

# Memories of George W Wrigglesworth

(1963 - 1969)

## Introduction



*Throughout my life it has often been said I relish in being different to the norm. Well “my memories” effort is consistent with that observation. I have chosen to adopt a list style of memories organised into sections. There are 2 primary reasons for taking this approach;*

- 1) My memories have been developed over 3 years since the 1<sup>st</sup> reunion in 2007. Many of you have endured previous versions at each reunion but this attempt brings together 80% of what I remember + 20% plagiarised from other residents. This last 20% are only included because they did trigger an existing memory I had forgotten about.*
- 2) By taking the list approach it makes adding illustrative pictures easier & has a better impact than a verbose anecdotal explanation.*

*I recognise my style will not be as well received as the other residents but after careful thought I chose to do it my way as to do it different would be somehow dishonest to my personality. I have to face it relating emotion is not my strength. Making lists & organising are.*

*If I still have your attention I want to say 2 huge thanks;*

1) *To Ken Griffin without his great reunion reorganisation none of this would have happened. The reunions need a spiritual home & Ken's venue choice of the Park Hotel is perfect*



*thanks to Graeme, Aidy & his wonderful welcoming staff.*

2) *To Nigel Wrightson who's fantastic website has rejuvenated the reunions & created a catalyst for new contacts to get in touch.*



*Back in 2007 I believe our furthest residents were Clive Wain who*

*travelled all the way from Southampton & Pip Grimes from Belfast. Now we have resident members from Camborne, Torquay, New Zealand, Australia & Grimethorpe (i.e. me).*

*In addition through facebook I have many amicable interactions especially with Brian Luty & Keith Schofield. They all brighten up my day including contributions from Tony, Jane & others.*

*Finally before I mention Eastwell Lodge I want to say a special thanks to Mick McMillan & his wonderful wife Linda who not only tolerate me but we even have cultural exchange visits planned between Doncaster & Manchester in the run up to this November's reunion.*

*The last part of the introduction I want to dedicate to ALL the Carers of Eastwell Lodge. Without not only the leadership & organisation but crucially the love & warmth displayed daily then I'm sure our reunions would be more fractious affairs. They did provide some stability & discipline compared to chaotic start. I recognise from the existing memories & talking to some of you at past reunions that your affection for the homes is not universal or consistent as mine.*

*I will say without fear of contradiction in my specific case my experience was one of the happiest, safest & most loving part of my 50 years on this planet. That's probably why you get a lot of e-mail traffic from me as I am so passionate about the homes. It was for me a saviour from the cruel beginning I & most of us had. I thought mine was worse than most but after reading Brian's startling revelation in his memories that is when the old adage of "there is always someone worse than you" is so true.*

*You see what ever wide ranging personalities there are at our reunions. To be frank in different normal circumstances many of us may choose not to be friends. I know it's true in my case as I am commonly referred to as an "acquired taste", a bit like Guinness with a splash of urine.*

*The bottom line is I view you all as my extended family.*

*WE ALL HAVE HAD A ROUGH DISADVANTAGED START BUT ARE HELD TOGETHER BY A COMMON BOND. OUR TIME SPENT IN CARLETON, HOWEVER LONG OR BRIEF, WITH THE LOVE OF THE STAFF & FRIENDSHIPS OF THE BOYS & GIRLS!*

*Thank you to you all for making a difference to my life & enjoy my list. I hope it triggers some personal memories that resonate with your time in the homes.*



*George W Wrigglesworth*

*September 2009*

# ENTERTAINMENT

*HUT, Steel corrugated (behind homes 1 - 4)*

- Film shows

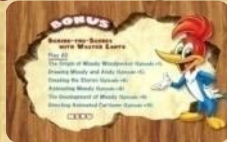
*(Projector, acetate film reels & steel / canvas chairs)*

