

Alastair C Bourne



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Prior to Blaisdon experiences.

Sadly I don't remember much before and not much about Enfield, except that for me it was a hellhole where I was, on many occasions, brutally flogged by one Mr. Langdon who would today go to jail for such activities that he got up to.

Prior to Enfield my memories are also dim. I remember my early childhood, to a degree, living in Hornchurch Essex and I remember when war broke out and the first air raid . I have no memories of my school day, in those early days either.

Blaisdon experiences - Trade, House, Sports, etc. etc. etc.

I arrived at Blaisdon Halt station in a round 1945 and I got a glimpse of the Hall from the bridge and gulped in horror at the old grey building that looked to me like a prison. I was terrified of what was going to happen to me, there, after what happened to me in Enfield. I was met by a cadaverous giant of a man a Brother Pat, who turned out in the end to be a real gent and all round nice guy. I soon learned that the Hall was a fabulous place to live and learn. For the first time in my life I was treated with respect and kindness. I say, lets not forget the real and good nosh to, what a joy to be eating good food again. I thoroughly enjoyed my years at the Hall and met some nice people, Salesian Priest and Brothers, who I remember fondly. I am very grateful that I attended the Hall where I learnt so much about many things. Those years are the fondest and happiest memories of my childhood. The standards that have stood me well throughout my life were set by the Salesians at the Hall and are still in place. I did quite well in sport at the Hall playing cricket and football and taking part in athletics. I was also Junior Victor Ludorum. I still have medals from the cricket and football days at the Hall, sadly I have lost the JVL medal.

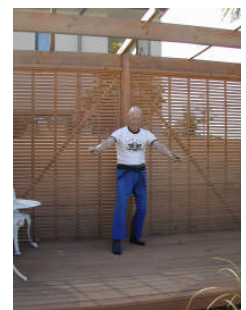
During my years at the Hall I started to learn carpentry, which I hated but I loved old Bro Tom Caulfield and still have fond memories of that lovely soul. I later moved to work in Electrical engineering and worked away generating power for the Hall and carrying out electrical repairs throughout the buildings. I really enjoyed those days.

Post Blaisdon experiences:

I returned to live with my mother once I left Blaisdon but could not settle. I was still very unhappy about my negative experience at Enfield and really held that against my parents, and did so for many years. There is nothing sadder than an unhappy childhood. Let me now comment on the Old Boys I have met at the occasional reunions I have attended. It gave me great pleasure to see such a fine body of men who had developed the way they had, in spite of Enfield. I suspect many of today's kids would have had a different result in their adulthood had they attended a place like Enfield.

After a few months, or a year or so, I left home to arrive in New Zealand a callow 18 year-old youth with one shilling and sixpence in my pocket.

I spent that, one shilling and sixpence, on chocolate, which I had not had since before the war. I soon found myself a job on a farm (another prison) where I slaved away for a few years. I returned to England for a while and I studied Chinese martial arts and medicine for many years, returning to NZ to settle here. Gosh I have been here now for well over 60 years. I returned to the land to work and soon had my own herd of cows and I share-milked for a few years and then I moved to Wellington where I went to university and furthered my studies.



I married and built a house in Wellington and lived there for many years until 1980 when I moved to Auckland. Sadly I lost my wife to cancer in 1989 ending a very happy period of my life. I remarried after while to a saint of a woman many years younger than I and after 15 years of marriage we are still very happy and live very busy lives. I continued with my studies and training in Chinese medicine and opened a free clinic in Auckland where I still live and later joined the faculty of a medical training institute where I taught for many years on a part time basis. I later became a member of the faculty of an Australian university after gaining my PhD in medical sciences with them. I extended my clinical practice into design and making herbal medicines etc. I also designed and put the first herbal soft drink in the world on the market that now sells in many countries, that drink is known as "Chi".



I still, at my advanced age, practice Chinese martial arts and run a manufacturing business with my wife, where I design and manufacture medical equipment which we export to many countries. I still travel a lot round the world conducting seminars which I really enjoy doing. Gosh the shy lad that left the Hall in 1948 would never have seen himself standing in front of huge American audiences lecturing as he does

today. Taken all round I have had a great life and I put it all down to the training and the efforts put into that training by the Salesian Brothers of Blaisdon Hall; a great bunch of people to

whom I will be eternally grateful for turning my life around and instilling in me the right morality and social mores that drive my life to this day. Thank you.



Another of Alastair's accomplishments. The painting of Duke Ellington, entitled "**The Duke**", one of many that Alastair has painted. This shows an artistic talent that adds to his many other talents as described in this article.

THE DUKE

ALISTAIR CONRAD BOURNE

Alastair has sent me a few photos of the house he has been building and which is now completed.

Click here to see them

New address since September 2009:

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