

ON REFLECTION

Barton Hill History Group Meeting 20TH. May.2009



At the meeting held at the Settlement, Ducie Road on 20th May 2009 we paid tribute to Harold Dancey, a former member of the Barton Hill History Group who left a legacy of drawings, photographs and memories of Barton Hill.

He moved to Victoria Avenue, Redfield on the fringe of Barton Hill when he married in 1940 and had the foresight to start recording scenes of the area, an area which he could see would change dramatically in the not too distant future.



His drawings capture the time of large families, poverty and social deprivation.

He manages to that the camera didn't, for instance the



depict moments in life ten children in one bed



and the bath night in the tin tub in front of the fire, the same water used for all of the family.

Now only a distant memory to those older members amongst us, but we must not forget these times.

Amongst his other drawings he did a series of street vendors



and street games.



His classic photos numbering about one hundred have been used in both the books compiled by the Barton Hill History Group, 'Barton Hill' and 'Barton Hill Revisited' – both still obtainable from amazon.co.uk via our publications link.

He produced a book 'The Folks Who Lived on the Hill'. It has not been published but it is a potted history of Barton Hill, together with his memories of living in the area. It also includes a list of important dates such as the opening and closing of schools, churches and industries.

His skill as an artist was also very apparent in his job as a sign writer for the bus company in the days when all the adverts and decorations on the buses were hand painted. He was involved in the decorating of the first carol bus and also painted the scenes of Bristol on the open top bus when tours of the City first started

Harold Dancey is highly regarded by the Barton Hill History Group and we were lucky to have had him as one of our members back in the 1980s, and at the tribute evening we realised his drawings never cease to amuse.