

BOOKMARKS

**Our Meeting on
8th July 2017**

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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
Our Next Lunchtime Get-together
Saturday 14th October 2017
12.15 p.m.

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

Foreword by Richard Kirton

This edition of Small Beginnings starts with a short biography of the late Shirley Ann Lubbock (née Gibson) by her cousin, Sylvia Lloyd.

Shirley sadly died on 9th February 2017 and her funeral service was held at Southend Crematorium on Monday 27th March 2017. Shirley was one of our beloved members who regularly attended our quarterly meetings at the Castle Inn, Little Wakering, and she will be sorely missed by all of her family and friends.

Being an only child, Shirley always wanted a little brother but, alas, it wasn't to be. She dearly loved babies and, at the age of just 12, she regularly took a neighbour's baby out in his pram on Saturday mornings.

Co-incidentally, the baby happened to be Kevin, the son of Roy and Daphne Richards, who have contributed to another article later in this newsletter, titled '**Roy Richards - Ministry of Defence Firefighter**'. Kevin sadly died, aged 61 years, as the result of a fall.

Our Meeting at the Castle Inn on 8th July 2017

It was great to see about twenty six friends meet up for our usual three monthly gathering at the Castle Pub on 8th July. Peter Griffiths was unfortunately unable to be with us on this occasion. We were pleased to welcome David Armstrong, an ex Great Waking pupil for the first time. Some had long journeys to be with us such as Gordon Chittock and Pauline (Tilbrook) King who had travelled from their home in Suffolk and David Freeman from Reigate in Surrey.

David Bailey reported that the rebound Log Book, which covered the period from 1901 to 1950, was presented to the Barling School Academy on Friday, 16 June at their Assembly. Six of us attended and Peter spoke to the children before handing the book to Sue Clarke the acting Head Teacher. A recent press cutting in the Evening Echo prompted David Bailey to suggest that people may be interested in a brief article on Robin Trower, who for a while lived in Alexandra Road, and his musical career. Richard Kirton kindly followed that up and with additional contributions from people within our Group, wrote a super article which now appears on our website. Also, the identification of Barling School pupils in a photograph led to the *uncovering of an article titled 'Memories of a Pupil 1953 to 1959' by Roy Deeks', written some years ago, which missed publication on our original website. This article will now appear on our new website.* David Bailey reported on our financial position and Richard Kirton about the website and the next edition of our newsletter.

Biography of the late Shirley Ann Lubbock (née Gibson)

By her cousin Sylvia Lloyd



Shirley was born 6th September 1941 and died 19th February 2017. Her parents were Sylvia and Ted Lubbock. The family lived in a bungalow in Little Waking Road.

Shirley was an only child and always wanted a little brother. He never came along so she had a spaniel dog called Chum instead.

Shirley loved babies and one of her hobbies was to take a neighbour's baby out in his pram on a Saturday morning.

Her hobbies included Brownies and Guides and the local Ricaman School of Dancing (pictures of same are on our site). Shirley also had piano lessons, as most of us did, with Piano Teacher Miss Joan Smith.

Sunday evenings during the summer were spent walking with cousin Sylvia and parents to the Castle Pub and sitting in the garden with a bottle of lemonade whilst the parents were inside having a good time.

There was a donkey in the garden and if they were good they got a ride on it.

Shirley went to the old Great Waking Primary School until she was 13 when she passed an exam and went to Rayleigh Technical School. In her final year of schooling she went to Rayleigh Swayne, where she stayed until she was almost 17.

When Shirley left school, she took a job in an office, travelling up to London each day.

Relaxing times at weekends were sometimes spent in the Capri Coffee bar, which was the place to be seen, where one cup of coffee would be made to last the whole evening.

Another cafe Shirley used to frequent was the Shrubbery cafe in Royal Terrace. There she met her husband to be, Phillip Gibson, who was home on leave, as he was in the REME.

Shirley was married in the Garrison Church and moved into married quarters, moving several times to be with Phil wherever he was posted. They had two children, Christopher and Sally-Ann.

When Phil finished his time with the Army, they brought a house in Ashingdon. When Phil moved jobs, they went to live in Bicester.

