

## Victorian Fair – Reuben Bond



Hello All.

At long last I have put finger to keyboard to bring you this letter to commemorate coming to Brockham for 30 years.

My Mum and Dad, Eileen and Bobby Rawlins along with my sister Jane and me, came to Brockham with our little fair 30 years ago. Our arrival caused quite a stir with the locals on the beautiful village green. I expect they were worried, not knowing the style of our old time family orientated fair. Mum and Dad soon became friends with many of the residents which has lasted throughout the years, Doreen Prior, Fred and Betty Wheeler, Reg Dicker, Mrs Kimberly, Simon, Mr and Mrs Smith, the village shop and the Village hall to name but a few. The fair was a great success.

In 1983 I left Brockham when the fair was in full swing, on the Sunday evening my husband drove me back to Ashford Middlesex. This was to have my first child, Sarah. Who became known as “Brockham baby” born on Sunday the 14<sup>th</sup> of August. The first grandchild of Bobby and Eileen Rawlins.

The fair continued successfully for a few years, taking a break until sadly my mum passed away in March 1990, leaving a huge void in our family. We found it too sad to return to Brockham, because of the fond memories we had there.

We returned to Brockham in 1999. We were asked to come back by the Brockham committee to attend their new weekend Party on the Green celebrations, which we have continued to do in the same tradition as Mum and Dad.

Reuben and I have now come full circle, as Sarah is expecting our first grandchild, which is due to be born on the very same date. This child will be the 6<sup>th</sup> generation in our family’s line of travelling Showmen in which we have a rich history.

We enjoy returning to Brockham each year as it has become a big part of our family’s life which is full of fond memories. We hope to continue this tradition for many years to come.

We would like to thank everyone for the support and friendship we have received over the years.

Best wishes to all

Lesley and Reuben Bond.