

## Evacuees in Wolston

The local History Group was recently approached by an eighty year old Suffolk resident, Mr. Clifford Gollner, who came to Wolston as an evacuee in 1940. He was only six at the time and stayed for just six months, from June to December. He was placed with Mrs. Postlethwaite at 6 Stretton Road and attended the local school. He visited Wolston earlier this year and was pleased to be able to verify his few memories of the village. One image he had in mind was of what he described as the village green, with a pond and iron railings, which he used to pass on the way to school. This would have been the area now occupied by the approach to John Simpson Close. On his recent visit, he was fortunate in meeting a local resident, who was able to confirm that he had remembered correctly.

Mr. Gollner's reason for contacting the History Group was to ask if there were any photographs of that part of the village at about that time, or perhaps earlier. There do not seem to be any photographs or postcards of that area in the group's archives but it could be that there are people in the village, who have family snaps or other material, which might be relevant. We would be even more interested to hear from those older and long-standing residents, who attended the village school in 1940. There might even be someone who remembers the young evacuee!

Mr. Gollner's request has prompted us to consider the broader issue of the war's impact on Wolston and its residents. We would therefore welcome any recollections, reminiscences, written information or pictures relating to that period. As Mr. Gollner says himself, it was a difficult – indeed traumatic - time for evacuees but, equally, it cannot have been easy for the hosts. And what was it like here, when Coventry was being blitzed?

If you have any information, material, reminiscences or recollections, which you think might be relevant, please contact Geoff Henman by 'phone – 76542743 – or email – [geoffhenman@talktalk.net](mailto:geoffhenman@talktalk.net) . Thank you.