In 2001 they moved back to Shoebury and brought a property in the Garrison. Unfortunately, Phil passed away the following year.

Shirley loved her garden, and spent many hours working in the garden. She became a member of Thorpe Bay Horticultural Society.

Shirley also had a passion for quilting and was extremely clever. Her work included cushions and wall hangings as well as beautiful quilts.

The Red Lion in Great Waking Burns

Article by Richard Kirton



The roof and first floor of the 150-year-old Red Lion pub in Great Waking were completely destroyed after the blaze took hold around 4.30 am in the early hours of Sunday 23 October 2016. Five fire engines were called to the scene and firefighters extinguished the flames by 06:45.

Note from Peter Griffiths:
"We held some early meetings of Friends of Old Barling School in the Red Lion, until our numbers got too big"

Nos. 63, 65 and 67 High Street are a row of 18th or 19th century cottages which are timber framed and weather-boarded, with the exception of the ground floor of no. 67 which is partially of red brick and now forms part of the adjacent Red Lion pub. No. 65 has a bay shop window with a moulded surround, a reminder of its former commercial use. The cottages retain two traditional boarded doors. They have clay tiled gambrel roofs, with three small segmental head dormers. Their weather boarded left side elevations contribute to the street scene, made visible by the adjacent gap in the building line where a footpath passes through. No. 63 is now used a bakery. The cottages are Grade II listed.



No 71 High Street is a barn conversion, formerly the Red Lion Barn, with a mono-pitch front extension to the street that was formerly a lean-to workshop (pictured left). Although the building incorporates vernacular elements such as weatherboard, it has an awkward residential character and some of the detailing is poor such as overly chunky glazing bars on windows. This building borders directly onto the car park of the Red Lion pub (pictured below).

This pub is timber framed with a double range pitched roof, rendered to the first floor with small paned eight over eight sashes and a dentilled eaves course. The ground floor has a late Victorian appearance with red brick and green glazed bricks below, but unsympathetic replacement false leaded windows and a 20th century replacement door which detract from the appearance of the building. The car park, although it has an attractive green boundary contributed by the gardens of properties to the rear, requires resurfacing and landscaping and currently presents an untidy view from the High Street.



A public footpath runs between nos 61 and 63 High Street and follows an old, possibly medieval, boundary. The track, known as Lion Fields, provided access to historic settlements at Crouchmans, and an old street light has survived, indicative of a time in recent history when this was a more significant route.



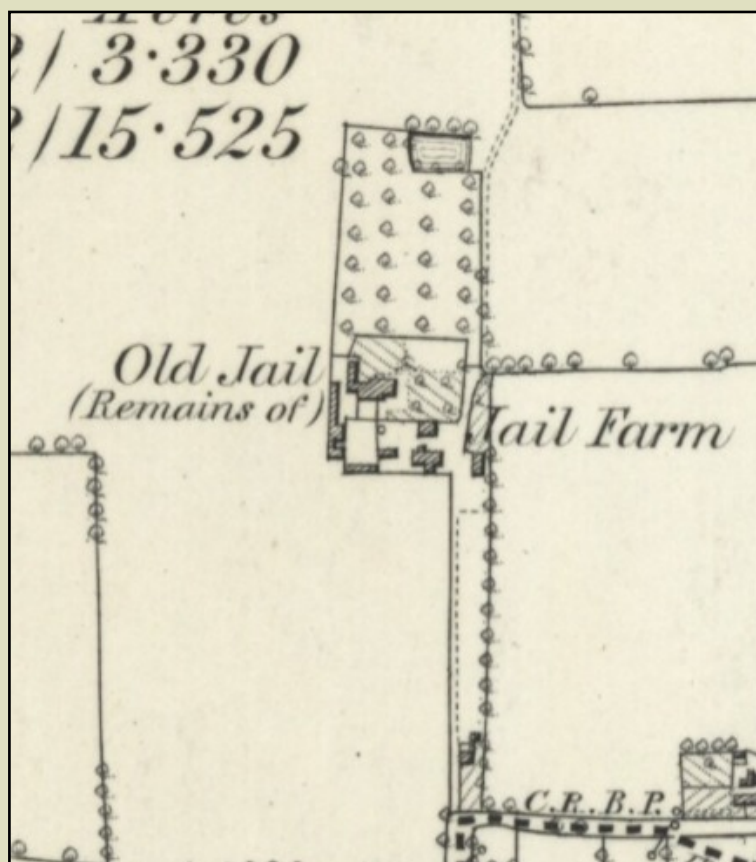
Beyond the footpath is one of the most characterful of buildings on the High Street, no. 61, a butcher's shop and store which remains in use today (pictured left). It is of early 17th century and 19th century construction. The long timber framed rear range is pebble dashed, probably over weatherboarding, with wooden mullioned windows, and is a significant feature in the streetscape visible from the adjoining yard and from the footpath running along the side. The front range comprises the single storey butcher's shop which is weather-boarded,

