

# "SMALL BEGINNINGS"

No 5

Autumn 2002

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

**A Reunion of the old Barling School was held on Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> July 2002 at the "new" Barling School.**

It is estimated that between 110 and 125 persons attended the Reunion. This figure not only includes former pupils but also spouses, relatives, and those that accompanied former pupils. The vast majority of the former pupils at the Reunion attended Barling School during the period from 1940 - 1959. However, the age range of former pupils was immense with Queenie Bell leaving the School in 1920/1921 while Rhys Brown and Jane Summerhayes left in 1974 when the School closed down. The difference in distance travelled to the Reunion was also huge, with Norman Snow travelling well over 5,000 miles from the Canadian western artic, yet at the other extreme Janet Collicutt had only a short walk to the school.

As mentioned above, Queenie Bell was the oldest former pupil of Barling School to attend the Reunion in July. Queenie Sylvia Bell was born in Little Waking during February 1907. Queenie was the youngest of 7 children and was brought up on a farm in the area and then at a cottage (The Shamrock) on the Little Waking Road, (Shamrock cottage is located about halfway between the Run Corner and the old Barling School). Queenie attended Barling Magna Primary School from 1911 to 1920 (approximately). Unfortunately, owing to a stroke that she suffered a few years ago her memories of those schooldays are now hazy and not clear. However, Queenie does remember that she walked to school each day with her older sister (Hilda) and that the head-teacher was a Mr Alan Shephard, who sometimes was a little severe. With regard to her relatives that still remain in Waking, they are the Witton Family which are cousins on her mothers side of the family. At one time there were other relatives, such as, Geoff Bell and Barry Harpers' family but sadly, they have all moved away and out of the area.

During the nineteen thirties, Queenie married a Mr Arthur Jones and moved from Little Waking to North Avenue, Southend and there raised a family. Now she has not only a son and grandchildren but also two great grand children. Queenie now lives in a nursing home in Westcliff On Sea.

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



## REUNION 2002: ORGANISATION

A group of former pupils (with spouses and friends) made the decision to proceed with Reunion 2002 and, subsequently, then made decisions on particular aspects of the Reunion organisation. These decisions were made at the Gatherings that took place from late 2001. Therefore, a large number of people were involved in making decisions about the Reunion organisation. However, the persons who had the main responsibilities were Paul Abercrombie, Peter Griffiths, Dawn Mumford (with husband David Bailey), and Val Mott (with husband Graham Ridley).

Paul Abercrombie guided and co-ordinated the Reunion organisation during the months prior to the actual event and generally acted as a focal point. During the Reunion, Paul was at the entrance welcoming former pupils and their guests. In addition, he has been the keeper of the Reunion funds. Paul has acted as editor of this Newsletter from its inception last year (2001).

Peter Griffiths was responsible for liaising with the media to publicise the fact that the Reunion was taking place. In reality, this meant communicating with all the local newspapers and radio stations. Peter's hard work was manifested in numerous newspaper entries and articles and crowned with a live interview on a local radio station. Furthermore, Peter has greatly helped in the research necessary in discovering the whereabouts of any number of former pupils.

Also charged with publicising the Reunion, Dawn Mumford (with husband David Bailey) successfully undertook the Herculean task of distributing leaflets to households throughout the village and the putting up of notices in local shops. Dawn and David have made great strides in the important and painstaking task of identifying photographic images of former pupils. In addition, David acted as a scrutineer of the Reunion finances.

On the night of the Reunion, Valerie Mott (and husband Graham Ridley) ably assisted by brother Ray Mott (and wife June) made a first class job of running the kitchen. They dispensed food and drink so very smoothly making this vital and difficult task seem easy. In addition, Ray had the responsibility of checking and counting the monies received as donations from former pupils to defray the costs of the Reunion.

During the Reunion, Doris Chapman (and husband David Bracci) organised and ran the excellent raffle. They were ably assisted by Sheelagh Chapman (and husband Blaise Aranha). On the night of the Reunion, a number of others contributed to making the Reunion a success these included, Betty Mitchell, Les Gilkes and Richard (Vi Mitchell's grandson).

Prior to the Reunion, a number of others also gave their time and effort in ensuring that the Reunion ran smoothly by either distributing leaflets or by giving advice. These included, Janet Collicutt, Olive Bradbury, Pearl Mumford, Betty Deadman, Vi Mitchell, Den Winch and Pam Gregory.

Special thanks to Geoff Bell for allowing part of his personal web site to be used for the benefit of the former pupils of the old Barling School. Finally, thanks to Mrs Sue Taylor, the Headteacher of the new Barling School, for her advice and guidance.

