



Sedgley's

Diamond 60

*Sixty years, sixty people,
sixty stories about village life
since 1952.*

Working at Filey and Butlin's Holiday Camps in the 50s and early 60s.

by Edward Bradley

I grew up with my two brothers in Ruiton during the war. One of my early memories was of the 'British Restaurant' there. Just after the war ended, when I was around 10, I used to take my brothers and buy us three teas at the restaurant for 3 bob (shillings). On the other side of the road there was a youth hostel where the old quarry was, which is now a football field. There also used to be a bakery there.

When I was 18 in 1954 I was called up for National Service. I'd trained as a machine tool fitter, setting up new machines – so the army assigned me to the REME. However, I'd played football for Walsall FC before my National Service and when I was sent to Hanover in Germany for two years all I seemed to be asked to do was play football for the army! Hanover had been completely flattened by the RAF yet only eight or so years later it had been rebuilt and looked better than the centre of Birmingham at that time. Towards the end of my time in the army, the Suez Crisis was on, around 1956.

After I was demobbed I went into plastering, then I did HGV lorry driving. I got a job working for Butlin's Holiday Camps. First I went to Skegness, then to Clacton, then to Bognor Regis the year it opened.

I drove a truck that was originally used for moving bombs during the war! I delivered potatoes and salad ingredients round the kitchens; I also adjusted the spotlights at the camps. I had two trailers with 12 dustbins on each trailer.

I did four years at Bognor Regis, then a year at Filey in 1961. I can remember there was a boating lake there with a train running round it. Filey closed in 1984. It's been flattened, there's nothing there now.



Postcards of Butlin's at Filey in Yorkshire