- *Great Expectations*

- *Mrs Faversham's wheelchair*
- *Wedding reception scene*



- *Woody Woodpecker*



- *Popeye & Olive Oil*



- *The 39 Steps*



- *Table Tennis table*

- 

- *Hornby Model Railway + scenery display*



*Donated by the Round table*

- *Sand Pit*
- *Cartoon drawings on wall*
- *Competitions I entered in the hut*
  - *Winning box of maltase's "Chubby Checker "twist" dancing  
Getting stitch in side of belly*
  - *Winning "guess how many sweets" in Jar*
  - *3<sup>rd</sup> place in fancy dress competition*
    1. *Darby & Joan\*....Does anyone remember being my partner?*



## *TOYS & BOOKS* *\*(sorry to the girls for the boy's choices)*

- *Marbles, bollies, chinkies, oners, twoers etc*



- *Thunderbird model's*



- *Batmobile*



- *James Bond Aston Martin corgi toy 1966*



- *Lego*



- *Meccano*



- *Bagatelle*



- *Shoot football magazine (weekly league tables)*



- *Fanning paper fish across the floor*

- *Playing billiards & snooker (home 5)*

- *Topper / Beazer / Dandy / Beano*



- *Conkers (soaked in vinegar & on string)*



- *Etchasketch*



- *Mouth organ*



- *Fuzzy felt*



- *Playing cowboys & Indians*



- *John Bull printing set*



- *Secret Sam kit*



- *Cap gun*

- *Plus rolls of caps*

- *Johnny 7 gun*



# TV PROGRAMMES

- *Eurovision song contest*
  - 1967 *Sandy Shore* "Puppet on a string" ....no shoes on



- *Watch with mother*



*Andy Pandy & Looby Loo, Bill & Ben the flowerpot men*

- *Thunderbirds*



- *Captain Scarlet* (Auntie's used to make you the Virgil hats)



- *B/W minstrel show*



- *Dr Who & the scary theme tune*





## *Captain Pugwash*



- *Z-Cars*



- *Dixon of Dock Green*



- *Milky Bar kid*



## *CLOTHES*

- *Huge wicker baskets to put dirty clothes in*



- *Laundry room in out-buildings*
  - *Old rusty mangle*



- 2 sets of grey kit for new school term
- 2 sets of clothes for annual holidays
  - Hawaiian shirts



- Plastic sandals (painful with sand in)
- Snake belts



- Short grey school pants □
- Black plimsolls
- Anoraks

## FOOD & PRODUCTS

- Stone food storage larder / cellar (home 5)
- Birds Custard



- Pink blancmange with cherry on top (yuk!)
- Quaker Oats Scots porridge & Lyles Syrup



- Camp Coffee (£5 a bottle now!!!!)



- Pancake day (I was chief tosser ☺)



- *Sago / Tapioca pudding*
- *Bread & Butter pudding (yuk!)*
- *Fish every Friday (It's a catholic thing)*
  - *Crab (a big yuk!)*
- *Homemade marmalade & jams in big jars*
- *Rhubarb crumble (yummy)*
- *Flap Jacks (yummy)*
- *Coconut macaroons with cherries on top*
  - *Getting coconut stuck in your teeth*



- *Horlicks / Ovaltine (before bedtime)*
- *Huge white enamel bread bins*
- *3 -tier cake tins*
  - *Filled with flap jacks, coconut macaroons, rock cakes, butterfly buns*
- *Mechanical spud peeler*
  - *Suspect memory as no other resident remembers this in home 5 kitchen*
- *Blocks of carbolic soap*
- *Pears Soap*
  - *These baths were same design as ours eh*