and has a clay tiled canopy supported on wrought iron brackets with meat hooks. The shop is Grade II listed.

Things I remember about Jail Farm

Article by Gordon Chittock

6th April 2017



We moved from South Fambridge to Jail Farm in 1945, when I was 6 years old.

The house seemed very large and had a good size garden with lots of fruit trees. There was a mulberry tree by the front entrance gate which always had lots of fruit which my sister Sonia spent lots of time eating.

On the right-hand side of the house was a large glass conservatory in which we keep our eats.

At the rear by the back door was a large coal house which had a purpose-built copper which was used to heat our bath water for the tin bath tub.

Entering the front to the right was a wide staircase leading up to the 1st floor bedrooms, then off to the left was a small

staircase that lead up into the loft where I remember seeing ropes hanging down from the ridge (which they say the prisoners were held). The farm house was situated off the main road down a shingle type road towards large sheds and cow pens. I left Jail Farm when he was 11 years old

Comment by Richard Kirton

According to the OS Six-inch map of Barling, surveyed in 1873 and published in 1880, Jail Farm can be clearly seen on the right of the track running north from Barling Road. Even then the map was showing just the remains of the Old Jail. The 1881 census listed 2 families as living at Gaol Farm:

The Gaol Farm (1)

Charles C.,FEWSTER,Head,M,37,Land Surveyor, Maldon, Essex
Matilda,FEWSTER,Wife,M,37,-,Rochford,Essex
Louise E.,FEWSTER, Daur, -,10,Scholar,Bermondsey,Surrey
Harry W.,FEWSTER,Son,-,6,Scholar,Bermondsey,Surrey
Hartas C.,FEWSTER,Son,-,4,Scholar,Bermondsey,Surrey
Blanche M.,FEWSTER,Daur,-,2,-,Bermondsey,Surrey
Norah Q.,FEWSTER,Daur,-,6 m,-,Bermondsey, Surrey
Rosaline B.,ROGERS,Sister,M,28,Merchants Wife, Maldon, Essex
Hannah,FORSTER,Serv,-,16,Housemaid,Brixton,Surrey

The Gaol Farm (2)

George,RAYNER,Head,M,34,Ag Lab, Great Stambridge, Essex
Elizabeth,RAYNER,Wife,M,27,-, Barling, Essex
Lucy,RAYNER,Daur,-,10,Scholar, Barling, Essex
George,RAYNER,Son,-,8,Scholar, Barling, Essex
Arthur,RAYNER,Son,-,6,Scholar, Barling, Essex
Alfred,RAYNER,Son,-,5,Scholar, Barling, Essex
Frederick,RAYNER,Son,-,2,-, Barling, Essex

Blewhouse in Barling Road is a clapboard cottage. It and its adjoining house were once one, and are thought to be the oldest houses in Barling since a stone house near Jail Farm Cottage was knocked down. Near here was the Bishop's prison. Mrs Watson's father was the last village constable and she remembers him taking men there handcuffed. More recently the prisoners from Chelmsford gaol were taken nearby to work the land where Ropers and Trumpions once stood backing on to the river.

Marriages Mar 1938

Surname	First name(s)	Spouse	District	Vol	Page
Chapman	Violet A	Watson	Rochford	4a	1063
Watson	Frederick A	Chapman	Rochford	4a	1063

PC John CHAPMAN (151) was a Policeman in Little Wakering in 1903 and is probably the father of the women highlighted above as Mrs Watson.

