

# 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 Lunches
- YeOlde Shoulderstick
- The Beadell family

## **Reunion Lunches**

A group of us meet for lunch every few months to catch up on news, socialise, and plan the main reunion events.

We meet at the Castle Inn, Little Wakering from 12.15 to 3.00 pm

### **Remaining Dates for 2014 - 2015**

April 12<sup>th</sup> 2014  
July 12<sup>th</sup> 2014  
October 11<sup>th</sup> 2104  
January10th 2015

*All friends and partners are welcome.*

What a wonderful start to the year!

33 of us met at The Castle on January 11th for another of our very sociable lunchtime sessions.

It was particularly good to welcome the Leigh brothers, David and Philip, and Pat (Robinson) Quinton and husband Jim. We were very grateful to the staff for looking after us so well.

As it was our first get-together since last July, David Bailey and others spoke about the success of the big Reunion on October 5th last year.

Yet again the raffle had been special and Doris Bracci thanked all those who had given prizes.

*Peter Griffiths*

## Ye Olde Shoulderstick

Richard Kirton informed us of some information about Ye Olde Shoulderstick on his website: <http://www.wakeringheritage.org.uk/shoulderstick.html> which produced more information and discussion especially about the Bale family, via email, produced here for your interest.

During the war we lived at High House Terraces in Mucking Hall Rd, opposite Murrell's Farm. I remember the Shoulderstick very well as it was the closest shop to us. Mum (Katherine Alps, nee Smeeton) used to take my brother John and I, along with the ration book, there on a regular basis. My Aunt Ruth Sutton (nee Smeeton) Uncle Charlie and my cousins (Alan and Margaret Sutton) lived directly opposite the Shoulderstick. My Uncle Ted Smeeton, Aunt Elsie and cousin Jill lived a little further on in Elm Cottage, Barrow Hall Rd. A trip to the Shoulderstick nearly always resulted in visits to everyone.

After the war I can recall my cousin Alan and I going around to the back of the Shoulderstick and trying to dislodge bottles through the fence with a long stick. The object of this exercise was to try to get them to fall into the stream that ran under the fence at the back of the yard. If successful they would float down stream and we could collect them and cash them in for the deposit!!!! I am sure that Mum, Aunt Ruth, Uncle Charlie, Uncle Ted and Aunt Elsie would all have known the Bale's. My daughter and her family live in Perth, WA, where we visit at least once a year (it is a five hour flight from here) and would be happy to catch up with Marion next time we are over there if she could spare the time. I guarantee we would have a few memories in common!

*Tony Alps, Coolangatta, Queensland.*

Robin Nicholls, who used to live next-door to Great Wakering Post Office, has sent two marvellous photos he took in 1964, for inclusion on our website. One is of Wilf Alp at his forge and the other is of a very dilapidated building, 'Goodmans'. Robin is trying to find the location of Wakering Place, home of a John Wakering in the 14th century. So, if anyone has any information, please let me know via the contact details below and I'll put you in touch with Robin.

## Sad News

**Terry Beadell** died on Dec 21<sup>st</sup> 2013 aged 69 (see elsewhere in the newsletter for memories of Terry and his family)

**Pat Murrell** of High House died in January 2014 at 87 years old

*David Freeman* asked whether anyone remembers the corrugated iron building in Shopland. As usual the question raised email discussion and Laurie Street and Neil Punnet responded with the following:

The building is certainly still there on the sharp bend just to the right of the entrance to Butlers Farm when travelling this way. Of course during the 2nd world war Shopland was a pretty important place with the gun/searchlight emplacement just along the road opposite Slated Row cottages.

We used to sit in our dark bedrooms watching the searchlights sweeping the skies at night, picking out enemy bombers and doodlebugs which were engaged in combat by Spitfires and Hurricanes from Rochford Aerodrome and by land based Ack-Ack guns. If the guns were lucky the enemy aircraft were seen to spiral towards earth in flames.

Exciting stuff as a kid in Barling.

*Laurie Street*

I remember my mother saying that she and her sister Ann would run out of their house and wave to the Spitfires as they climbed away from the aerodrome over Barling. The pilots often waved back - well, they were two pretty young women. On one occasion however the low flying aircraft were Messerschmitts, not Spitfires - the pilots still waved though!

*Neil Punnett*

My father, John Marshall, was a fighter pilot based at Rochford. I wonder if he waved to those pretty girls?

*Lynne Askham (Marshall)*

I can't be the only one who remembers Minnie Bush's shop next to The Exhibition. Also in that block, before you got to the Methodist Church, were Frank Webb's butcher's shop and the greengrocery run by Freda Grieg. I'm not sure about the spelling of Freda's surname, but lots of us recall her son, Brian, who was part of Barling Youth Club Drama Group and died all too young.

*Peter Griffiths*

I remember going to Mrs Bush's shop with our ration book. She had a lovely cocker spaniel which gave birth to some hybrid puppies. We had one of them when we moved to Little Wakering and I expect some of you remember Rusty. There is lovely photo of Paul Abercrombie making a fuss of her  
*Lynne Askham (Marshall)*

## Laurie Street's Memories of the Beadell Family

Terry grew up in Victory Cottages near where I lived, I remember his mum and dad, George who was a farm worker and worked for Bentall. During the war he was a soldier and told stories of how he kept his tobacco dry by putting it inside his tin helmet whilst wading through swamps in Borneo or somewhere. A great character.

Terry did well for himself. He lived in Canewdon for many years. He was the boss of a company called Grasshopper who supplied landscape equipment. Terry had a sister (Diane) who many years ago as a teenager was a strikingly beautiful girl. She died whilst in her teens from I believe Big C.

Victory Cottages was a great place to grow up with many different families. They were Council Houses built circa 1930 and named to commemorate Victory in the First World War.

Prior to moving to Victory Cottages my parents lived and worked at both Trumpions (now demolished) and Ropers Farms round the back road. When they got a council house he left the land and became a foreman gardener at P & E E.

Although this was technically in Great Wakering my family of eight went to Barling. I started at the beginning of the very dark days of WW 2. Air raids, and shelters proliferated.

*Laurie Street*

Ed: Diane Beadell sat in front of me in Mr Learmond's class

We are always grateful to those who provide photos for the huge collection on our website and especially to Terry for making them available online. The website and Terry's notes indicating the latest additions can be found here:

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

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## Pales Pitt

In the recent documents about Wakering Manor, *Peter Griffiths* noticed a reference to Pales Pitt, which was between the Exhibition and Little Wakering and asked if anyone knew where it was exactly.

*Laurie Street* responded with the following: I recall that, in the 1950s, before the new houses were built on the south side of the High Street from Little Wakering Corner eastwards, there was a shallow pit, surrounded by trees, about 60 yards from the corner. It was not much more than 10 yards long and about the same wide. After heavy rain it would become a shallow pond, though not for long. I cannot remember what we called it. Was that Pales Pitt? Or did it have another name? Pales Pitt is something new to me but from my historical records I can say there were 6 ponds from Little Wakering Corner eastwards. I think the pond referred to was a WW2 Land Mine Crater. It was more or less opposite Mr Layzell's.

From Laurie's records:

On the south side of High Street opposite Little Wakering Corner was a large pond, one of six along the High Street. We shall not see any more houses until we reach two farm cottages opposite what was the sports centre. From Little Wakering Corner to this point the road was flanked by very deep ditches and large Elm trees and another large pond which was where the front garden of 319 High Street now stands."

If you would like to contribute to "Small Beginnings" please contact:

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