- *Vosene green shampoo*
- *Brasso - Polishing brass Knob's*



- *Blue bird toffee in tins*



- *Table napkins + rings*

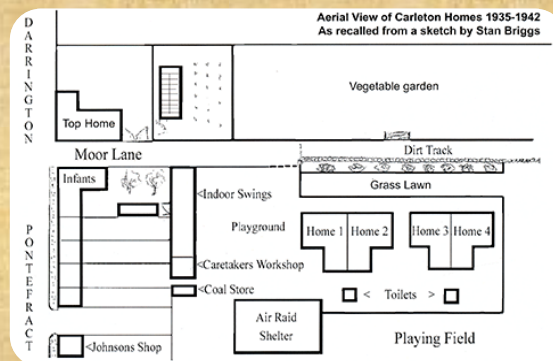


- *Steel mobile waste pig bins (outside)*
- *Delivery by Marks & Spencer van every Friday*
  - *Goods just past sell by date but still edible*



- *Taking cod liver oil tablets each night (yuk)*

## GARDENS, OUTFIELDS & SURROUNDS



*Stan 1935-1942 (No home 5!)*

- *Next door orchard (see naughty boy)*
- *Beehives? (in next doors farm / orchard?)*
- *Bottom football field & tennis courts with swamp at bottom*



*Andrea & Stephen Lupton on a sunny day*

- *Air raid shelter (concrete arch type)*
  - *Metal doors, echoes & damp & jet black inside (out of bounds)*
  - *Found war rubber gas mask*
  - *Big mound above full of nettles*
- *Hawthorn hedge borders & getting nettle stings*
- *Pear trees (home 5 garden)*
- *Conker trees (down the dirt track Moore lane)*
- *Blue round swimming pool (behind Super's house)*
  - *Came out on sunny days*
  - *Full of floating sycamore leaves that got in your gob*
- *Vegetable gardens & caretakers shed*
- *Pontefract Rugby union ground*
  - *Xmas parties held at their club in Pontefract*
- *White fence at front & "blackie" for footy*
- *Carleton Green (picnics & playing cricket)*



*Picture courtesy of Mick McMillan Spring 2009*

- *The Rookeries farm*
- *Coke bunker*
- *Outside toilets behind homes 1 - 4*
  - *My memory very vague.*
  - *Knocked down late 60's?*
- *Indoor swing shed & laundry room (top of home 1)*
  - *Climbing on the beams under roof*
- *Playground (behind homes 1-2)*
  - *Swings*
  - *Slide*
  - *Sand pit*
  - *Swing boat (banana boat)*



*Picture courtesy of Ann Hirst (nee Pitchill)*

- *Big shoe (delivered in 1969 home 5 gardens)*



- *“Old lady in the shoe” nursery rhyme*
- *Plus a boat donated too from Kellingley Colliery miners*
- *Bungalow “Kismet” Loriman’s (Moore Lane)*
- *Small cemetery (Moore Lane after bungalow)*

## PONTEFRACT



- *Haircut trips* □
  - *“short back & sides”, brylscreem (lots of it!!!) & Falcon hair spray*
  - *Sitting on a box on the chair*
  - *Bowl on head & painful clippers for back*
- *Saturday morning matinee (Regal?)*
  - *Clap & stamp your feet in unison*
  - *Lone Ranger / Crazy Gang*
- *Billy Smarts Circus*
  - *Mr Pastry on his bicycle*



- *Pantomimes at the theatre*
- *Valley Gardens*

- *Pontefract Royal Infirmary*

- *Dr Shipman started as a jnr. doctor there in 1964!!!!*

- *Pontefract Fair (St Giles day)*

- *Won goldfish in a plastic bag*



- *Youth club*

- *Making candlestick holders on lathes*

- *Pontefract Swimming Baths*

- *Pontefract Castle*



- *Having picnics?*

- *Pomfret cakes (liquorice)*

- *Made at Haribo factory*



- *St Giles church*



- *War memorial*



# HOLIDAYS

## BRIDLINGTON



- *Getting extra pocket money in a brown envelope*
- *Burlington Rd. guest house (run by Aunty Ann & hubby)*



- *Singing hymns sea front & beach with Sally Army*



- *Boat trips in harbour*





- *Singing on boat accompanied by a man with an accordion*



- *Captain's Table restaurant*
  - *I received an extra flake for being youngest (1964?)*
- *Arriving on same day England won World Cup final 1966*
  - *Live on tiny b/w TV in front room as we arrived*

