Photo taken outside 35 Millhare, at the house in which I was born. I think it dates c.1937.

**Norman Gilliver** (D.O.B. 12.12.1934)

Tuesday 25th March 2014

In the words of Victor Meldrew, 'I Don't believe it!'

Who would have thought that 70 years on from the 1944/45 intake at 'The Dixie', Vera Lynn would still be singing 'We'll meet again'?

And so came together at the Black Horse in The Square, Market Bosworth, some 14 survivors once again for a biennial reunion of former pupils.

1944 saw the introduction of the Education Act, which brought in full secondary education for all. Blackouts ~~are~~ and wartime rationing were still in force, V1 and V2 bombs were being unleashed over Britain, and the D Day landings in Normandy took place.

1945 saw the introduction of Family Allowances (Five shillings (!) for a second child etc.), VE Day on May 8th (Victory in Europe celebrations), the dropping of atom bombs in August over Hiroshima and Nagasaki – and Holmfield ~~Road~~ Avenue and Ravenhurst Road were added to the catchment area of the dear old Dixie, to swell the ranks of potato pickers in the Bosworth area!

So we were all welcomed into the arms of 'The Boss', Mr. Gosling and his staff, to guide us during our early formative teenage years.

In addition to our academic tuition, the insistence of caps, blazers, tunics and ties, do you remember the facilities offered in sports, drama, and various 'after school' activities? And Biros were not permitted! All topics of conversation at our reunions – happy days.

Norman Gilliver (1945-52). Potted CV.

Born and bred in Newbold Verdon, Leics. Attended The Dixie and enjoyed the sporting opportunities, football, cricket and a little tennis. Captained the cricket team in final year. House captain of Johnson. Graduated in Modern Languages at the University of Nottingham. Served for three years in the Intelligence Corps, spent firstly playing football for the Depot on the UK (trophies!), then two full years in Cyprus at the time of the EOKA troubles (371 service personnel killed) and the Suez campaign. Still attending reunions.

Married in 1958 (Newbold Verdon) to Evelyn (born in Cadeby) and still together after 56 years (to date!). Three children and five grandchildren. Have lived in Stourport-on-Severn, Worcs., for the past 46 years. Industrial experience in production management, firstly as a graduate trainee with a Leicestershire company in Lutterworth, then with Stewarts and Lloyds/British Steel for some 28 years at Coombs Wood, Halesowen, prior to joining the Kidderminster Chamber of Commerce in May 1990 for the last 10 years of my working life.

Hobbies – allotment gardening, town twinning, acting as interpreter on many occasions, foreign travel, all family activities, and in earlier years close involvement with the National Deaf Children's Society, meeting other people, still participating in rink and short mat bowling, and as always for a Leicestershire lad, retaining a keen interest in the fortunes of Leicester City FC, The Tigers, and willing the County Cricket Club to revive.

As Brian said, keep it short and simple. That's me!