

# "SMALL BEGINNINGS"

No 3

Spring 2002

The Newsletter of the former pupils of the old Barling Primary School is aimed at all ex-pupils, teachers and friends of the school.

A Date for Your Diary

**Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> July 2002**

## **School Reunion**

On Saturday the 13<sup>th</sup> July 2002 a Reunion for all ex-pupils, teachers and friends is now in the advanced planning stage. The Reunion will be held during the evening of that day at the new Barling School.

Mrs Sue Taylor, the headteacher of the new Barling School is hoping to attend the Reunion. Writing about the reunion she says "..... *Although we no longer live in the original school building that you remember, I am sure your members will agree that the school lives on .....*"

In 1996, 1998, and 2000 there have been reunions of ex-pupils that were organised and assisted by so many people. These include Vi Mitchell, Pam Gregory, Betty Deadman, and Den Winch. Many thanks to these and to all those not mentioned who have generously contributed their time and energy.

- After the 2000 reunion a small group of ex-pupils got together and held small lunchtime gatherings in local hostelrys (see back page).
- Geoff Bell, another former pupil, who has lived in South Africa since 1967 has made available part of his personal web site for both information and photos to be stored and accessed - inspect the site at <http://www.geoffbell.co.za>.
- During July 2001 a special gathering took place at the Castle Inn, Little Wakering to welcome Norman Snow and his family. Norman, who attended Barling School between 1949 - 1955, has lived and worked in Canada since the mid nineteen seventies and was visiting the UK as part of his annual vacation.

For this issue of the Newsletter, the surnames of former pupils will be as used at the time that they attended Barling School.



## The Names of Teachers

For one reason or another the majority of us remember the name of our teachers, especially those from our primary school days. However, the ravages of time sometimes make the 'memory recall' process less easy. With regard to Barling School help is at hand. The list below, compiled by Betty Deadman from School log-book records, shows the headteachers and teachers from 1901 until 1970 and the years that they served at the School. Even so there are big gaps as the School was built in 1878 and yet the (new) existing school buildings did not come into service until the early nineteen seventies. In addition, the starting and ending dates for a few of the teachers are unclear.

### Headteachers :

Mr DAVIES	1901 - 1912
Mr SHEPHERD	1912 - 1940
Mr COX	1940
Mr BENNETT	1940
Mr STONE	1941 - 1942
Mr EMERY	1942
Mr RICHARDS	1942 - 1943
Mr BRETT	1943 - 1944
Mr LEARMOND	1944 - 1970

### Teachers :

Mrs SHEPHERD	1913 - 1941
Miss RILEY	1924 - 1964
Miss TURNER	1937 - 1937
Miss MORGAN	1937 - 1942
Miss BROWN*	1941 - 1946
Miss SEAGER	1942 - 1944
Mrs BRIGHT	1944 - 1945
Mrs HOARE	1945 - 1945
Mrs HALL	1946 - 1946
Miss BREWER	1946 - 1948
Mrs HORNER	1948 - 1948

\* after marrying became Mrs HARRIS

???? means unknown

### Pupils then Teachers

Our own investigation shows that Pearl Mumford was a pupil at the School from 1946 - 1952. Pearl then became a supply teacher at the School in July 1971 and then, at the new school, during the summer term of 1990.

John Griffiths was a pupil at the School from 1947 to 1953. Subsequently, John returned to the School to become a supply teacher during 1961- 2.

### HELP

If anyone can help in identifying those unknown years, or would like to correct or add to the above list, then please contact Peter Griffiths, see details on the back page.



## Memories

*These memories of Barling schooldays are by Tony Alps who, at the time, lived with his parents in Mucking Hall Road.*

I started going to school at Barling during late 1944 while the war was still on. We walked to school in small groups with one of the older children in charge. We were told to do exactly as we were told, not to pick up anything and if the siren sounded we were to jump into the nearest ditch. I still recall the sound of the siren and the sound of the doodlebugs. There was an air-raid shelter in the school grounds and I know that on several occasions we continued our lessons there after sirens had sounded. This also was a feature of life at home and my very first memory of anything is being dragged out of bed in the middle of a freezing cold night and huddling in a ditch with sandbags over it which was our air-raid shelter. I also have a vivid memory of my grandfather showing me a plane that was overhead and on fire, while at the same time, my mother was trying to drag us both back into the shelter. Much of this was fairly routine in my early life but I cannot ever remember being afraid. I think I must have been too young to comprehend the danger.

The bomber and fighter formations used to pass over the countryside in huge numbers so low that in many cases the aircrew were visible. We would all stop whatever we were doing and wave and cheer frantically. Occasionally one of the fighters would acknowledge with a couple of wing tilts and wave back which would see us go into frenzy. It was amazing how many aircraft types we all knew and recognised, but however, it often led to arguments if everyone couldn't agree on the type.

The countryside around the school in those days was vastly different to that which exists today. There were hedgerows everywhere, interspersed with large trees. Houses were few and far between and, of course, there was no traffic. In fact cars were so scarce we used to sit by the side of the road and collect number plate numbers!

Farming dominated our lives in those days and the seasons determined what we were doing for play at any point in time. I spent many hours pea-picking with my mother, gleaning for potatoes, wheat, barley or whatever was in season. I also spent a lot of time with my Uncle Arthur (Bailey) who was a farm worker who mainly worked with horses and I spend many hours sitting on a plough or a waggon with him holding the reins.

Horses in those days were the principle means of power delivery. Tractors were few and far between and most machine work was horse driven. Steamrollers were common and did most of the work on the roads. Many towed a little caravan behind them. As I remember it, the driver would live in this little van camped beside whichever road he happened to be repairing. Us kids thought it absolutely wonderful to be able to get a ride on a steam engine. We would run along the side begging for the opportunity to be able to get on and throw a piece of coke into the firebox.

I do remember one of the main hobbies boys indulged in was collecting bird's eggs. We never took more than one per nest and there always seemed to be an abundance of birds and their nests. In fact where we lived in Mucking Hall Road, seemed like a giant aviary. Birds were everywhere and I reckon most of us would have been able to identify dozens of different species. Wildlife featured prominently in our lives in those days. In many ways it was an idyllic existence. We were always outside when the weather permitted and when the light began to fade all the mothers would be on the doorsteps yelling out for their kids to come home. No one ever wanted to go home. After all, when you got home you got scrubbed up and then put to bed. Much more fun in fishing for newts, playing cricket in the road, or playing conkers, among other things.

*Tony attended Barling School between 1944 and 1950 before he and his brother and parents emigrated to Australia in November 1951. Currently, Tony lives in Queensland after spending many years in Tasmania.*



***Can you help ?***

Perhaps you are able to write a short article for this Newsletter of between 300 – 500 words. For instance, the article could be about some aspect of your schooldays at Barling School, getting to and from school, growing up or even about the area – all appropriate topics will be considered. Any article published may be subject to editing.

If so, please contact Paul Abercrombie – see box below for details

***Gatherings***

A number of small lunchtime gatherings have been held since the last full Reunion of August 2000. These events have been held on Saturday lunchtime at various public houses in Little Wakering, Great Wakering, and Rochford. The meetings are informal in nature with former pupils, spouses, other relatives and friends most welcome.

So far this year there has been two such meetings and two further gatherings are planned. The remaining lunchtime dates and venues during 2002 are:

18<sup>th</sup> May     Rose Inn, Silchester Corner;

5<sup>th</sup> October     Castle Inn, Little Wakering.

**Contacts**

Should you wish to help or clarification/further information is required, in the first instance, please contact one the following:

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