- *Visit to pictures*

- *Sound of Music 1965 & 66 & 67?*



- *Chalets on top of beaches to get changed*
- *Catching crabs in buckets on beach*
- *Watching people fishing for crabs on quay / pier*
- *Donkey riding*



- *Boating lake + toy yachts*



- *Sunday night proms at Bridlington Spa*

- *Dashing Sergeant, sliding across floor on knees (as described by Peter Kay)*
- *Rows of deckchairs in front of band*



- *Burlington Bertie train (on road with big chimney)*

# WHARFEDALE

- *Cow & Calf famous rocks*



- *Going for long walks*

- *Big gong banged when it was time for meals*



- **FLAMINGO LAND & ZOO**

- *Chimps tea party*

- **PRIMROSE VALLEY GARDENS**

- **SCARBOROUGH**

- *Corrigan's amusements*
- *Peasholme Park*



- *Jacob's mount*

- **FILEY** (& a visit to Butlins???)

- **FLAMBOROUGH HEAD**



- *RHYL* (1970's)
- *SKEGNESS*
- *NORFOLK BROADS* (1975's)

## *CARLETON INFANT & JUNIOR SCHOOL*

(1963-69)

*(now called the Rookeries Infant & Jnr. school)*



*Old infant school (<1960's)*



2000?



2009

- *Playing triangle in music class*



- *My first real blow kiss (Christine ???)*
  - *She used to fetch me salt & vinegar crisps every lunchtime*
- *My first real kiss "snog" (Linda Brown)*



*Remembered*

- *I used to compete with her affection with Alan Grandige*

- *School friend Martin Naylor (see naughty boy cricket bat)*



*Remembered*

- *School friend Mick Wilson*



*Remembered*

- *School friend Howard Kettle*



*Remembered*

- *School friend Mark Wilby*



*Remembered*

- *Mr Garbut / Mr Whitwell*

- *Mr Cardwell (disliked by most boys!)*



- *Collecting & swapping World War II cards*

- *Black Sambo books*



- *Ladybird books*

- *Janet & John books*



- *Jane, Dick & a dog?*



- *Visit by Princess Margaret 1964 on Carleton Rd*
  - *Opening new A&E Ponte RI*
  - *Waving flags (10 car motorcade)*

- *Milk monitor*
  - *1/3 pints + straws (freeze up in the summer)*
  - *Steel crates piled up at front of the school*
- *School visit to Hornsea Pottery*
- *School trips to Pontefract baths*
- *Being told about the school tragedy Aberfan 1966*
- *Climbing frame (near annexes)*
- *PE & working out on rubber mats*
- *Annexe's (on left side facing building)*
- *Sports day*
  - *Egg & spoon race*
  - *Getting disqualified in sack race for only having one leg in sack*



## CHURCH / SUNDAY SCHOOL / THE GRANGE



*St Michaels*



*Carleton Parish Hall*



*The Grange*

- *Huge Wooden Eagle to hold big bible*
- *Singing Hymns from little books left on benches*
- *Organ & pipes + choir singers*
- *Hymn no's on wall behind pulpit*

- *Father Gabb (1940's)*



- *Father Mercer (1950/60's)*
- *Father Hinds (1960's)*
- *Palm Sunday's & Harvest Festival (making reed crosses)*
- *Ascension day*
  - *Father Mercer taking kids to Ponte Regal for free*
- *Bread (white circles) & Wine (holy communion)*
- *Altar boys with balls of incense on chains*
  - *Mick McMillan & Keith Schofield*



## *MISCELLANEOUS* (*My various personal recollections*)

- *Tanners (6d) under pillar when your tooth fell out*
- *Stamp collecting (home 5)*
- *Peeling spuds in the mechanical potato peeler (home 5)*
- *Shining the wooden floor with special mop (home 2)*
- *Filling up coke scuttles*



- *Cleaning muddy shoes & boots (boot room home 5)*
- *Sweet shop down road (called Johnson's in 1940's)*

