

**SPRING
2021**

Edition 43

Small Beginnings

Newsletter of Friends of Old Barling School

Contents

**Watercolour of 3
Cottages in High
Street, Great
Wakering**

Richard Kirton

**Wiseman
Artists' Gallery**

Gordon Wiseman

**Local Police
Officer Guides
Troubled
Youngster**

Richard Kirton

**An Email from
Canada**

Dave Hatcher

**Local Chimney
Sweep**

David Bailey

**Eulogy to Ann
(Mower) Stacey**

Peter Griffiths

**Villages Websites
Website Report
Contact Us**

Reunion Lunches

We meet for lunch every 3 months to socialise and catch up on news and events. We meet at:

The Castle Inn, Little Wakering

The previously arranged meeting for 9th January 2021 had to be cancelled but we are hoping that we will be able to meet up on 10th April 2021.

**David has tentatively arranged
meetings for the following Saturdays
during 2021 at The Castle Inn**

10 April 2021 - 10 July 2021 - 9 October 2021

**Anybody with an interest in our school
or area will receive a Warm Welcome**

Foreword by Richard Kirton

As you will have already noticed, I have redesigned our front cover.

At our next scheduled meeting on 10th April 2021 it was planned that we would ask you if you wish to stick with our existing newsletter title of 'Small Beginnings' or change it to 'Small Beginnings Magazine'.

It is too early to say whether or not it is possible to meet in April. Therefore, I wonder if you could email me at richardkirton@outlook.com with your preference.

We must all be looking forward to meeting up again this year. I would ask everybody to please keep safe.

Richard Kirton

Watercolour of 3 Cottages in High Street, Great Wakering

Richard Kirton

Watercolour details provided by Dave and Pam Lee

Artist name provided by Dawn and David Bailey



For the past 30 years the above painting has hung on Dave and Pam Lee's dining room wall and they often wondered who the artist was. Dave solicited myself, Peter Griffiths and Dawn & David Bailey, to see if they knew the artist from the signature at the bottom right. The shop on the right was called 'Bank House Drug Store'.

Dawn and David replied almost immediately to say 'To us it looks very much like Allen Wiseman, who was a local artist and lived in Shoebury Road, Great Wakering. Dawn and I lived a few doors away during the period 1970 - 1980 approximately'.

Dave Lee said that the watercolour painting was given to his parents, who lived at 86, High Street, Great Wakering in the 1970/80s and is of 3 Essex weather boarded properties (numbers 84, 86 & 88). Dave and his wife Pam assumed that it was a local artist who painted the picture sometime between 1900 and 1960. The shop in the painting is number 84 High Street and is situated on the west side of the junction with North Street. My wife remembers Banks House Drug Store being there in 1978 when we moved to Great Wakering.

In 1910 Mr. Wiggins ran an Undertaker business at the rear of the shop which was accessed through the driveway to the right of the shop. The following extract is taken from the booklet 'The Rayner Family of Great Wakering' by Albert Rayner BSc (Econ) FCA.

'Records of the Wiggins' family go back as far as 1508, various members being fishermen, oyster dredgers and farmers. In 1871, Thomas Wiggins, aged 66 (son of Thomas Wiggins and Mary Cripps of Foulness Island), was head of his firm, employing 2 men. It is understood that he was apprenticed as a wheelwright and carpenter to John Freeman of Rochford. By 1881, Thomas junior had died and it would seem that the firm was in the hands of William Wiggins, aged 57, employing men and 1 boy, together with other members of the family probably involved in the business, namely William aged 34 (who

lived to the ripe age of 90), Joseph then aged 43 and Charles, aged 31. The Wiggins' were also undertakers and wheelwrights and, in later years, boat builders. The business has been passed from father to son until the present day.

I met up with Gordon Wiseman and he gave me several interesting facts about his younger brother Allen who had a studio extension built at the back of his house at number 33 Shoebury Road where he painted, and may also have taught there. Allen's wife Joan was a Sunday School Teacher at the United Reformed Church in Great Wakering. They had three children Robert, David and Susan but they all moved away from the village. According to Gordon Wiseman's wife, the garage door has been the same colour since Allen lived there.

