

Lost Touch

Helping to trace lost friends and revive memories of the evacuation

Please send your lost touch messages and responses to the ERA office. Many happy reunions have resulted.

Ron Waller... is looking for anyone who was in The Medway Cottage Childrens Home at the outbreak of war. We were evacuated to Whitstable in Kent.

Also anyone evacuated to Brixham, Devon, finally Brentwood in Essex.

Gerald Grainger... would like to know the names of any children from St Michael's CofE school, Leeds who were evacuated with him to Burley in Warfedale.

Angela Beer writes from the Channel Islands... I was evacuated in 1940, age 5, to Crossways Farm, Curland, Somerset and have kept in touch with my foster family ever since. I've recently been in contact with some local members of a historical group who have good memories of the following evacuees and would like to hear from them. All were billeted in either Curland or the neighbouring village, Staple Fitzpaine. They are....

Brenda and John Gotts, Pearle and June (or Jean) Kineally, Leslie Morris, Albert, David and Josephine Timothy (from Newington Butts, London) Dad was a docker. Valerie Derby (age 3 or 4) who was with her mother. George Ponsonby, Josephine Kent and a sibling.

Mrs Janet Stevens (nee Innocent)... was evacuated from Canonbury Road School with Joyce Lennox, Audrey Baxter, Ivy Fortune, Irene and sisters, Patricia Johnson, Frank and David Harrison. She would love to hear from you. They were evacuated to the village of Thurnby in Leicestershire.

Editor's note: We receive many responses to the Lost Touch messages, which of course we pass on. Please keep sending them, but may I ask every one to kindly be sure to make them as clear as possible, especially people's names and place names. Sometimes we have difficulty in deciphering people's handwriting. Many thanks.

Lillie Ward nee Robinson writes from the Wirral...

Does anybody out there remember me. I lived in Liverpool when the war started and on the 1st September 1939 I was one of the evacuees who went away with their school, mine was St Athanasius.

I can't remember much about the journey except where we ended up, in a cattle market in Bridgnorth, Salop, now called Shropshire. We travelled by train from Liverpool to Bridgnorth and then by bus to a hamlet called Deuxhill, about four miles from Bridgnorth.

I was picked out to be boarded with a Mr and Mrs Harrison at Hall Farm, Beuxhill. I spent 32 months with them, I was well looked after and enjoyed the countryside very much, but for one reason or another I was sent home, which upset me very much.

Will anyone who was evacuated from St Athanasius School please contact me, I would love to hear from you.

Pamela Bartholomeush (nee Burrell) writes...

I was evacuated from London on the 3rd September 1939 outside Gayhurst Road School, in Dalston, London, to Caston in Norfolk.

I'm sure it was on this day but as I was only six years old my memory of the event is rather dim, but I wonder if anyone else was in the same party and could confirm if this was the correct day. I think we travelled to Norfolk by train.

Vince Maloney writes...

Does anyone of the readers remember our evacuation from Bootle, St Monica's School to Norwood R.C Primary School Mea nr Southport.

Thank you for your work on our behalf.

Jane Raynor... asks anyone from North Paddington Central School, evacuated from London to Winslow, Buckinghamshire to contact her.

Sheila Collyer (nee Boswell) writes... I would like a request in 'Lost Touch'; Irene Soer, Ruth Searle, Brian Reagan, Michael Birch & Donald Blandford. The last two lads had wonderful singing voices. Donald is Welsh and was in my class and we fancied each other! All these were in Spurgeons Orphanage in Reigate, Surrey, also Bertram Parks.

We left at 15. He cycled from Salisbury to see me in Hastings, Sussex. I cycled back to Whipp's Cross Hospital!

Editor's note: Sheila orders any former Spurgeons Orphanage to contact her. Or else!

Shelagh Roberts (nee Hughes)... is looking for Richard Trollope, Hilary or family of. Evacuated to Ty Newgold Rhosesmor Nr Mold, Flintshire. Mr and Mrs Bill and Jean Hughes.

I have recently discovered that my mother made a tapestry for Richard and family, it has been in a drawer for over 50 years. I had no idea it was for Richard or I would have tried to find you sooner.

If you wish to respond to any of the above you can do so through the ERA office, but please give us a stamped envelope to use as postage is so expensive now.