- *Taken out on Thursday's after school to tea*
  - *with a special lady own house (foster mother)*
  - *Introduced to a yummy new desert called "Angel delight"*
- *Playing buttons in Aladdin pantomime (home 2)*
- *Coke deliveries (cellar home 5)*
- *Spud & pea pulling recruitment (half a crown (2/6d)a sack)*
- *Walk in bluebell woods*
  - *Ackworth/Darrington/Wentworth*
- *Going to Odeon in Leeds 1967 to watch James Bond*



*You only live twice*

- *Pocket money (Tanner under 10y0, 1 shilling over 10y0 = 1969 for me)*
- *Carleton Community Centre*
  - *Billy Liar play*
- *Carleton Lodge recreation hall*
- *Lockers & snooker table, top in 3 parts (home 5)*
- *Easter eggs delivery on a trolley*
- *Birthday's to Top House,*
  - *Super let you choose a box of chocolates from his cupboard*



*Home 2 birthday (who's was it?) I'm on left, middle?*

- *Cubs / Bob a job week*



- *Walking on huge gas pipes above land behind homes*



- *Playing Beetle drive in Carleton*



- *Carleton Football team(the wasps)*

- *Charlie McNamee (DJ) played against the homes Goole*



- *Catching butterflies & red admirals from bushes*
- *Watching lawn being mowed on bottom fields*
  - *I can still smell the petrol*
- *Collecting wood for fire on Bonfire night*
  - *Down at bottom field*
  - *Help making Guy Fawkes*
  - *Popular with outside kids*
  - *Firework display*
- *Putting blue bags / dock leaves on wasp / bee stings*
- *Fishing for stickle backs, frogs & tadpoles*
- *Keeping live caterpillars in a sealed plastic box*
  - *Then dying the next morning!! ☹*



● \*\*\* *MAN UTD FROM EURO NIGHT 1968* \*\*\*

- *Milestone event for me (home 2)!!!  
George Best, my hero!!!*



## *CHRISTMAS MEMORIES*

- *Xmas time choosing toy's from catalogue*
- *Making paper chain decorations*



- *Getting holly from walks to Bluebell woods*



- *Sitting on Santa's knee in Ponte*
- *Row of sacks with your names on waiting in morning*
- *Christmas pudding and threepenny bits inside*



- *Carol singing (sang at the infamous architect, Mr Poulson's house)*



# POSITIVE LESSONS

- *Doing daily chores before playtime*



- *How to set table*
- *Good manners learnt & how to be polite*
- *Saying Lord's prayer before & grace after meals*
- *Prayer before going to sleep*
- *Standing up for national anthem*
- *Making "hospital corner" beds*
  - *Angled corners on starched sheets + counterpanes*



# NAUGHTY BOY

*(\*mainly funny now, but the odd one I still carry a bit of guilt e.g. stealing £1 note)*

- *Playing "doctors & nurses" on step at back of hut*
  - *"You show me yours if I show you mine" ☺*



- *Pulling your good teeth out just to get 6d*



- *Nicking baking chocolate & currents from tin*  
*(Home 5)*
- *Stole £1 note from cupboard (home 5 snooker room)*

*(still guilty as Gary Thomas got blame & he was punished, sorry Gary, you would have killed me if I confessed☹)*

- *Scrumpping apples & pears from (Stringers?) orchard & getting stomach ache after gorging*
- *Trying to get diabetes for special attention (Home 2)*
  - *By drinking pints of water until stomach bloated*
  - *Ironic as now at 50yo I now have diabetes ☹*
- *Being hit in the eye with a huge wooden pole*
  - *For not sharing my toy. On top of football field*
- *Putting drawing pins on a girl seat at Sunday School*
- *Getting spanked for something I did not do*
  - *The real culprit was Henry Budris!!!*
  - *On discover by Super a boxing match arranged in hut to settle it*
    - *2 "friends" to support you, convinced "fixed" as I won!!*
- *Showing off acting like a girl*
  - *Pull my willy under me to look like a female "tuppence". Super Meiningan caught me by hiding on top of fire escape landing (home 5).*
- *Putting itching powder down jumpers (rosehip seeds)*
- *Peeing bed a few times & made to have a rubber sheet*
- *Catapulting at cross country runners (Aidy a victim ☺)*



