

Patricia, Clare, Maureen and Shaun Dooley evacuees.

The Dooley children were evacuated to Middle Barton and Steeple Aston during World War II. They attended both Middle Barton and Steeple Aston Schools were billeted in Middle Barton. This document contains a record of the conversations between Patricia Dooley and the Steeple Aston Village Archive as the family's background in North Oxfordshire was researched.

I looked through the Dr Radcliffe's School Admissions books for 1939-40 this morning, and found the following:

6th September **1939** Admission no. 1444 Maureen Dooley (22/12/1925) of 57 Halley Road, London E.6 (sic); from St. Antony's School; c/o Mrs. Adams, Middle Barton. Left 16/11/39 (*see attached letter from - I assume - your grandmother, which I found tucked into the back of the 1939 book.*).

6th September **1939** Admission no. 1463 Shaun Dooley (5/7/1927) of 57 Halley Road, London E.6; from St. Antony's School; c/o Mrs Churchill, Fox Lane, Middle Barton (in pencil) and Mr. Corlette, Sandford St. Martin (in ink).

9th September **1940** Admission no. 1633 Patricia Dooley (23/5/1929) of 57 Halley Road, Forest Hill, E.7; from St. Antony's School; c/o Mrs. Adams, Turnpike, Middle Barton.

I also found:

9th September 1940 George Fage; c/o Mrs. Stewart, Turnpike, Middle Barton. Departed 1941. (*Mrs. Stewart is in one of the photos on the Middle Barton History Group website, and seems to have been the next door neighbour to Mrs. Adams.*)

It appears that Maureen and Shaun (their spelling) were evacuated in the phoney war the year before your mum, and that Shaun moved from one guardian to another, while Maureen was called back to London after only two months. Patricia came the following September during the Blitz, and went to stay with Mrs Adams too. There is no mention of either Terry or Clare. It is possible that Clare was still with Mrs Adams when Patricia arrived, but had been attending a different school; however, as she was so much older (if as you suggest born in 1923) she would have been over school-leaving age in 1940 and so may well have returned to London, or moved on elsewhere. In which case, the sisters were not together at Mrs. Adams. Does your mum remember otherwise?

As to Terry - he doesn't seem to have started at Dr. Radcliffe's when Shaun did, so we can only guess that he was also at another school, but possibly staying at the same home as his brother.

Patricia turned out to be a delightful person, with a very good memory. I attach a photo I took of her in the History Centre on Saturday. We worked out from her school record in the archive that she went for her first year as an evacuee to M.Barton primary school (which she had forgotten), and only went on to Dr. Radcliffe's in her second year here, 1940. Her sister and brother however, also billeted at Mrs. Adams', went straight to Steeple Aston school in 1939.

She listed the following people that she remembers from her time in Middle Barton, most of whom I think were locals and not evacuees:

Diana Jarvis (she met her again 20 years ago, but Patricia thinks she has since died)

Avril Cleaver

Poppy Broom

the Hazel family

Ralph Millan

Joyce Hawker (lived near Turnpike in Duns Tew Lane)

Arthur Beale

Arthur Gammage, the only child who had a wireless, which they would all crowd round to hear news of the war

Mr Webster, the head teacher at M Barton school. Patricia provided the **attached photo** of the evacuees to M Barton taken in early 1940 with Mr Webster on the right, the formidable looking Mrs Webster in a hat, on the left next to her son. Patricia Dooley is the tall girl in the centre of the front row, her brother Sean in the row behind her wearing a tie, and in the back row third from the right is their youngest, rather unhappy, sister Clare.

The Fleming family (at a large house in Westcott Barton?) to whom one had to bow.

Col. Jervis who lived close to Turnpike.

Evacuees



Evacuees at Steeple Aston School in 1940. These children were from St. Anthony's School, Forest Hill. The headteacher of St. Anthony's Mr Webster and his wife are on the right and left of the photograph, their son standing next to Mrs Webster and Kathleen Saich in the centre. Patricia Dooley is the tall girl in the middle of the front row, her brother Shaun is in the row behind her wearing a stripy tie and younger sister Clare is in the back row third

from the right. They were billeted at Mrs. Adams house at the Turnpike. Patricia attended Middle Barton school for one year before going up to Steeple Aston School to join her siblings.

Information from Pat Dooley who has been corresponding and visiting Steeple Aston Village Archive.



Patricia (nee Dooley) at Steeple Aston Village Archive (25 July 2015)

The photographs in this document can also be found in the Photos AM/wartime section of The Bartons' History Group web-site.

<http://www.bartonshistorygroup.org.uk/>