Allen was the first of the post-World War One brothers of Gordon Wiseman who was too young to fight in World War Two. He was born in 1929 and did however, subsequently work on several ships including submarines whilst employed as a Petty Officer in the Royal Navy at Scapa Flow, being a body of water in the Orkney Islands, Scotland, sheltered by the islands of Mainland, Graemsay, Burray, South Ronaldsay and Hoy.



Apparently, in 1897, a ship named TSS Roebuck II was built for the Great Western Railway Company and was used as a passenger ferry between Weymouth and the Channel Islands for years. The ship was requisitioned by the Royal Navy on 2nd October 1914, renamed HMS Roedean and was converted into a minesweeper. Just a few months later, on 13th January 1915, HMS Roedean dragged her anchor in Longhope Bay during a gale and collided with the bow of HMS Imperious. Despite dropping a second anchor and seeking assistance from two tugs, she settled stern first and sank.

Scapa Flow was the main naval base for the British Home fleet during both World War 1 and World War 2. It was used because the area featured a large landlocked harbour, and its deep entrances were useful for getting large ships in and out of the bay. The German High Seas Fleet arrived in Scapa Flow on 23rd November 1918 when 74 German ships were interned there. On that day, almost the entire fleets of both Germany and the United Kingdom were anchored at Scapa Flow. It is known as perhaps one of the greatest naval phenomenon on the planet. On the 21st June 1919, German Admiral Hans Hermann Ludwig Von Reuter ordered every ship to scuttle under the belief that the British were going to seize the fleet. Some ships were beached but most of the ships in the German fleet sank on that day in 1918; most of the fleet was then salvaged during the 1920's and 1930's.

During World War 2, Orkney acted as a base for training and repairs for many of the aircraft from aircraft carriers, although it took some time to make the harbour secure for use as a base, in both wars. Orkney was so important to the war effort that there were up to 40,000 men stationed there at the peak of World War 2. The remains of HMS Roedean were extensively blasted in 1953 and 1956 to clear the superstructure. On 24 September 1957, Allen was involved in a two boat sweep of the sunken HMS Roedean which now sits on a mud-silt bottom in 8.8m - 15m of water in an area of slight tide.

Having left the Royal Navy, Allen's last job was at Southend Hospital in the Xray Department. Regrettably, he died of cancer in 1986 and his memorial stone lies in the graveyard of St Nicholas Parish Church in Great Wakering.



Wiseman Artists' Gallery



Allen James Wiseman



Eric Peter Wiseman



John Wiseman



Gordon Wiseman



Left to Right

*Susan Wiseman [Allen's Daughter] - David Wiseman [Allen's Son] - Gordon Wiseman -
Carol Wiseman [Arthur's Daughter] - Robert Wiseman [Allen's Son] - Michael Wiseman
[Alex's Son] - David Wiseman [Arthur's Son]*

Local Police Officer Guides Troubled Youngster

Richard Kirton
21 January 2021

Although the following article is unrelated to Barling, Foulness or Wakering villages, I do however find the story to be very heartwarming and it means a lot to me personally. At age 19, I was posted to Tilbury Town as a Police Constable, having served as a Police Cadet in Rochford for the previous three years. I enjoyed the job so much at Rochford that I would often volunteer for unpaid duties such as observer in the Area Patrol Car which happened to be an Austin Cambridge, driven primarily by PC Colin Stockwell. Colin was later stationed at Great Wakering Police Station in the High Street, along with PC John Blakie. I made some good friends at Rochford Police Station and had some excellent training including an Outward-Bound Course, Deep Sea Sailing Course and several other character training courses. The total number of staff at Rochford Police Station in 1965 was twenty-three. Rochford was classed as a Sub-division with two officers stationed at Great Wakering, three officers stationed at Hockley and one officer stationed at Stambridge and Hullbridge Detached Beat Offices.