- *Hitting Martin Naylor in eye with cricket bat*
  - *Accident honest, I let go of bat*
  - *Result was broken nose & 2 black eyes*
- *Pulling Dinah Shore's pigtails*
  - *She hit me back & I never did it again, She enjoyed reminding me*



- *Finding a used condom at a sewerage farm*
  - *thinking it was burst balloon*
- *Making "Apple Pie" beds*

# SEMINAL EVENTS THAT PASSED ME BY

- *First man in space 1961*
- *Cuban Missile crisis 1962*
- *JF Kennedy's assassination 1963*
- *Beatle's arrive in USA 1964*
- *Sir Winston Churchill's death 1965*
- *Walt Disney death 1966*
- *Biafran starving children 1967*
- *Martin Luther king assassination 1968*
- *Moon landings 1969*

## Special mentions (non residents)

- *Mick Wilson*



*Mick Wilson attended Carleton Junior & infants school with me, until I left autumn 1969.*

*I could not believe he remembered that we both shared the same birthday, 1<sup>st</sup> October.*

*He attended the 1<sup>st</sup> reunion (see us both above) & he kindly supplied the school picture below. It was taken in MID 1970. Unfortunately I had just been plucked from home 5, with 1 hour notice, to live in the real world in Grimethorpe, nr Barnsley (twinned with Baghdad).*

*The unpopular teacher, Mr Cardwell, is in the bottom middle.*

*You can spot our Carleton Homes mob? They have the same grey uniforms!!*

Carleton Infant and Junior School 01/07/1970

(Red- denotes residents)



Top left to right  
Howard Kettle, Neil Hughes, Martin Naylor, Susan Foster, Lynne Collins, Gary Tricket, Andrew Benstead

Middle left to right  
**Bryan Schofield**, Susan Littlewood, Richard Sadler, David Elvin, David Ashton, Linda Brown,  
Ian Richardson, Steve Reynolds, Simon Jackson, Mark Wilby, Kim Nichol, Mick Wilson.

Bottom left to right  
**Philip Tabiner (rip)** **Mick McAndrews**, Paul Winter, **Jeanette Scott**, Mr Cardwell (Teacher),  
Mary Brown, Kevin Moreton, **Andrew Kelsall**, **Derek Sweeting**

*(Info from Mick Wilson, Martin Naylor & Howard Kettle)*

*\*Is the Carleton Home resident bttm row 2<sup>nd</sup> from right Andrew Kelsall OR Gordon Corr?*

- **Martin Naylor**



*Martin Naylor & I were school pals in same year. He has never forgotten the Carleton homes residents & during his adult life often wondered how we all faired. Well I had the opportunity to bring him up to date through a chance encounter via Facebook. What was remarkable that 1<sup>st</sup> contact was he revealed that I was responsible for breaking his nose & giving him two black eyes. When I checked his profile & saw his stature plus he was an ex miner & rugby player, I was naturally concerned. This worry quickly evaporated when he revealed it was a cricket accident when I let slip the bat. He was taken to Ponte Infirmary where he could have been checked out by Dr Shipman (who served his early days in the same hospital). Fortunately not only does he forgive me we also share a Barnsley friend called Mick Mallinson. Martin has been instrumental in arranging Carleton Infant & Junior school reunions, the last one being in June 2009.*

*Finally.....*



2008 great film show in the conference room

*I hope these triggered some happy memories for you.*

*Thanks to the all contributors, especially:-*

*Nigel, Ken, Stan, Mick, Keith, & Brian*



*George W Wrigglesworth*

*(1963 - 1969)*