

ON REFLECTION

'RETURN TO WHITEHALL' MEETING

WEDNESDAY 21st. APRIL.2010

The Barton Hill History Group have held meetings in the past about Whitehall and they have always proved to be a success, the most recent one held on the 21st April 2010 was no exception.

Although seating had been arranged for forty people this proved not to be enough and extra chairs were hastily arranged as members of the history group and visitors poured into the venue, many visitors clutching photos of days gone by.



Our small exhibition of photos and memorabilia of Whitehall including a model of the school building initially drew a lot of attention and comments

The meeting started at 7.30 with a slide show of nostalgic landmarks around Whitehall with some places such as, Morris' (Monkey Morris's) sweet shop on Whitehall Road, Rose Green School and the old Co-op bakery in Chester Road being just a memory and others such as Packers Pavilion, St. Ambrose Church and the Kings Head still in use today.



The tea and biscuits break gave all present an opportunity to speak to people they recognised and the meeting almost turned into a school reunion.

The slide presentation resumed with what most people came for, a nostalgic look back at their childhood days at Whitehall School. The old school on Whitehall Road was finally demolished in 1986 so the old photographs of the building took everyone back many years. Then came the old class photographs, which created a buzz of conversation when some in the audience recognised themselves and long forgotten childhood friends.



The evening of nostalgia was rounded off by a look at transport, the main interest being the old green buses with the open backs and the platform where the conductor stood. The buses that served the main route through Whitehall Road during the 1960s and 1970s were the 13 and 14 previous to that they had been numbered 133 and 144.



Everyone who attended took away fond memories of Whitehall and when the meeting concluded and the venue emptied the dialogue appeared to continue some time after on the corner outside the Settlement. Our 'Return to Whitehall' evening had stirred so many memories.

