

"SMALL BEGINNINGS"

No 2

Autumn/Winter 2001/2

The Newsletter of the old Barling Magna Primary School

The Old Barling Magna Primary School (hereafter the School) was built in 1878 and was an educational establishment until the early nineteen seventies. Since then the buildings have existed in a number of different guises.

This newsletter is aimed at all ex-pupils, teachers and friends of the School.

The Story so Far

In 1996, 1998, and 2000 there have been reunions of ex-pupils organised on an ad-hoc basis. After the 2000 reunion a small group of ex-pupils got together and held small lunchtime gatherings in local hostelrys. Indeed, an ex-pupil (Geoff Bell) who has lived in South Africa since 1967 has made available part of his personal web site for information and images to be stored and accessed – the URL is <http://www.barlingwakingvillages/barling/barling.htm>.

There are so many people who have undertaken much of the original work in bringing the situation to its current point and deserve thanks. It would not be practical, on this small Newsletter, to list them all. However, they include: Vi Sivell (nee Mitchell); Pam Gregory; Betty Dobson (nee Deadman): and Den Winch. Thanks to all those not mentioned who have generously contributed their time and energy.

Organisation

It is thought that the present ad-hoc system (rather than formal) organisation of activities and events reflect the wishes of the majority of former pupils. This means that that all ex-pupils and others who are interested have an opportunity to voice their opinions. Furthermore, an ad-hoc system helps to ensure that not one individual or small group will dominate the course of any activities.

The usage of names

A convention on the usage of names might be needed not only to correctly identify married women but also to ascertain the period that one attended the School. For instance, would it be better for my name to appear as 'Paul Abercrombie, 1949', to indicate the year I started at the school, or as 'Paul Abercrombie (1949-55)'? With regard to married women, would it be better, for instance, to have 'Valerie Ridley, 1949, (nee Mott)' or 'Valerie (Mott) Ridley (1949-55)'? In childhood photographs, should people just be identified by their name at that time; for instance, 'Barbara Wigg'? *For this issue of the Newsletter, current names will be used and, in the case of married women, their surname at the time they attended the School.*

Gatherings

As mentioned on the front page, a number of small lunchtime gatherings have been held since the full Reunion of August 2000. These events have been held on a 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.

It is proposed to continue having these gatherings during 2002 but, however, with an important change. A number of persons felt that some of these meetings should be held on a regular basis in Great/Little Wakering so that those without easy access to transport can more easily attend. However, gatherings outside the “village” will also continue.

The suggested (Saturday lunchtime) dates for 2002 are:

19th January Cherry Tree, Stambridge;

2nd March Red Lion, Great Wakering - village meeting (1st Sat. in March);

18th May Rose Inn, Silchester Corner;

5th October Castle Inn, Little Wakering – village meeting (1st Sat. in October).

Reunion

It is hoped that next year (2002) a full Reunion will be arranged along the lines of those held in 1996, 1998, and 2000. It is likely to be held during July, in anticipation of light evenings and settled weather, prior to the August holiday period. At the time of writing, the date and place being considered is Saturday 13th July 2002 at the existing (that is, the new) Barling School.

No firm arrangements have been made so if you have any comments, or thoughts on this matter, please contact us as soon as possible.

Once the date and venue are finalised then the planning and promotion of this event will be team based with tasks shared amongst volunteers.