

Small Beginnings

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

Special Interest Articles:

- Local pubs
- Youth Club and Drama
- Reunion lunch dates

The Bell, The Goat and The Shoulderstick

In the old villages, one place for intellectual (and other) refreshment was the local pub. In some places it still is.

In 1769, these alehouses were open for business in our area:

Barling: *Goat*
Foulness: *George, King's Head*
Great Waking: *Anchor, Bell, Red Lion, White Hart*
Little Waking: *Castle.*

The *Rose Inn* existed in the 1820s and perhaps before, though not in the present building. The *Exhibition*, named after The Great Exhibition of 1851, was established in Blarum before the 1870s. A beer-house called the *Bricklayers'*

Arms, also in Great Waking, was run by Frederick Cook in the 1870s and 1880s. It is mentioned here:

<http://londonpublichouse.com/essexpubs/GreatWaking/gtwaking.shtml>

Compare that with the situation now. We've still got the *Anchor, White Hart, Red Lion, Exhibition* and *George* (with '*and Dragon*' added). The *Rose Inn* is thriving. The *Castle* has just re-opened under new management, after failing to attract custom as an Indian restaurant last year.

The *King's Head* shut in the 1980s. But when did the *Bricklayers' Arms* and the *Bell*, which was also known as *Buntings* in the

nineteenth century and was still open in the early years of the twentieth, close down?

The *Goat*, situated somewhere in Barling, didn't survive to see the end of the eighteenth century, so that's been gone for over 200 years. Does anyone know exactly where it used to be? My schoolmate Bill Pavelin says that it was somewhere down near Barling church.

And while I'm thinking of Barling, I remember the *Shoulderstick* as an off-licence in the 1940s and '50s. Had that been a pub previously?

Peter Griffiths

Reunion lunches

Following on from the above article on local pubs, it seems logical to print the note from the last lunch on October 27th (courtesy of Peter Griffiths)

"At the previous meeting a few people had expressed some dissatisfaction with our recent pattern of meeting only at The Cherry Tree, so we discussed alternatives for next year. It seems that the Great Waking pubs are nearly all being sold at present and do not have enough room for our biggest gatherings. The Castle, though under new management, has not yet developed its food side. Nobody could think of a preferable meeting-place, so we

agreed that we would continue to meet at The Cherry Tree for the first three times next year - in January, April and July - but leave the last meeting open, in case The Castle or some other place looked worth a try by then.

School Reunion

The next Barling School reunion will be held at the 'old school' on October 11th 2008.

Further details to be announced

*Paul Abercrombie's
legacy of "Small
Beginnings" continues
under the united
editorship of Lynne
Askham (nee Marshall)
and Bob Avery*

Youth Club and Drama

Our family moved into "Rosebank" in Little Wakering in October 1946- the start of a long cold winter, the ground was frozen for weeks and we had snow right up until March, and as Dad wanted to run it as a nursery, he could not get on with it because of such bad conditions.

Rosebank was really different from our old home; it was so big and eerie, with huge rooms (10 in all, all 20 by 20ft.) The whole house was painted dark green and brown, as the army had used it all during the war. At first, water came from a large black handled pump on the kitchen wall. There was no telephone of course, there was no electricity, only gas-lamps which all added to the spookiness of the place.

It was a bit frightening at first for us children, but Mum soon made it homely, the only heating was the fire in the lounge, and I can remember the frost making patterns like leaves on the windows that winter, especially in the bedrooms.

We were on our way- I can remember having a leading role in our next production, "Flare Path" with my brother Geoff. Unfortunately Geoff Butler had left us by this time, and we had another producer from the Westcliff Theatre in Southend, Mrs. Doris Giles. We again had a

Anyway we all started at Barling School, Geoff, Brian and myself, I was in Mr. Learmond's class, and I really liked him, although it took a while to get used to him saying "we" have done this that or the other, when *he* had done it himself. Then I realised that as he was Scottish that was the way he talked. I really enjoyed school, especially needlework with Miss Riley.

But when we got home there was no playing, we all had our jobs to do, and we all worked hard, feeding animals or mixing up cement for the greenhouses and sheds that had to be built to start with. Then in the spring we were planting out seedlings, summer brought the cutting of the lettuce and picking the tomatoes and flowers, fruit etc. We had pigs and chickens too.

When I left school some two years later I was apprenticed to a dressmaker in Southend, with my friend Anita and we traveled on the old 4B Bus every day, which was 8d return for years and years!

very successful show, the old hall was full to capacity on the night, and I can even remember we even had a photograph and a write-up in the Southend Standard. Fame at last!

I can also remember it was about this time that mum

Reunion Lunch Dates

A group of Barling School ex-pupils, friends and partners occasionally meet for lunch.

All are welcome.

The next lunch is on at the Cherry Tree, Stambridge on Saturday January 26th 2008 from 12.15 until 3.00 pm

Dates for 2008:

April 19th

July 12th

October 25th

But I did not stay there for too long, as Mum and Dad needed me at home. A baby sister (Mary) had arrived and I was needed to help. It was about this time that Mr. Learmond started the Youth Club at the School, and what a fantastic thing that was! I remember I was out two nights a week to start with-I went to Musical Movements one night and the Drama Club another night.

