

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
- Happy Memories
- Plea for wartime school memories

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

Dates for 2014 - 2015

October 11th 2104

January 10th 2015

April 11th 2015

July 11th 2015

October 10th 2015 (provisional)

All friends and partners are welcome.

Matters of Interest

BARLING MAGNA COMMUNITY PRIMARY SCHOOL

The ex pupils of the Old Barling School agreed to donate the sum of £257.55 to the school to pay for a storage bench for the newly-refurbished medical room at Barling School

The group were also informed that the school is celebrating the 40th anniversary of the move from the Old School and were asked that if they have any memories of that key event to get in touch with the school.

A DATE FOR YOUR 2015 DIARY

Former Barling School pupil Tony Alps, who lives in Australia, will be making what may be his last trip here next summer. He will be attending our lunchtime social gathering on July 11th and is looking forward to meeting other former pupils, especially people who remember him.

Peter Griffiths

Reports from our lunchtime meetings

We met again at lunchtime on **April 14th**. Another good time, even though some of our regulars weren't able to make it. Richard Kirton added to our list of questions about the history of The Shoulderstick off-licence. Was there a pub with that name? And a Hall? (Anyone with relevant knowledge is invited to get in touch via one of the addresses below.) Richard also showed us a copy of the Barling Magna Community Plan, a questionnaire that residents will be receiving soon, so that local opinions can be gathered. David Bailey raised the question of how to use some of our finances for local benefit. (More of that next time.) Lynne (Marshall) Askham introduced the new newsletter and a brief and light-hearted writing session, in which we scribbled down positive memories of our school and the area.

A jolly time for over 30 of us at The Castle on **July 12th** – and we managed to include some serious business, too. We were particularly pleased to welcome folk who had travelled far to join us: Pam (Gregory) Mulcaire (Perivale, Middlesex), Robin Nicholls (Halesworth, Suffolk) and David Freeman (Reigate, Surrey).

We also welcomed Hilary Wilson, who managed to persuade some people who had attended Great Wakering School in the 1940s to volunteer to be interviewed by current pupils about their experiences back then.

There were two main items of discussion. The first concerned Barling Magna Community Primary School, which we still refer to as the 'New School'. We are pleased to say that we shall pay for a storage bench for the newly-refurbished medical room at the school. The other main topic was the future of our Villages website (see below). Our current manager of the site, Terry Mumford, is finding that, with increasing pressures on his time, he is unable to maintain the site at the level he would like. Terry has worked superbly for us for eight years, adding to the site that was started so brilliantly by Geoff Bell in 2000. Terry proposed that, in future, we should move the website onto Facebook, as this would allow anyone to add new material. We had a good and lengthy discussion on this important matter, including comments for and against from former pupils as far away as Australia and New Zealand. In the end we decided that Terry would put an example on Facebook. We also set up a committee to look into the options and to report back to our next session.

Our next lunchtime get-together is at The Castle at 12.15 on Saturday October 11th 2014.

Anyone with an interest in our school or the villages or who just fancies a chat is welcome.

Peter Griffiths

One of my truly great friends, Hilary who works tirelessly to better the lives of youngsters in Wakering, Barling and further afield has asked me for my memories of attending school during the war years. Hilary is working on a project at Wakering School to put together all memories of the war years. The school have built a mosaic showing all this.

I am helping Hilary. All our old pupils will I am sure have many memories of both schools so I am asking for them to share them with me and in turn Hilary and finally with all the young kids who am sure cannot even guess what life was like then.

Can I please ask if you can send this out with a request for all and any stories. If they could be sent to me preferably by email or written on a piece of paper to be handed over to me. I would be most grateful.

Memories of these wars are rapidly receding from memory. The chance will not pass this way again. We could make something great between us. Lynne might also be interested.

Laurie Street

Ed. I would be interested in the war memories for Small Beginnings

Happy Memories

Riding bikes down to the Stairs to lay down a 200 Hook bandline. Then returning at the next tide (low tide) to remove the flounders or sea bass. This entailed walking the first part of the broom Road and fortunately for me I always managed to find my way back to the sea wall, mainly following the young lads.

Other memories I recall is potato picking after school when we were driven on to the back of a lorry to the farm. Details are a bit sketchy now, perhaps others can remember better

Mike Burles

I remember as a lad my first bicycle ride to Barling Creek with my plastic Kodak Cresta camera. The camera had two settings – sunny & cloudy. I took many photos, but regrettably I don't know what happened to them. This started my passion for Barling

Richard Kirton

Rosebank, the Wright family home, after having been converted to flats subsequently became a home for senior citizens, Abbeyfield Home. It is at present used as a home for people with mental disabilities.

We have seen these changes during the years from 1956 until now. We had our first home built in the grounds of Rosebank. Three of our children were born in there. Mr & Mrs Wright senior had a bungalow built alongside, in the grounds also

Penny & Geoff Wright

Between my Gran's house and Joe Mowlem's shop there used to be a shack on the waste ground where my grandfather had a cardboard factory. My mum and two aunts had jobs there and later it became a lipstick factory. We used to get the lipstick and give it to our mum

Les Gilkes

There will be more Happy
Memories in the next
edition

SMALL BEGINNINGS Newsletter

As always, Lynne (Marshall) Askham is working on another edition of our newsletter. She has material from our April get-together, when we had a rapid writing session, but she is always on the lookout for more copy. So, do feel free to write a few sentences, about any aspect of life in the villages, and send them to her at lynneka@btinternet.com

VILLAGES WEBSITE

As described above, the future positioning of our website is under discussion, but it is still accessible in its existing form. The website and Terry's notes, indicating the latest additions, can be found here: <http://www.barlingwakingvillages.co.uk/index.html>

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