

WHEN SCHOOLDAYS WERE FUN

A LIGHTHEARTED LOOK AT
"THE BEST DAYS OF OUR LIVES"

Stephen Browning

How did this book come about? Well, I was toying with a breadstick and wondering how a restaurant could charge £12.95 for an admittedly fresh piece of dough, coated in tomato puree and topped by some parmesan cheese and a few rocket leaves, when the publisher said, "We have been having great interest in our new series 'When Things (Motoring and Holidays are two bestsellers) Were Fun'. A little retro – warm and funny, reminding people of times gone by, tho' not so long ago."

I said, "We could do 'When Life was Fun' – mind you, it might end about 1700."

"I was thinking about Schooldays," he laughed, calling for the bill. "Could you do that?"

"Oh yes," I said. "Oh, yes, indeed."

And so here it is. A wry and sideways look at what makes us look back with fondness on days which so often were full of dread, perhaps a little loathing and – maths. Tongue-in-cheek (but with some serious asides too), this book – along with its wonderful photographs – reminds us of The Best Days of our Lives. Chapters include:

Facing the School Day • We Are All Good at Something • Remembering our Teachers • All Change! The 20th Century • What is That? (School Food) • School Life • Schooldays in the Arts • Schoolday Memories

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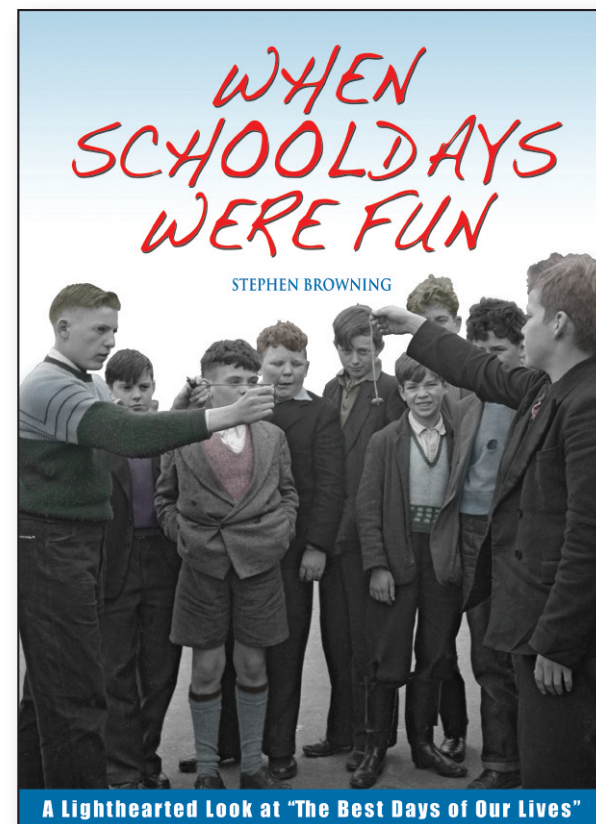
ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Stephen Browning was educated in Norfolk before gaining an honours degree in History from the University of Kent at Canterbury. It was here that he organised his first book, *Canterbury for the Disabled*, with the help of about 30 other students. After training as a teacher at the University of Birmingham School of Education, he spent much of his working life promoting teacher exchanges between the United Kingdom and the overseas Commonwealth. He also worked for the Council for Education in the Commonwealth, a body that operates within the two chambers of the British government – the Lords and the Commons. He has written extensively about best practice in education both in the UK and the 50-plus countries of the Commonwealth. He has written, or contributed to, a number of books about the English Language, mainly for the Asian market. He spends several months each year in Taiwan. He is based in Norwich.

Stephen is also author of *Norwich* in the Halsgrove Discover series and co-author, with photographer Daniel Tink, of *Spirit of Norwich Cathedral* published by PiXZ Books.

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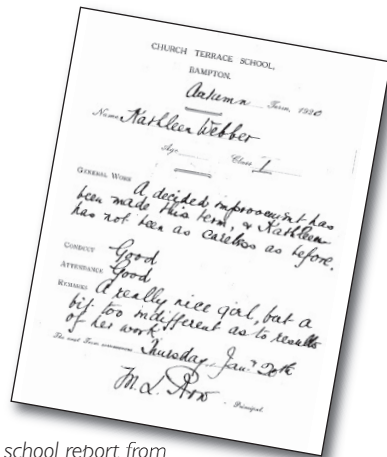


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WHEN SCHOOLDAYS WERE FUN



A school report from Church Terrace School, Bampton, for Kathleen Webber, aged 7, dated 1920



Inside Haughey Crawford's School c.1959.



In the 1920s physical exercise for girls was fine but decorum must be kept at all times: these young ladies from Itchen Secondary School must have been sweltering in their almost tent-like outfits.



Example of a double-page spread.



A sack race is taking place on the lawn in front of the rectory at Mulbarton, Norfolk, early 1960s.



The Methodist Chapel Sunday School, Northwood, Isle of Wight in 1895.