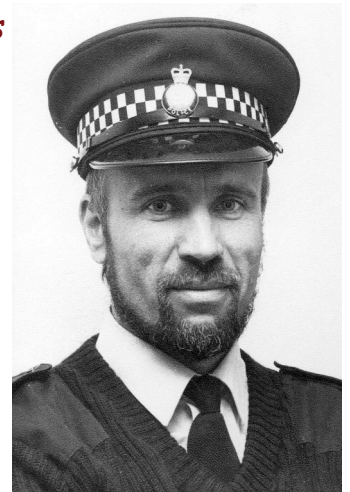
My Police Constable training at Eynsham in Oxfordshire was thirteen weeks in duration followed by further weeks at RAF Brize Norton and Essex Headquarters in Springfield. My heart sank when I received my posting at Eynsham to Tilbury Town since it was apparent that the policing there was a complete contrast to Rochford. I guess that I was perhaps a little too soft towards the youngsters, having started a youth club at the Tilbury Methodist Church. I thought that I had joined the Police Force to make a difference and crack down on crime rather than the petty offences that many youngsters were involved in. I will always remember my Sergeant who met me at outside Tilbury Railway Station, asking me to book a young driver who was parked temporarily on a Taxi rank at 1 a.m. in the morning with no other traffic about. I did ask for a posting elsewhere, but this was declined. I just could not face many more years in this godforsaken place, so I returned to live with my parents at Southend, later to have a very successful career in the Computer Industry from which I retired.

This article is inspired by an email that I received, out of the blue on 5th January 2021, from a self-confessed troublesome youngster who used to live with his grandfather, in the village of Hullbridge. The Police Constable responsible for Hullbridge at the time was Detached Beat Officer PC 865 Paul John Wilgress.

I spoke to Paul Wilgress to seek his permission to reveal his contact details and happily he consented. Being a Detached Beat Officer, I admired the way that Paul had the opportunity to use his discretion with the way that he dealt with petty crime. Paul was a man after my own heart, and he was often thanked personally for his guidance by more of these youngsters at a later date, two of which he knows went on to being serving Police Officers themselves. This heartwarming email read:

"I stumbled across Richard Kirton's article on the *Barling & Villages Plus* website, about PC Paul when looking up my old village of Hullbridge on Google. I immediately recognised him as my village police officer. When reading the article my attention was drawn to a particular paragraph below:

"Paul had the opportunity to use his discretion with the way that he dealt with petty crime. Although lots of offences were committed by the younger generation they were often dealt with unofficially. Paul was a firm believer in verbal warnings and other mild forms of punishment, always followed by a talk with the offender's parents. He was conscious of how a youth's chances of future employment aspirations could be compromised had a court sentence been inflicted. Paul was often thanked personally by some of these individuals at a later date." (Paul is pictured right).



This gave me a stark reminder of my childhood in Hullbridge and my run ins with PC Paul in the early 1990's. Having been one of the troublesome youngsters in a very small village, on a number of occasions, PC Paul had cause to speak with me. I recall these incidents very well, although I don't think it would be wise for me to admit to any criminal offences, no matter how long ago they were. Let's just say I enjoyed playing with matches as well as attending school during the half term...

Having read the article about PC Paul, I too wanted to thank him personally for the way in which he handled our interactions those many years ago. Although I may not have realised it at the time, PC Paul was firm but fair and clearly always had consideration for one's future aspirations. I also wanted to let him know that I too had become a police officer over 10 years ago when joining the Metropolitan Police Service. This had been my dream from a very young age and PC Paul certainly had an impact on this. Having been the first police officer I'd ever known or interacted with in my life, he clearly made a lasting impression. Had that been a bad one, I have no doubt I would not be where I am today. First impressions are more often than not, the lasting impressions. This is something I always take into consideration when policing the streets of London and has enabled me to build such a good rapport with the youths of today (Even the ones I arrest).

PC Paul, thank you for being my village police officer! "

If you are interested, the article that I wrote in 2012 can be accessed here: *Life as a Detached Beat Officer for 26 Years - The Career of PC 865 Paul John Wilgress.*

An Email from Canada

Dave Hatcher

08 February 2021

I share below an email that I received from Dave Hatcher in Canada. The email refers to an article by Mick Prior in May 2016 about his National Service to Ceylon and can be looked at [here](#). The email is titled:

"19th Air Force Squadron Sri Lanka"



"Hi There,

Just came across your story by Mick Prior on his National Service assignment to Ceylon.

I was there also from March 1958 to April 1959. Fabulous experience. I worked in the control tower also.

