

## **Roger Notton - *personal profile***

### **1947-51**

In 1947, soon after my father had died, I left Hook and moved to Woodford Green in Essex to live with my Aunt and Uncle, Kathleen and Frank Shadbolt.

My further education needed to be quickly sorted so it was decided a Boarding School was the best option. It was in the summer of 1947 my Aunt and I made a visit to Harlow College in Essex. We were welcomed by the Headmaster, Kenneth Dames, and a interview and educational test were undertaken. Having received a somewhat patchy education at Queen Mary's School in Basingstoke where I did not do particular well. However, because I managed to convinced Mr Dames I was a good sportsman I was accepted into the school.

A great deal of preparation needed to happen very quickly before the new term began in early September. Items had to be hurriedly bought, a new school uniform from the school outfitters in Walthamstow, sports equipment, a wooden tuck box and a new trunk. The trunk was collected by a railway van and transported, in advance, to the school.

The day of departure soon arrived and my aunt took me to Liverpool Street Station to catch the special school train. Having said our goodbyes I now had a chance to meet some my fellow pupils, including a number of new boys.

On arrival at Harlow Town Station, we were met by some of the school masters then walked, in crocodile fashion, up the hill to the school. Tea was ready in the dining hall. A country boy's life was about to change for ever.

The first visit to my dormitory, to say the least, came as a bit of a shock as I was to share it with fourteen other boys.

**You can email me at [Roger Notton](#)**