

Small Beginnings

The newsletter of the former pupils of the old Barling School is aimed at all ex-pupils, staff and friends of the school



Special Interest Articles:

- Reunion News
- Poem
- Quiz

Reunion News

The reunion held on October 11th 2008 at the old Barling School was a great success. 65 people attended (a drop in numbers from the last event) and everyone seemed to enjoy themselves. It was nice to see some new faces - Alan Mumford, Andy Harris, Denise, Jan and Steven Kiss to name a few. Next time, we would like to see more of the younger generations attending.

Reunion Lunches

A group of us meet for lunch every few months to catch up on news and socialise, but also to plan the main reunion events. We have changed our venue recently, and will now meet at the Rose Inn, Barling, at 12.15ish.

The dates for the next year, 2009, are:

January 24th

April 18th

July 25th

October 24th

All friends and partners are welcome.

Replacement Reunion Organiser Required

After a good few years Peter Griffiths has decided to stand down from the job of being the main organiser of the Reunion events. He admits that "he only pulls things together" as there are lots of willing helpers who take responsibility for various parts of the events and make it a success.

Peter feels that it is time for someone else to take the job on, and with that in mind we would be grateful for suggestions for a new organiser.

We thank Peter for his hard work and enthusiasm

Poem by A. M. Reynolds

My mother wrote this poem a long time ago about the village. She and her four brothers & sisters, her two daughters and two sons-in-law all came to Barling School, as did her four grandchildren at some time in their school life.

Pearl Ann Everard (nee Reynolds)

Our village is old
Our village is small
But our village is grand
With a WI hall

There's a school for the tots
In this village of ours
There's a pub and a church
To spend many hours

The sea gently laps
On the old seawall
While the children
Play in the waters cool

In years gone by
Our grandfathers told
Tales of smugglers and
Tunnels from houses old

I remember the grind stones
Up at the mill, as tall as a man they stood
The sails stretching to the sky
To gather the clouds if they could

A.M. Reynolds



All Barling School ex-pupils, partners and friends are wished a happy Christmas and peaceful New Year

Reunion Quiz 2008

Q1: What was the name of the off-licence opposite the tea-rooms in Barling?

Q2: Stocks and whipping posts were used for punishment in the past, but where can you find the old whipping post in Little Wakering today?

Q3: Who started teaching at Barling School in the 1920s and stayed for over 40 years?

Q4: What was the name of the Dutch artist who lived on Church Road, Barling, in the 1940s?

Q5: Who was the ebullient Scot who took over Miss Gray's newsagents at the east end of Wakering High Street before moving to larger premises on the borders of Little Wakering and Great Wakering?

Q6: What was Mr Learmond's Christian name?

Q7: Which famous world speed record-holder, who died tragically in 1967, often visited Little Wakering in the late 1940s?

Q8: Name the last farmer who lived in "The Glebe", Barling.

Q9: Which footballer who received early training from Mr Learmond played for the following teams, in this order: Great Wakering Rovers, Southend United, Chelsea, Southend United, Bedford Town, Great Wakering Rovers?

Q10: Name Little Wakering and Barling's Vicar whose hobby was the breeding of worms.

Q11: After which Saint or Saints is the church of Barling named?

Q12: In what year did the 'old' Barling School open?

Q13: In what year did The Great Tide flood large parts of our area?

Q14: Where is Winkle Cottage?

Q15: In which year do records first support the existence of a Jail associated with Jail Farm, Barling? Was it 1060, 1460 or 1820?

Q16: Where were condemned prisoners for this area hung until the late 18th century?

Q17: What is the name of the acting group that was set up by Brian and Ann Wright in Barling Magna c 1970?

Q18: What was the name of the alehouse that was near to Barling Church in about the 16th Century?

Q19: What was the name of the Doctor who was born at Little Wakering Hall and kept a diary from 1826 to 1828, which was featured in a book called Essex People 1750 – 1900

Q20: When was the 'Brays' opposite Little Wakering Church built?

Answers at end of newsletter

Village Website

The village website contains copies of past newsletters, and photos from various reunions. There are also many photographs of people and events in Little Wakering, Great Wakering and Barling villages, and Barling School.

It is easy to navigate around and is well worth a look.

Terry Mumford works very hard to maintain and add to this excellent website which can be found at

<http://www.barlingwakeringvillages.co.uk/index.html>

(click on address to go to website)

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Paul Abercrombie initiated "Small Beginnings"

"Memories of those who shaped our young lives" would be welcome. Mr Learmond and Miss Riley come to mind as prime subjects for articles.

Reunion Quiz Answers

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|----------------------------|---------------------------|---|
| A1: The Shoulderstick | A8: Albert Johnson | A15: 1060 |
| A2: Little Wakering Church | A9: Les Stubbs | A16: Gallows Field, near Mucking Hall Road, Barling |
| A3: Miss Riley | A10: Reverend Freemont | A17: Magna Players |
| A4: Hans Hansen | A11: All Saints | A18: The Goat Inn |
| A5: Malcolm Bruce | A12: 1878 | A19: Dr Jonas Asplin |
| A6: Adam | A13: 1953 | A20: 1634 |
| A7: Donald Campbell | A14: Church Road, Barling | |