

Summer 2015

Edition 29

Small Beginnings

BOOKMARKS

Tony Alps

Great Waking
Blacksmith

John Shenton

Sandpit Cottages

Norman Snow

Villages Websites

Forge Cottage

Tony Alps 'Thank
You' Email

Report from Lunch-
time Meeting

Contact Addresses

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

Our Next Reunion

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

12.15 to 3.00 p.m. Saturday 10th October 2015

Castle Inn, Little Waking

Anyone with an interest in our school or area will receive a warm welcome.

All friends and partners are welcome.

Matters of Interest

TONY ALPS

Tony Alps was guest of honour at the Castle Inn, Little Waking on Saturday 11th July 2015. At least 40 of us were there, including Tony's wife, Margaret. They were visiting from Coolangatta, Queensland in Australia and came with cousins Alan Sutton and Margaret Myles-Hook and their spouses. The Alps family lived in Mucking Hall Road, Barling, before migrating to Tasmania in 1951. Tony gave us a fascinating talk about his life in Barling in the 1940s and what he has experienced in Tasmania and mainland Australia since then.

GREAT WAKERING BLACKSMITH

Yvonne (Hubbard) Flower would like to know more about a blacksmith - not Mr Alp - whose forge was near to Great Waking School. She recalls that his surname was Mugeridge, which gave rise to the nickname 'Muggy'. If anyone knows anything about him, please do get in touch.

Peter Griffiths

Report from our Lunchtime Meeting

What a fantastic time we had at The Castle on Saturday July 11th. At least 40 of us were there, including guests of honour Tony Alps (see below) and Margaret Alps, who were visiting from Australia and came with cousins Alan Sutton and Margaret Myles-Hook and their spouses. Many of our regulars turned up, as did first-timers Stan Witton and David Witton and, later, Daphne Keen and Veronica Keen. In addition to many local people, there were old friends who had travelled from as far away as Suffolk, North Essex, South London and Surrey.

Peter Griffiths

PS. Tony is now back in Australia and has sent an [Email](#) which can be seen on Page 3.

JOHN SHENTON

We have been in touch with John Shenton, who started at Barling School in 1929, left to go to Southend High School in 1935 and now lives near Wolverhampton. In 1911 the family were living at Rosebank on Little Wakering Road. Later, John's grandfather, another John, had Warwick Lodge built and John was born there in 1924. He has many memories of the villages in the 1930s and we hope to publish them and some of his photos soon. Does anyone remember him or his family?

Peter Griffiths

SANDPIT COTTAGES

Lorraine Keys, who lives in Colchester, has been in touch to ask about Sandpit Cottages, Wakering Road, Shoebury. In 1911 her grandparents, Arthur and Elizabeth Horsfall, lived at No 5 and in 1919 her father, Charles Horsfall, was born there. Her grandfather and father were soldiers at Shoebury Barracks. Lorraine would particularly like to know if the cottages still exist or, if not, when they were demolished. If anyone has any information about the cottages or the family, please contact us via one of the addresses below.

Peter Griffiths

NORMAN SNOW

For the first time ever my e-mails to Norman are being returned as undeliverable. I know that his work sometimes takes him away from his base in Inuvik" in the North-west Territories* of Canada, but my mails usually get through. Has anyone been in touch with him lately?

Peter Griffiths

TONY ALPS 'THANK YOU' EMAIL

I thought that everyone would like to see the message below from Tony. He has also written to say: 'Once again many thanks to all concerned for a truly memorable day.' *Peter Griffiths*

Hi Peter,

Just a quick one to let you know we are finally back home safe and sound. Would like to say a big thank you to you and all the "kids" from Barling School for the great turnout at The Castle. It was a very moving experience for me and one Margaret and I won't forget.

To think that 65 years had gone by and yet so many shared memories are still fresh among such a gathering is truly remarkable. My biggest regret is that I did not get to talk to everyone personally and if I missed anyone I am very sorry. Time just flew past! But I was with them all in spirit and feel sure they know that. Guess it is one of those cases where: "You can take the boy out of Barling, but you can't take Barling out of the boy!"

Will forward a few photos when I get them sorted out. Unfortunately my camera was playing up (Murphy's Law) so not all are up to standard. Good news is that Margaret took some on her i-pad so all is not lost. Both you and Laurie have asked me to do an article on our arrival and early days in Oz for the newsletter. Will put something together when I get myself sorted out.

Incidentally, my brother, John, was thrilled to hear about our experiences and wished to pass on his best wishes to all.

Once again, thanks for everything,
Love to all. Tony Alps.

FORGE COTTAGE

Dave Lee's e-mail lit up an almost forgotten memory of that time. We had one of those puppies from the Polish lady of Forge Cottage.

My Mum and sister Jeanne went to see them, chose one and, when they were old enough, collected him. Jeanne remembers stepping down a large step to enter the cottage. The pup was named "Butch" and lived with us for some years. He was a bit of a wanderer and, over the following years, got injured a few times needing the services of Mr. Sparrow.

Once he disappeared for weeks – we almost gave up hope of seeing him again. Pam was meeting me for lunch and, luckily, recognised this filthy, scruffy, half starved dog outside Thomas Drapers in Southchurch Road and he recognised her. She shared her lunch with him and we brought him home on the bus.

Mike Prior

VILLAGES WEBSITES

Our new website - Barling and Wakering Villages Plus - is expanding all the time, as site-manager Richard Kirton adds new photos frequently. If you have any pictures showing people or places in the area, please do get in touch. We would love to add them to the thousands already there.

It is easy to get from the new site to the old one and vice-versa. The new one can be reached here:

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

The Original Website is accessible directly at

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

Peter Griffiths

SMALL BEGINNINGS NEWSLETTER

We are still looking for a volunteer (or two) to edit our newsletter. It has been suggested that the job could be split, with one person being responsible for content and another for layout. So, if you would like to help, please don't be shy in offering your services, even if only for one or two editions.

Peter Griffiths

There will be more
Happy Memories in
the next edition

CONTACT ADDRESSES

Dawn (Mumford) Bailey and David Bailey danddbailey@btinternet.com Tel: 01702-217489

Peter Griffiths p-pgriffiths01@tiscali.co.uk Tel: 020-8769-6799

Richard Kirton r.kirton@talktalk.net Tel: 01702 216407