

Memories from Edward Govier

Edward writes...

I had three brothers and a sister, all of whom attended Ainsworth Primary School at various times and have retained quite an affection for the place. I attended the school from 1943 to 1947. The headmaster was Mr Clarence Walker, who played an old harmonium for morning assembly. Other teachers I recall were Miss Dawson and Miss Robson. I revisited the school in 1992



I was a regular visitor to the children's home Bankfield, to meet my friends and use its magnificent full size billiard table. The home's manager was a Mr Kinmont and I was able to join with the children on a visit to Bury Odeon for a Saturday Morning Matinee film show for the children

I was an early "paper boy" for newsagent, John Kirkman, before his Church Street shop. But from his then home in Thompson Avenue. I

recall in the pitch black of winter waiting in his garden shed as he “marked up” under lamplight the papers for my outer district paper round, which included the cottages to the rear of the Recreation Ground, Ainsworth Hall Road, Greenside, Delph Lane and various cottages and farms to the top of Arthur Lane

This is a photo taken at Ainsworth Mill Lodge in about 1952, during a lunchtime break.



It shows Will Rolls from Heywood (back left) and Kenneth from Bolton; me (Edward Govier) at the front and Charlie Pickstone from Radcliffe. My father had negotiated with mill manager, Sam Collier, for me to take an apprenticeship mechanics course with leave for one day at Bolton Technical College and night school etc. The plan was interrupted by National Service at 18 years of age, when I was assigned to the Royal Army Ordnance Corps for two years compulsory service – mostly spent in the Middle East. On my return home in August 1956, I found the Ainsworth Mill closed, and had become a woodmill. So my textile career was short-lived. But I was soon engaged by Dobson and Barlow Ltd of Bradley Fold as a capstan lathe machinist so all as not lost.

In August 1992, Maurice Govier made a sentimental journey from Adelaide, South Australia and revisited his old primary school