Photo submitted by Barbara Elliott

Article by Richard Kirton



Does anybody know where and when this photograph was taken and whether or not there is a little story that goes with it?

In the photograph from left to right are:

Chris Appleyard

Peter Cerson

Roy Deeks

Robert T Smith.

Roy Richards - Ministry of Defence Firefighter

Article by Richard Kirton

28 April 2017



Roy Richards was born in Westcliff in July 1931 and moved to Little Wakering in 1935. He met his 17 year old wife Daphne in Aldershot and they married in 1953, and had 2 children, Kevin and Christine. They have looked after and cared for each other for a total of 64 years. Regrettably, Kevin died at 61 years old as the result of a fall.

They have fond memories of when their friend's daughter, Shirley Lubbock, from the age of 12 used to take Kevin and Christine for walks in their prams when they were babies.



The photograph on the left shows some of Roy's school friends from the old Barling School and pictured from left to right are Roy Richards, Stan Everard, Colin Cornwell, Roy Bennett, Peter Pleasure and Denny Deeks.

Roy left school and joined the Merchant Navy in 1945 until 7 Dec 1949. He travelled to Surrey Commercial Dock to join the Thames Sailing Barge 'Persevere' [pictured below] under skipper, Fred Cooper, who was well known amongst the barging fraternity. Roy

started his National Service on 8 Dec 1949 and was posted to the Royal Engineers in Farnborough and returned to Wakering in 1951.

He re-joined the Thames Sailing Barge 'Persevere' on 3 Jan 1952 until 27 May 1952 and started working at the Brickfield, Wakering Common on 2 Jun 1952, but was laid off after the floods of 1953 and was about to sign on the 'dole' but was taken on to repair the seawall initially by Arthur & William Bentall. After 3 weeks of working on the seawalls, he was called back to the Brickfield where he worked for 6 years and 9 months before joining the P&EE Fire Service in Shoeburyness.



Roy joined the Territorial Army on 29 Jun 1952 and was posted initially to the Braintree Regiment. He served a total of 14 years in total in the Territorial Army, apart from a brief spell on Army General Reserve from 29 Jun 1956 to 9 Aug 1959.

Between 8 Nov 1955 and 31 May 1957, Roy worked as a part-time firefighter for Essex County Fire Brigade at Great Wakering and he did several other part-time jobs, including working as a Chimney Sweep's assistant.

From 1959 to 1996, Roy was employed as a Firefighter at Blackgate Road, Shoeburyness. His employer at that time was the Ministry of Defence, Proof and Experimental Establishment (P&EE), responsible for what was known as the Old Ranges, Shoeburyness, between 1849 and 1988. In 1988, contractor SERCo took over the running of the Fire Brigade. Prior to 1948, the 'Proof and Experimental Establishment, Shoeburyness' (P&EE) was known as the 'Experimental Establishment' then the 'Land and Maritime Ranges', followed by further changes (DTEO, DERA) and finally 'QinetiQ' in 2001.



Between 1997 and 2002, Roy was employed on a shift basis, by SERCo, as operator of the Havengore Bridge. He alternated between the morning and afternoon shifts.



The mounted badges of both brigades and an etched brass plate were presented to Roy at his retirement along with a model of a 'Green Goddess' on a similar wooden plaque.



Roy met Daphne when she was 17 years old and the photograph below, dated 16 July 1951, shows her relaxing on the grass on the playing field in Queens Avenue, Aldershot.



Roy served for 31 years as a District Football Referee and he loved every minute of it, although he remembers several instances when his decisions upset various players and their supporters.

His friend Leslie 'Les' Stubbs was an English footballer, playing mainly as an inside forward. Les started out with his local side, Great Wakering Rovers, before signing for Southend United. He made his debut for Southend in 1948 and scored 45 goals in 88 games over the next four seasons.



Les was also a Firefighter for the Atomic Weapons Research Establishment (AWRE) and the photo below was taken at his retirement.

Les joined Chelsea in Nov 1952 for £10,000 having been persuaded by Blues manager Ted Drake that he was capable of playing in the top tier.

Regrettably, Les died in 2011 at the age of 81.

Roy has received many trophies during his careers as football referee and firefighter. Pictured below, he is being presented with a trophy by English actor Jack Watling.