I recognise many of the guys in the photos but do not remember the names.

I also went through the Singapore/Changi routine and the Aden/Red sea etc back to Southampton. I was also GPO tech.

I left Blighty in 66 and moved to Canada.

I do remember Mick.

The names Oldfield, Butler, Brummie come to mind.

Thanks for the memories.

Dave Hatcher".

Eulogy to Ann (Mower) Stacey

Peter Griffiths was sent this Eulogy and Order of Service to commemorate Ann's life.



Ann was born in Westcliff on 28th November 1931 - she grew up initially in Southchurch before the family relocated to The Firs' in Barling. She attended Barling School and it was here that she met Pamela (Gregory) Mulcaire, who became a lifelong friend (they were neighbours).

She wasn't evacuated during the War, although she did have one experience that stuck with her always. One day, her Dad came rushing into the house white faced and in something of a panic, as he had spotted a doodlebug which was heading in their direction. It narrowly missed the top of the house, landing a hundred or so yards away. There was a massive explosion, and the house windows were blown out...her Mum was very upset as they'd only just been replaced from the last explosion!

Ann was very much into horses - Kitty taught her how to ride and the two of them remained lifelong friends. She used to go to Cornwall to stay with her aunt just after the War and would take her horse with her on the train - in those days trains had horse boxes! Her aunt's partner was the father of Anne Williams, who herself loved to ride and the two of them became very close to this day.

On leaving school in Barling Ann attended Clark's College where she did a cooking course which proved to be invaluable later in life. On leaving school Ann helped her Dad with the business - he had a greengrocers in Leigh going on to looking after her Dad for a few years following her Mum's passing when Ann was only 18 years old. She took her driving test in the large work van which was used for delivering veg - it only had one seat, so the tester had to sit on a box. Amazingly, she passed.

Ann got into the Young Farmer's Club - she was a very pretty girl and won the 'Miss Dairy Maid' one year. So, it was probably no surprise when David, her husband to be, spotted her and they started seeing each other. They married when Ann was 27 in 1958 and she moved in with David at Scott's Hall Farm. Richard arrived a year later in December 1959 and John was born 3 years after that.

Ann had her hands full with two children and being a farmer's wife - the early days were tough, and she worked very hard. There was a large old farmhouse and big garden to look after and maintain and she even kept the car clean as well, which was normal then as farming meant working 7 days a week.

There was a traditional farmhouse kitchen and there was always an open house so Ann was continuously entertaining, making tea for travelling reps - there would be a daily stream of them - sometimes providing lunch too. There were no mobile phones in those days so Ann would be really busy taking calls and so she was rather like David's personal secretary.

It was a good job she had taken her cooking course as being a farmer's wife meant there

was a strict regime of serving meals. There would be breakfast prompt at 8.30pm when David would come in from the fields followed by 12pm lunch/dinner, with supper or tea at 6 o'clock - he worked the old horseman's hours. Ann would be preparing traditional stews, steak and kidney, cottage pies, etc. so she would spend all morning cooking and this routine filled the first 20 years of their marriage.

Harvest time would be particularly busy when Ann would be providing packed lunches for everyone working on the farm - she would drive over the fields to deliver it all. The day wouldn't stop there though as there would be the provision of meals often late into the evening because during these times they worked long hours. And, of course, there was the added needs of her children.

