrace School pupils, 1977 Photographer: unknown



Past Clare Terrace School pupils, 2013 Photographer: Natalie Rose Philpott

'A group of former school friends from Falmouth met up again at the weekend to help a fine art student who had the idea of recreating a photograph that had originally been taken in 1977.'

The Falmouth Packet Newspaper, November 2013

THEN AND NOW



After analysing the final outcome of her project, Natalie cropped some of the participants out of the photograph to highlight comparisons between the 'then and now' images. Natalie explains, 'I was amazed to see how many people in the new image naturally adopted a similar pose to that of the original in 1977.'



as a human being."

permanent injury.



■ The original 1977 school photograph

On camera - the way we are now

A GROUP of former school friends from Falmouth met up again at the weekend to help a fine art student who had the idea of recreating a photograph that had originally been taken in 1977.

The original picture showed a group from the former Clare Terrace School when they were on a trip to Butlins. The photo was published in the Falmouth Packet's The Way We Were column and set student Natalie Philpott thinking.

"I began to wonder whether some of these people were still in contact and how great it would be to see a 'The Way They Are Now' image," she said.

"Once I contacted a few people from the photograph, I was thrilled to receive a really positive response from everyone and it soon spiralled into a full reunion, with people planning to catch up after, due to many of them not seeing one another since their early school days. One thing that stood out about this image was the bobble hats which, as I read from the original article, had all been hand-knitted by their mothers especially for them in 1977.

"I immediately knew that a feature had to be made of the hats in order for the image to really work. As a result, three of the original mum's, Helen Denning, Susan Toy and Anne

Dunn, all knitted their daughters hats, just like they did in 1977.

"Then, local ladies Fiona Miller, Helen Denning, Anne Annear and Joan Smith also all helped me to create hats and pom poms, all in the original Clare Terrace School colours.

"I never anticipated a small community of knitters to come out of this project as well.

"Ultimately, I hope that when people see this image in the Falmouth Packet, it will act as a reminder of how good it is to feel a part of a community and how important it is not to lose it. I would like to say thank you to everyone and to all the ladies who helped to knit the hats."



■ Then and now: former Clare Terrace school friends, 36 years later. Back row: Joan Wells, Donna Watts, Karen Hampton (nee Thompson), Teresa Gibbons, Alison Truscott-Scrace, Karen Philpott (nee Toy), Nicola Murray (nee Pryor), Linda Pover and Robin Needham. Front row: Tracey Rickard, Karen Van Den Heuvel (nee Nankivell), Alison Clay (nee Harris), Dominic Haughton, Sean McDonnell and Stephen Cox.
Pic by Natalie Philpott

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Article from The Falmouth Packet Newspaper, November 2013.

Natalie would like to thank everyone who contributed to this project