*Apologies in advance if, owing to accidental oversight, a name or particular credit has been omitted.*



## REUNION 2002 - BALANCE SHEET

### FUNDS RAISED AT THE REUNION

	£	
Donations;	237.67	
Raffle Surplus:	87.60	
<b>Total</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>325.27</b>

### EXPENSES

	£	
Hall & Insurance	100.00	
Hire of Chairs	24.00	
Newsletter - copies	30.00	
<b>Total</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>154.00</b>

**BALANCE (Surplus) £ 171.27**

Certified as accurate:

Paul Abercrombie and David Bailey.

Date: 7<sup>th</sup> August 2002.

## REUNION 2002 ATTENDANCE BY FORMER PUPILS

The vast majority of those former pupils that attended the Reunion are listed below. The names are banded into the decade that they left Barling School. Apologies if a name has been placed in the incorrect decade category.

### 1920 - 1929

Queenie Bell  
Kenneth Seymour

### 1930 - 1939

Joan Seymour  
Doug Harradence  
Michael Street  
David Clarke  
Cora Harradence  
May Mumford  
Vi Mitchell  
Joyce Burgess

### 1940 - 1949

Margaret Bradbury  
Betty Mitchell  
Betty Deadman  
Mick Prior  
Laurie Street  
David Little  
Len Knight  
Sheelagh Chapman  
Yvonne Bradbury  
John Pavelin  
Cynthia Keen  
Doreen Richards  
Roy Richards  
Joy Truss

Arthur Chittock  
Pam Gregory  
Beryl Claydon  
Janet Collicutt  
Richard Adcock  
Geoffrey Wright  
Ray Mott  
Olive Bradbury  
Doreen Woods  
Reg Watson

### 1950 - 1959

Daphne Keen  
Victor Abrey  
Peter Griffiths  
Jean Prior  
Dawn Davy  
Marjorie Whiting  
David Murrell  
Robert Murrell  
Janet Murrell  
Pearl Mumford  
Dawn Mumford  
Norman Snow  
Valerie Mott  
Sandra Cornwell  
Paul Abercrombie  
Stanley Witton  
Cynthia Witton  
David Freeman  
Brian Wright

Barbara Smith  
Lynne Marshall  
Gordon Chittock  
Yvonne Appleyard  
Chris Appleyard  
Peter Brudenell  
Doris Chapman  
Jack Chapman  
Shirley Watson  
Maureen Abrey  
Les Gilkes

### 1960 - 1969

Anne Bond  
Hilary Davy  
Julie (Denise) Murrell  
Julie Cornwell  
Keith Appleyard  
Marion Appleyard  
Eileen Mumford  
Bob Avery  
Paul Robinson  
Christine Abrey

### 1970 - 1974 (Closure)

Jane Summerhayes  
Rhys Brown  
Linda Groves  
Mandy Mercer



- **Lunchtime Gatherings**

After the 2000 Reunion a group of ex-pupils got together and held small lunchtime informal gatherings (some might say, mini reunions) in local hostelrys. Indeed, Reunion 2002 is unlikely to have been organised if it was not for these gatherings. All former pupils welcome including teachers, other members of staff, relatives and friends.

**Gatherings  
Provisional 2003 Dates**

- 18 January, at the Cherry Tree Public House (Stambridge Road, Rochford);
- 19 April, at the Red Lion Public House (High Street, Great Wakering);
- 19 July, at the Castle Inn Public House (Little Wakering Road, Little Wakering);
- 18 October, at the Rose Inn Public House (Silchester Corner, Wakering Road).

All on a Saturday lunchtime (at 12.15)

- **INTERNET**

Geoff Bell, a former pupil living in South Africa, has made available part of his personal web site for old Barling School information and photos to be stored and accessed, you can inspect the site at <http://www.geoffbell.co.za/villages/index.html>. This site includes:

- Photos of various classes and groups;
- Photographic images that need identification (mysteries);
- Photos from reunions held in 1996, 1998, 2000 and 2002;
- List of teachers;
- Census 1881 data for the area.

**\*\* Attention \*\***

Peter Griffiths (see below) is trying to build up a contact list for future reunions and would be very happy to receive names of people's classmates and, if possible, how to get in touch with them.

**Contacts**

Should you wish to help or if clarification/further information is required, please contact one of the following:

- **Valerie Ridley (nee Mott)**, 34 Laburnum Grove, Hockley, SS5 4SG  
Telephone: 01702 205612                      email: [valham@bushinternet.com](mailto:valham@bushinternet.com)
- **Peter Griffiths**, 22 Gracedale Road, London SW16 6SW  
Telephone: 020 8769 6799                      email: [p-pgriffiths@tinyworld.co.uk](mailto:p-pgriffiths@tinyworld.co.uk)
- **Paul Abercrombie**, 2 Coombes Grove, Rochford, SS4 1DX  
Telephone: 01702 544078                      email: [paulabercrombie@tinyworld.co.uk](mailto:paulabercrombie@tinyworld.co.uk)