Roy being presented with a trophy by actor Jack Watling

With more than 50 feature films to his credit, a West End career of more than half a century, and scores of character parts in post-war television, Jack Watling, who died aged 78, knew how to make acting look easy. He used his boyish good looks, relaxed manner and affable personality to develop a charmingly understated style of simple, direct integrity. Among his better-known work for the small

screen, in which he found more scope for out-of-the-way types than in the cinema or theatre, were the sales director Don Henderson in 'The Plane Makers' (1963-64) and its successor 'The Power Game' (1965), and the RAF officer Doc Saxon in 'The Pathfinders' (1972-73).

Note from Peter Griffiths: "My family knew the Watlings in the early years of the War, when they lived at Epping".

One of Daphne's treasured pictures is one painted by her nephew, Melvyn Brown, who regrettably died in September 2015, aged 55. He was handicapped from birth and did not have use of his hands or legs. He dedicated his boat to his Aunt Daphne and named it 'Lady Daphne' having painted it entirely using a brush in his mouth.



On 13 April 1984 Roy was awarded a certificate by Essex County Football Association for his long and valued services as a referee since 1958.

His trophy cabinet stands in his lounge proudly displaying the many trophies he has been awarded through the years.

Daphne and Roy are a wonderful couple and it has been a real pleasure talking them both about their many happy years together.

Roy has been lucky enough to enjoy every minute of his varied career and Daphne, despite being advised against marrying a soldier, has had a very happy life and supported Roy through the years, football and all.



Daphne and Roy pictured at their home in Alexander Road 18 April 2017

The Simpson Brothers - Great Waking Farmers



The Simpson brothers, Jack, John and George, John Stow's great uncles, used to farm land behind Exhibition Lane. Since the mid 1950s, this land was farmed by the Beale family who live in Waking High Street, opposite the old police station. [G C & W J Beale, 317 High Street, Great Waking, SS3 0HZ]

The enclosed photographs are assumed to have been taken around about the beginning of the twentieth century and they may have been tenant farmers or farm labourers who also worked in brick-field sites during off-peak farming periods. It is also possible that they may have helped other local farmers when it came to harvest time. (I notice one



of the photographs shows the spire of a church in the background, possibly Little Waking or Barling.)

There are War Memorials both inside and outside St Nicholas Church, Great Waking. The exterior memorial contains the names of those who served and died in World War 1 and 2; the one on the interior wall of the church contains the World War 1 names again. One relevant entry is 'Sapper 551059, 227th Field Company, Royal Engineers. Died of wounds 21st August 1917 in France & Flanders. Born Great Waking, enlisted Southend-on-Sea, resident Leigh-on-Sea, Essex'.

An associated article in the Southend Standard newspaper dated 30 August 1917 reads 'SIMPSON, Sidney F - Sapper, No 551059, 227th Field Company, Royal Engineers. Sapper Simpson was born at Great Waking, the son of the landlord of The Exhibition Inn, and lived at 8 West Street, Leigh on Sea. He had been employed as a plumber by the Southend Water Company for eight years before going into business on his own.....' Worthy of note is the fact that the landlord of the Exhibition Inn was the father of the dead soldier, Sidney F. Simpson.



The Exhibition was named after the Great Exhibition of 1851, was described in 1871 as a beerhouse and was run by James Buckingham aged 55. By 1881 the business had changed hands and John Simpson, a widower aged 62, was the publican and in two conveyances, dated 1892 and 1896, the Exhibition Inn was referred to as the 'Exhibition Beerhouse'.

The 1874 Post Office Directory of Essex, Waking, lists 'John Simpson' as a beer retailer.

The 1881 Census of Great Waking, High Street, lists 5 males with the surname 'Simpson'.

John Simpson	Head	M	62	Occupation:Publican, Born:Suffolk, England
George Simpson	Son	M	28	Occupation:Agr Lab, Born:Foulness, Essex, England
James Simpson	Son	M	13	Occupation:Scholar, Born:Foulness, Essex, England
Willm Simpson	Son	M	10	Occupation:Scholar, Born:Foulness, Essex, England

The following was listed as the head of another household in High Street, Great Waking:

Jno Simpson	Head	M	26	Occupation:Agr Lab, Born:Foulness, Essex, England
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Extracts from the Barling School Log Books (1901-1950)

Article by Richard Kirton



We had decided last year that we would pay for the rebinding of one of the Old Barling School log books, the one that covers from 1901 to 1950.

