

## **Robert 'George' Cronin on Burke's explosion.**

I was there that day. Burke packed explosive into a container, wedged it into a hole in the wall, one of many, then he wedged a .22 calibre long rifle bullet into the container and retired to the back of the class by the door. Sitting at a desk, the lid of which he used to steady his aim, he used his air rifle to shoot at the bullet.

*Are you following all this?*

After a few shots - BINGO - a God almighty explosion occurred - the hole in the wall became dramatically larger and my hearing has never been the same since! A huge pall of smoke billowed up from the hut and Denby 'Pip' Allen came flying across the front lawn convinced that World War III had commenced on the day that he was duty teacher!

Paul also used his air rifle to great effect on the journeys home from Harlow College to Windsor, by shooting down crows from trees at the various stations we stopped at. The expressions on the faces of the rail staff remain in my memory to this day, as the birds fluttered down onto the platform quite dead but how? They could not determine. Paul is now in Australia and believe it or not when my father-in-law was in business he employed his brother Michael.

As you work in London you may wish to know that Harlow College old boy, Shaun Pyatt runs a bar called 'The Wine Lodge' in Fenchurch Street.