

# 25 YEARS AT EDWARD BETHAM SCHOOL

In June nineteen hundred and eighty one  
My life at Betham had just begun.  
A Dinner Lady I was to be,  
Watching the children and looking to see  
That they were behaving and having fun.

A chance to become an LSA  
Helping children in a special way,  
Standing in for a cleaning lady,  
How long? Two, three or four weeks, maybe?  
Hoovering floors, washing tables for the following day.

Interviewed for the welfare post,  
Trying to show that I wanted it most.  
Learning First Aid and CPS,  
Bathing legs- will it leave a scar?  
Grabbing some lunch of cheese and toast.

Twenty-five years have now flown by.  
Reports completed, I let out a sigh.  
No more numeracy, literacy, dewing,  
Writing birthday cards, merit certificates for showing.  
Now its time to shed a tear and say bye-bye.

**Pauline Avery**  
July 2006



On Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> July, a host of Betham people, past and present, came to the school for a farewell Tea Party, in honour of Pauline Avery who started as a Dinner Lady in 1981 and was retiring at the end of the Summer 2006 Term after twenty five years as a member of the school staff. Former Head Teacher Colin Neville was also there. Pauline was presented with a painting of Cornwall fishing scene by Hazell Smith and with money to sponsor a Kenyan Elephant for some years, as well as buy a swing seat for the garden. Vice Chair of the School Governing Body, Ray Allen, made a farewell speech and wished Pauline every good wish in her retirement.

Mrs Avery also had special departmental assemblies as an occasion for the children to say good bye. Every Junior child wrote a limerick about her and it was amazing just how many rhyming words for Avery were found! - savoury, bravery!

On Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> July, the Sunday following her 65<sup>th</sup> birthday, Pauline was presented with a basket of flowers from Holy Cross Church, to add the congregation's good wishes to those from everyone else.

Well done Pauline.

**NEIL RICHARDSON**