On Friday 16 June 2017, I arrived at Barling Magna Primary Academy to meet Sue Clarke, the acting Head Teacher. The purpose of the visit was to present her academy with a freshly bound School Log Book from the old Barling School, covering the years 1901 to 1950.

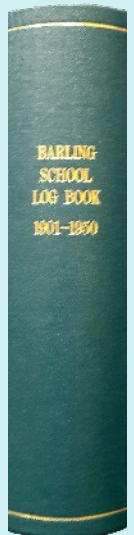
Half a dozen of us turned up and went to the assembly: Peter Griffiths, Dawn (Mumford) Bailey,

David Bailey, Brenda (Keen) Cornwell, Veronica (Keen) Jones and me.

Sue escorted us to the main assembly room and we sat at the front, facing the teachers and the school children. Peter, who managed this project, then addressed the teachers and school children and explained the purpose of our visit with a very brief history of the old school. The original Log Book was falling apart and Peter showed them the handsome newly bound Log Book along with its old and well-worn cover.

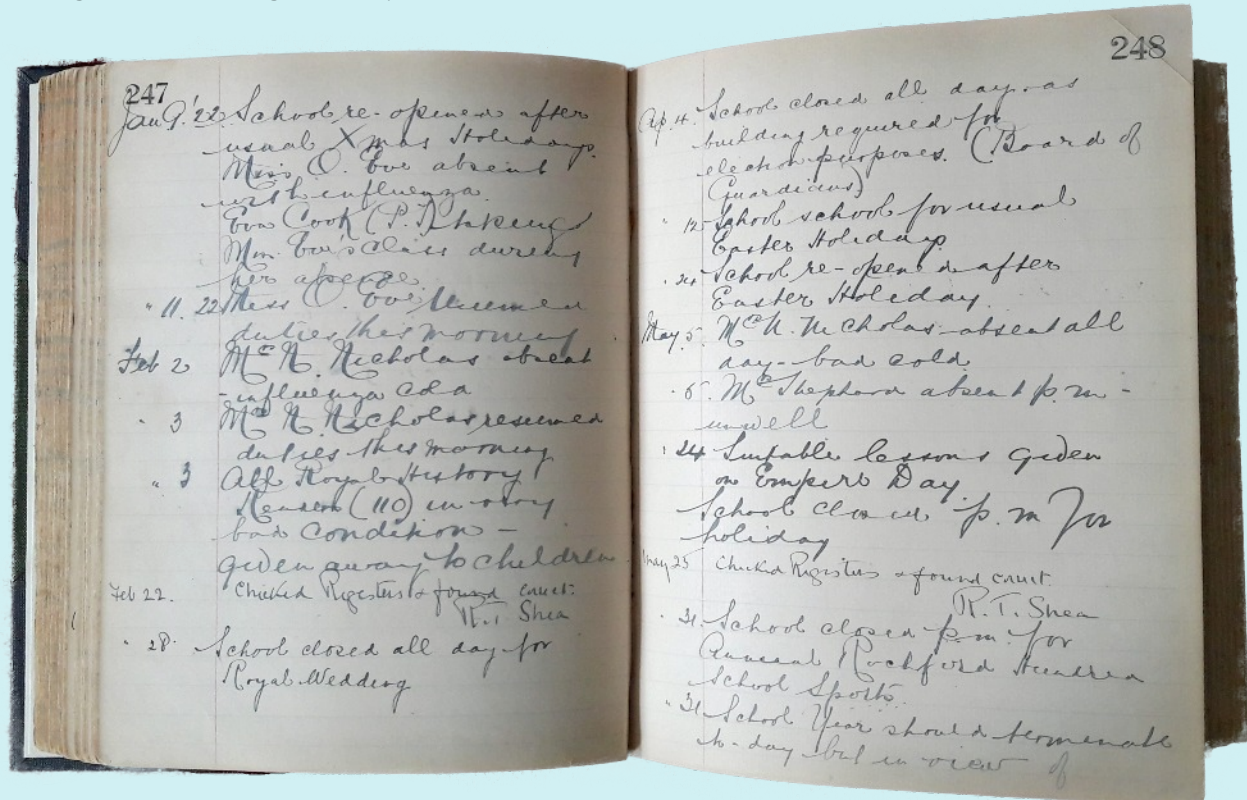
Peter explained to the audience that in the early days of the last century, there were many reasons why Barling School children did not go to school. Taking turns, we each read out the following examples of some of these reasons from the first pages of the Log Book in 1901:

