

Peter Madsen



I attended Harlow College 1950 - 1956 as a boarder. (Nelson House).

My initial impression was the remarkable resemblance to Colditz, high on a hill, sinister bleak and eerie. A most imposing landmark perched on the edge of a tiny rural village.

Still have a vivid recollection of a bulldozer, as if abandoned, positioned for two weeks at the east end of

Edinburgh Way, the first indication that a new town was to be built.

Only a year later, standing there with others in our scout uniform waiting in appalling weather to salute the Duke of Edinburgh as he whizzed past on route to his inaugural address.

Suffered the indignity of the cane in the early years on numerous occasions and the slipper from gung-ho Prefects, but they were very happy days, school report reads, "Slow in grasping the ropes", thought to be slanderous at the time.

Thoroughly enjoyed all the sports, in particular badminton, played almost daily, relished the competitive spirit of Norris, Woolley and Jefferies.



Reeves, Uglow (Bubs), Me, Clarke, Walker, Padfield

It was at the tender age of 12 years I was introduced to the razzamatazz world of commerce (wheeling and dealing), selling apples in the tectum at inflated prices, buying used comics at 2d and passing on at 3p, climbing onto the school valley roof to retrieve tennis balls, then auction off with the odd gazumping.

Remembering Ralph Uglow (Bubs to his closest friends) who acquired a methylated spirit mini oven and Primus stove, taking orders at playtime for tea, soup, or something on toast all prepared in the air raid shelter. A paraffin hurricane lamp was the only source of light, a shared fag created the desired atmosphere, blazers were readily impregnated by the amalgam of fumes - it was great! He became a master chef and later owned a hotel in the U.S.A.

from Peter Madsen



A cheque found in my father's papers, dated Sept 24th 1951, made out to Harlow College for £46-14-2p which is patently evidence of my school fee as a full time boarder for the summer term of 1951.

A similar cheque for September 1952 was for £48-11Shillings.

Both are signed on reverse by N Johnson (Fanny), the School Secretary.

I have cherished memories of daring exploits with Robert Reeves (Reevo), after lights out, creeping down to the basement eating cold baked beans on nicked "Bricks" from the kitchen, returning to the dorm was an adrenalin rush.

Having left Harlow with modest academic results, went to Oaklands Institute for Horticulture 1956 -1957. Again a wonderful time, being the youngest student it was my transition into the adult world.

Enjoyed much travelling, got married somewhat late in life. Entered family business growing carnations, marketing to the wholesale fraternity and indirect exports for the Navy and British Embassies worldwide.

After being a M.D. for 25 years, voluntarily sold in 1986. Having taken a well deserved year off, was employed by Tesco plc. for 15 years.

Am now happily retired, seven day weekends are to be recommended, made more pleasurable by having my son and daughter at home.

You can email me at [Peter Madsen](#)