

## 0941 Memories of Morland House and School

Recollections from John Schnelling who was resident there from 1966 – 1968

He wrote an email letter to Liz O'Sullivan in July 2003

I live in the United States now, and I am married with four children.

I was one of the original children who first moved, from Norham Gardens in Oxford, into Morland House children's Home in Wheatley. This was in 1966/7 when I was seven.

The home started originally in Stratton Audley near Bicester and I was one of the original children at the formation of the home at Stratton Audley in 1966. I was only seven so I am not 100% sure.

I started out at the main house at Morland House in Wheatley, and progressed to the new Lodge at the rear of the property. I remember being told that the swimming pool at the boundary of the school and home belonged to us, the Children's Home, and that we let the School have access to it. I remember chess in the pre-fab building by the playground, and that the weather was so cold that they let us heat our little glass bottles of milk by the metal stove in the front centre of the building.

Obviously, being in the home, I remember being a sad child wishing I could be like other kids. I remember singing hymns in the main assembly hall, dressed in our school uniforms. In regard to the photo I bet there are some well known faces from today's Wheatley in this photo. I remember the school teacher in the photograph was a very popular, good looking, athletic man, but the kids were a little afraid of him too. I do not remember his name.

I left Morland House in 1968 and went back to live with my family in Witney.