- July 11th School closed this afternoon on account of Little Wakering Church Sunday School Treat.
- July 12th The heat overcame three children this morning - two of them were unable to attend the afternoon session.
- July 19th Attendance dropped this afternoon to 114 pupils. Fruit picking accounts for a number of children being absent.
- July 24th Attendance decreased to 114 pupils this morning. Still further decreased to 108 in the afternoon owing to rain during dinner time.
- July 25th A very heavy shower coming on at three o'clock, the children were kept back in school until 4.35.
- September 2nd In the first class only 22 were present out of 36 children. Several children were potato picking.
- September 25th Attendance was very low this afternoon on account of a Circus in Southend.



We could see from the children's faces that they were really focused on our presentation and we were pleased to take a few questions at the end. One very sweet question from one of the young girl students was how the book was rebound and Peter with his old teachers hat on was quick to respond to explain the role of the 'Book Binder'. Peter then presented the School Log Book to Sue.

Peter commented that, at the end, he was very touched by a tall, fair-haired boy from Year Six, who, as he passed, gestured to the six of us and said 'Thank you. That was good!' It was so nice of him to register his liking of our presentation.



Once the children had dispersed, we had the privilege of sitting and sharing coffee with some of the teachers in the staff room. I have to say that the children were extremely well behaved and attentive to our presentation and I personally felt it a privilege to be there. I would like to say 'a warm thank you' to Sue Clarke and her staff for making us feel so welcome.



Waking Sports and Activity Centre

In September 2011, Great Waking Sports Centre closed, leaving the community with no access to sports facilities. Now, great new sporting opportunities have been created at Great Waking Primary School, thanks to a National Lottery Award. Awards in excess of £72,000 have funded improvements to the school's sports hall, including a sprung floor.

A climbing wall has been added and outside existing hard areas have been converted to provide two floodlit ball courts. The sports pavilion has been refurbished with new changing room and showers. You may know of some groups of people in the village who could benefit from all of the activities on offer. There are also other great facilities including:



- Badminton Court £10 per hour
- School Hall from £20 per hour
- Netball Court / Playground from £10 per hour
- Field / Football Pitches (5,7,9 a-side pitch sizes) from £10 per hour
- Climbing Wall (own instructors) from £25 per hour
- Bouncy Castle Parties £100 for 2 hours
- Climbing Wall Parties from £130 for 2 hours

All parties have the use of the Dining Hall with tables and chairs for their own refreshments.

Telephone: 0770 859 2013

Email: sports@greatwaking.essex.sch.uk

Richard Kirton

Website Statistics Report

As you can see from the report below, first time visits are still higher than returning visits and is probably reflected by the fewer articles appearing on the website. There is always a delicate balance between publishing to the website or our 'Small Beginnings' Newsletter. The Website Statistics Report is automatically generated on a weekly basis and is still a valuable tool.

Weekly Stats Report Summary: 26 June 2017 - 02 July 2017

	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat	Sun	Total	Avg
Pageloads	20	16	213	66	40	58	50	463	66
Unique Visits	5	11	54	42	17	13	17	159	23
First Time Visits	3	9	34	31	14	6	13	110	16
Returning Visits	2	2	20	11	3	7	4	49	7

Richard Kirton

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 can be reached here:

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

Peter Griffiths

Situations Vacant

We are still looking for a volunteer (or more) 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

***Please share
your stories
and
experiences
with our
members. They
will be
delighted to
hear them.***

Contacts

Dawn and David Bailey Email: danddbailey@btinternet.com Tel: 01702-217489

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

Richard Kirton (Editor) Email: r.kirton@talktalk.net Tel: 01702 216407