



## Bernard and Marlene of West Hull 1966

Bernard and Marlene are what you would call Butlin's veterans. Over the years they have stayed at many of the camps and at the Butlin's hotels. Lovingly kept, Marlene has all their badges, memorabilia and photographs spanning over twenty-five years. Bernard first went to Butlin's, Filey in 1952. This first visit was definitely a boy's holiday with lots of flowing beer.

After marrying Marlene, Bernard and his young family went back to Filey in 1966. This time, with their daughters Melanie, who was eighteen months old, little Vicky and her cousin Kerry who were both six.

Melanie, because she was under two was taken to the feeding rooms for her meals. Within this room, rows and rows of seated babies in highchairs were

*a few things I can remember,*  
FEEDING ROOM, LUNCH WASHED CARROTS & POTATO,  
TEA STEWED APPLE & CUSTARD, BANANA & CUSTARD, BOILED EGG  
MOSTLY DADS FED THE CHILDREN, SOME MUMS, I LIKED TO  
FEED MINE. THE ELDEST ATE WITH US.  
THE ROOM WAS CLEAN & THE HIGH CHAIRS ALWAYS CLEAN.  
WE TOOK THE CHILDREN AT USUAL MEALTIMES, AFTER  
THEY HAD EATEN THE NURSERY STAFF CARED FOR THEM, &  
THE PARENTS HAD THEIR MEALS.  
WE HAD MEAT & VEG & NORMAL PLAIN FOOD, NO BURGERS  
& SUCH. FEIBLY NOISY ALL TALKING AT ONCE, RED COATS  
WOULD ANNOUNCE EXCITING THINGS TO DO.  
WE DID NOT MEET OTHER FAMILIES, EVERYONE GOT ON  
WITH WHAT THEY ENJOYED. JUST THE USUAL NIKE DAY  
TYPE OF COMMENTS.

### CHILDRENS VIEWPOINT

EVERYTHING SO THEY WERE AMUSED ALL DAY.

### CHILDREN AT NIGHT

NINE WERE NOT SCARED THEY WERE ASLEEP BEFORE  
WE WENT OUT,  
THE CAMP WAS CAR & DOG FREE, OUR ELDEST WENT  
OFF TO PLAY ON ALL THE RIDES & AMUSEMENTS BY  
HIMSELF. WE KNEW HE WAS SAFE.

*I hope this is helpful.*

*Cheerio for now  
Eve & Peter Argent.*

fed their pureed portions of carrots and stewed apples. Following the meal Melanie was supposed to stay in the nursery until Bernard, Marlene, Vicky and Kerry had had their own food in the large dining hall. Unfortunately Melanie had other plans and cried the place down until Marlene took her in her pram and parked it outside the dining room in an area where Melanie could see them all through the window at their designated table. Only then could the older ones get on with their own meal. Melanie was not the only one that did not like being left as Marlene recalls rows and rows of prams all lined up outside the dining room. As much as possible the prams were parallel to peoples' tables and even then some of the babies didn't stop crying. It all added to the overall clatter of animated chat and cutlery scraping on crockery.