

Memories of a Belgrave resident

I was born in 1945 and lived in Fenn Street. Back in those days, Belgrave was only a small village and everyone knew each other. We used to play in the streets; the girls would use washing lines for skipping ropes and the lads would make carts. During the school holidays, we used to walk through the "tato" (potato) field and down to the "Brook" (now Kettlebrook lakes). We would dam up the stream to make it as deep as you could to play in. During the autumn half term, we spent all week "tato" picking at the local farm to get some extra pocket money.

There were a few "general stores" in Belgrave which sold all sorts of things. These were run in the front rooms of people's houses where they lived. There was a shop in the detached house next to where the Mission Hall was (near 388 Wilnecote Lane) which was run by the Falkner family.



Site of the Mission Hall next to 388 Wilnecote Lane

At 10 Fenn Street, there was Buckley's shop which was a general store run by the mother-in-law of the Falkners.

The Mission Hall

The Mission hall had connections with Wilnecote Church and was the focal point for many local community events. It was very much missed when it was demolished. The following photographs capture some of the activities.



Easter in the Mission Hall 1956 – Left to Right - Sheila Crowhurst, Doreen Collins, Pat Jones, Walter Wood, Pam Oakes, David Lea.....Keith Marklaw, Sheila Walker, Sue Thawley, Gwen Adams, Barbara Adams & Maureen Walker.



Silver Jubilee celebrations in the Mission Hall 1977 – left to right in front – Margorie Chadwick, Mary Earp, Hazel Crowhurst & Hilda Thawley....back row Win Burdett & Emily Butcher.



A group of ladies on an outing to Wedgwood potteries organised by the Mission Hall.

In 1953, I remember taking part in a street parade to mark the Queen's coronation. We paraded from Belgrave Road and then down Wilnecote Lane and we all ended up in a field.



1953 Coronation parade – Belgrave Road near the corner of Fenn Street – The three youngsters in the front are Sue Thawley, Janice Earp & unknown boy.

Sports and Social Clubs

The first club in Belgrave started out at “Joe Alldritt’s yard” where the cobblers shop was located.



The gap between the houses at 372 Wilnecote Lane was known as “Joe Alldritt’s yard”

After that, the club was based at 12 Belgrave Road which was opposite the old chip shop. This was all before the building of Belgrave Sports and Social Club in Wilnecote Lane, which serves the area to the present day.

The Blue Waters

Another place I remember in the local the area which is no longer there, were the “Blue Waters”. These were large ponds which were located more or less where Shannon is today. They were probably the remnants of coal and clay works which filled in with water after use.

Lomita Crescent

I also recall how Lomita Crescent got its name. It is named after Lomita city in California, USA, as one of the Council’s employees had a connection with the city and suggested the name.