I really enjoyed the drama group under the leadership of Geoff Butler, and his wife who sometimes came. I found myself in the leading lady's role in our first play "Peril at End House", by Agatha Christie, which was the usual "who dunnit" and I of course was the culprit and Arthur Chittock was Hercule Poirot. I can still remember my last line "oh, shut up you fool, of course I did it".

I had a good memory in those days!! The evening we put that show on in the old Parish Hall just down the road from us was just the start. I think we must have enjoyed it!

used to make toffee apples and sell them to the schoolchildren on the way home- she built up quite a reputation with these, and she did a roaring trade! Later as the Club progressed, I remember we took part in the Southend Youth Drama Festival, and I received a

certificate for my rendering of "The Quality of Mercy".

We also did another play called "This Happy Breed" but I don't remember too much about this one, I think my mind was on other happenings!

We went on to do a third play called "Happiest days of your life", a story about school days, in which I had another important role. It was at about this time that we used to have rehearsals at home on a Sunday up in our big front room at Rosebank, as we got nearer to opening night...

It was soon after the Youth Club started that another group took shape, this was the ballroom dancing class which met in the Parish Hall once a week, which is something else I really enjoyed, this opened up a

whole new era in my life, we started meeting other boys—but that's another story.

My favourite show with the group was a pantomime, and I was "Cinderella", and I loved it! Jean Wigg was Prince Charming, her sister Barbara was Dandini, and John Duffy I remember made a marvelous Buttons! I know my brother Geoff was a Baron and brother Brian had a part in the show too. I had a lovely white lacy dress for the ball (courtesy of Doris Giles who had a Dress-hire business.) The coach was made by the Scenery Group under "Snowy" Cerson. It was just a flat wooden frame with Christmas lights around it but it looked good at the time. The 'ponies' were a team of dancing girls brought from Southend by Doris to add to the show. I never could sing, which I think surprised Doris, so I

had to say the words to "Only make believe I love you".

It was a fantastic time in my life and I will always remember it, for the amount of fun it brought to my teenage years. I left the drama group because I was courting and the dancing took over my life, especially when we started taking the I.D.M.A medals for different dances.

We used to go one evening a week to Barling and one evening in Rochford, all with the same teachers Joan and Ted Lovatt. It was usually the good old Kursaal on a Saturday night! I married my dancing partner Joe and moved away and so ended my association with the Barling Youth Club, but it certainly was a happy time of my life.

Jean Hayden (nee Wright)

Notes from lunch meeting Oct 27th 2007 (edited)

DRAMA GROUP

We regulars were very pleased to see Jean Wright and her husband. She had brought a very-interesting-looking article for the Newsletter and a collection of photos of Barling Youth Club Drama Group productions in the late 1940s and early 1950s. We hope that these new pics will be a further addition to the Villages website very soon, so watch that space for a look at them.

NEWSLETTER

Although Lynne already has a couple of substantial articles for the next Newsletter, she is always eager to add more. So, if you

can put even a couple of hundred words on paper about any aspect of life in our villages, she will welcome them. They could be about your family or other people you remember; memorable events and places; memories of childhood or the school, farms, churches, chapels, Parochial Hall, Women's Institute; things you associate with life way back then; changes that have taken place, etc. Lynne's e-mail address is above.

OLD SCHOOL REGISTERS

I gave a short report on the New School assembly at which representatives of the Old School handed over the rebound and mended

Admissions Registers. There have been two subsequent reports in local papers. The 'Evening Echo' had a long and informative account of the assembly, but I was sad to see that the accompanying photo showed only me and some children, as there had been some nice shots taken of the whole group. Happily, the 'Yellow Advertiser' included a picture all of us with Marion Still, the Head teacher, and some children. We hope to be able to get prints of these photos and to let more people see them.

Peter Griffiths

Sweet memories

Seeing Jean's comment about her mother selling toffee apples reminds me of other enterprises in the villages. The first one is the sweet shop (and grocer's I think) at the far end of Greatt Wakering High Street near the church in the early 1950s. As a very small child I used to get ice lollies from there

which were dome-shaped and full of fruit pulp. They were delicious but, I guess, home-made in egg-cups.

The second is the confectionary and soft drinks stall my father set up at the end of our Dreadnought Cottage garden which backed onto Kimberley Road in the

mid 1950s. Never one to miss a trick, he was aiming at the people who came to watch the cycle team race on the track next to Little Wakering creek.

Lynne Askham (nee Marshall)

Newsletter

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

Lynne Askham
Mulberry Cottage
48 Thomas Bell Road
Earls Colne,
Essex CO6 2PF

Phone: 01787 224237

Email: lynneaskham@yahoo.co.uk

**LITTLE WAKERING, BARLING AND GREAT WAKERING ARE ON THE WEB!
THIS NEWSLETTER CAN ALSO BE ACCESSED**

FIND US AT:

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