

From Wakering to the West Coast of Ireland

By Paul Duncan

In a recent email to the society, Paul commented that he has often read the John Threadgold 1953 story and more recently the story by Laurie Street of his time on board "CYGNET". He went on to say that he has a blown up framed photograph of "CYGNET" on his wall in Ireland and wishes to share some of his experiences whilst he was living in Wakering.

Paul's mother is May Mumford and is still alive at 96 years old. She has a photograph of her class at Barling School when she was about fourteen years old but is unable to put many names to the faces. Paul's older brother is Ed Mumford.

Paul spent many a time at the cockle sheds off-loading the landing craft or just shovelling the shells into the dryer after school or at weekends but never had the opportunity to travel to the Sands. He said that this was purely for fun and not monetary reward. He also often served at his mother's shop in Barling with his grandmother, on Saturdays.

Paul remembers a left handed batsman by the name of John Threadgold and if he is the same John Threadgold from Millers or Oxenham Farm then he says that they had one very interesting encounter. He was playing for Southend Saracens in Priory Park and he spectacularly caught John out and in doing so learned quite a few new adjectives. Also if he is the same John then they have met many times casually but never known a closer indirect connection such as his uncle Ed.

Paul has been living on West coast of Ireland for last 29 years and whenever he gets back "home" he always takes a trip to the sea wall at Barling down Kimberley Road to do a bit of reminiscing.

If anybody wishes to find out more please liaise with Paul via his email at: firstmate.sinbad@gmail.com