



# BIG PLAYERS

in Milton Keynes: **Sports, Arts & Media**

## Barry Lines



Barry Lines was brought up in Bletchley, one of a small band of players from this area who went on to play in The Football League. His potential was spotted at the age of ten by his headmaster at Bletchley Road School who arranged for a local player, Dick Riley, to coach him every week for a couple of years on the old Market Field (where Sainsbury's is now).

Having started playing senior amateur football at the age of 15 with Bletchley Town, Barry signed for Northampton Town in 1960. He was part of their most successful team, playing their way to the First Division (now the Premier League) in just five years.

As Barry says, *'The really disappointing aspect of it was that we went back down so quickly and finished back in the fourth division. By the time we'd been up and back again, there were very few grounds in the country that I hadn't actually played on - I had the distinction of being the first player to score for the same club in all four divisions! Nobody had ever done it before, nobody had played in all four divisions. Of course that could never change.'*

After a couple of bad injuries restricted his chances, Barry came back to Bletchley and played a few more seasons in local football – one of them as player-manager at Buckingham Athletic.

A new book soon to be published traces the history of football in Milton Keynes through the eyes of many of those who were involved in the local game over the years. You can order a copy from Living Archive at The Old Bath House, Stratford Road, Wolverton 01908 322568 email [admin@livingarchive.org.uk](mailto:admin@livingarchive.org.uk)