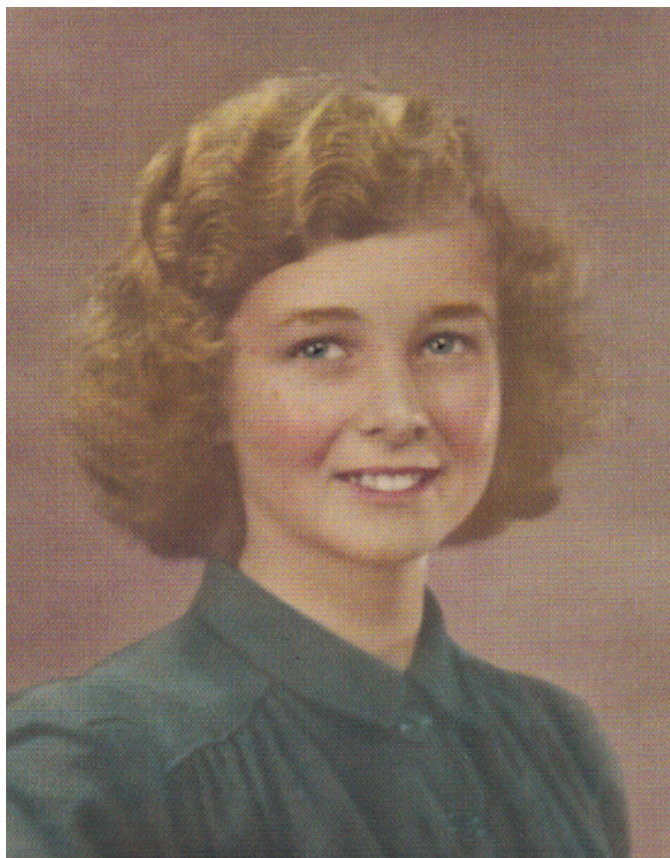
In addition, David did motor racing which he enjoyed until Richard was 10 or 12 and the family would go and watch him - she didn't have the best of nerves and quite often she would be a wreck by the end of the day (no wonder).

Following retirement from motor racing, David bought a traction steam engine and so Ann had to supply all his food for the day and follow him in the car to an event.

When John married, grandchildren came along so Ann and David moved into a bungalow they had built on the farm. Sadly, David passed in 2010.

Ann loved that bungalow and enjoyed the view so very much. As she got less mobile, Dee would come in to help and do the housework, etc. but eventually she needed full time care and Richard would like to thank Babs - who lived in, Dee, Emma and Amanda for all the love kindness and support Ann was showed. She passed peacefully in her sleep on 12th October.

Ann was a dear, sweet, gentle soul who possessed a wicked sense of humour which she retained until the end. She was a bit of a talker - Ann liked a good natter and she was also a very patient individual. She was a good person, kind and caring, always thinking of others before herself. She was beautiful inside and out and was the rock of the family.



Local Chimney Sweep on his Tricycle

David Bailey

I refer you to the article '*Local Chimney Sweep on his Tricycle*' by David Bailey in the Summer Edition 41 of our 'Small Beginnings' Newsletter.



The article solicited all members to try to identify the Chimney Sweep. Dawn and David thought that they had identified him as Frederick Eve. In the last photo on the Plus website - *Little Wakering Peter Huxter Collection -Threshing Team*, Frederick Eve is the driver, number 3 on the Back Row holding the steering wheel. The name was copied off the back of the same photo lent to Dawn and David by Mrs. Brenda Deadman.

However, on 17 Jan 2021 Dawn and David had a phone call from Cliff Jones about the chimney sweep. He thought that the houses in the background were similar to those in New Town (St Johns Road) so he wondered if a coalman called "Dusty" Walker, who lived in the street, could be the chimney sweep.

Margaret Brown also visited Dawn and David and she thinks the picture was taken in the High Street opposite Alexandra Road. Margaret wondered whether it is a gentleman called Mr Rivers, who his wife said was a chimney sweep. She knew the wife who died approximately 1972 but he had passed away before this.

We now have a choice of three names for the Chimney Sweep but still no confirmation as to who he was. Hopefully, a member might be able to solve this puzzle and confirm who the mystery Chimney Sweep was.

Villages Websites

Peter Griffiths

Our new website, Barling and Waking 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.barlingwakingvillages.co.uk/plus/index.html>

The original website can be reached here:

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

Please share your stories with our members, who will be delighted to hear them.

Website Statistics Report

Richard Kirton

Again the report below shows that first time visits are still much higher than returning visits. The Statistics Report is automatically generated on a weekly basis and is still a valuable tool.



Weekly Analytics Report

<http://www.barlingwakingvillages.co.uk/>

4 Jan - 10 Jan 2021

Average Daily Traffic

Page Views

52.9 ▲

Prev Week

34.9

Unique Visits

37.3 ▲

Prev Week

27.1

First Time Visits

34.7 ▲

Prev Week

26.1

Returning Visits

2.6 ▲

Prev Week

1

Contact Us

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: richardkirton@outlook.com - Tel: 01702 216407