

Victoria Park: the Anatomy of a Dead-end Street.

D.P. Lindegaard



"They made a precarious living taking in each other's washing."

Mark Twain

My younger brother, the late Professor Colin Pillinger of Beagle 2 fame, and I grew up in Victoria Park, Kingswood, where the houses are numbered consecutively, 1 – 49 apart from gaps between numbers 49-69 and 72-90. Colin suddenly said to me one day “I’ve always wondered what happened to the missing houses?” This sent me off on a quest to find out.

The project expanded when he sent me his memories of “running errands for half the people in the street”, and so, as I gleaned information about our neighbours. I sent the results to Colin, Christmas 2014, before his untimely sudden death, 7 May 2015. I find it difficult to comprehend that he is gone. This entry in my blog is dedicated to his memory.

For thirty years, on and off, from ten days old in June 1937, I lived at 33 Victoria Park, Kingswood and six years later, my brother Colin was born there, 9 May 1943. Despite the regal name, it was a humble place, new-built at the end of the 19th century, one of identical terraced houses, all of red brick, and most with a “workshop” attached. Though there were a few odd men out, the vast majority of the original male inhabitants were boot makers, “outworkers”, who obtained their leather and component parts from the factory, took the pieces to their homes where they 'made them up' in the workshops at home. The finished boots were then returned to the factory for payment and the process repeated *ad infinitum*. Many wives and daughters assisted fathers and brothers “out the back” working alongside the cobblers, sometimes called cordwainers, as they tapped and heeled, stripped and clicked, often with a mouthful of tacks or brads as a third hand. Our Dad, Alfred Pillinger, (always known as “Jack”) served a brief apprenticeship in the boot making trade, (his own father was a journeyman, a skilled artisan) but Dad, unfortunately, failed to complete his time, though I still have his “lasts”, the patterns from which each individual boot was fashioned.

The houses had six rooms: downstairs, a scullery (called by everybody “the back kitchen”), a kitchen proper (which served as the living room) and a “front room” which was used only for “grand” company of the boss or vicar variety, and thus always kept tidy. Upstairs there was one large and two small bedrooms. In the beginning candlelight gave way to gas, and then latterly to electricity. We had “the electric light”, though originally only downstairs, but next door, number 34, was lit by gas, which from time to time, demanded the poky business of “changing the mantle” not an easy task for the elderly widow who lived there and one of us was often summoned to help. It was still gas-lit when I left home in 1967 and remained so until the death of our neighbour, “Mrs Mary” Britton. Where were “the usual offices”? You may well ask. We had a flush toilet carved out of part of the workshop space, a facility our Mum demanded before taking the tenancy in 1936, and for that reason we were “above average”, and considered a bit posh. The Brittons next door and the Drinkwaters at number 35 had an earth closet which occupied the space next to their respective workshops, whereas the Haskins and Mannings, “over opposite” in 32 & 31, had theirs in outhouses at the bottom of their gardens. There was also a brick coal house in the corner by the main window, which had inside shutters which were “drawn” at night on grooves. Everyone washed at the scullery sink, and bathed once a week, whether they needed to or not, in a tin bath, in some cases in front of the fire in the living room, and in ours in the back kitchen.

Why Victoria Park? We took the name for granted, it was so obviously named after the Queen, but my recent thoughts suggest that “the Park” was a tiny remnant of Kingswood Chase, the historical royal hunting ground, east of the City of Bristol on the Gloucestershire side. It was possibly part of a deer park, set aside for the use of royalty and the aristocracy, designed to keep the game in and the hoi-polloi out. Beaters would herd the deer into a close, so that the gentry riding about on horses could take pot shots at the terrified creatures with bows and arrows. It was hardly a sporting pursuit. The mediaeval deer parks

evolved into landscaped grounds surrounding the country houses of the well-to-do, and proclaimed the occupant's wealth and status.



Our Cul-de-Sac in 2017. No.33 is the last house on the left.

Samuel Budgett, tea merchant and Kingswood's own self-made man, erected a mansion within another fragment of the wood, most of which had been taken over by coalmines in previous times, and called it, (of course) "The Park". All that survives of Budgett's Park is the name of the thoroughfare where it stood, Park Road, Kingswood. With my school friends Nesta Jefferies and Maureen Dymmock who lived there, I would muse over these parks. Why Park Road, when the municipal Kingswood Park was some way down and on the other side of the road? It was only much later that I heard of Budgett, "the successful merchant" of Victorian times. Such is the fleeting nature of fame. I wrote a book about him and his brother, Henry Hill Budgett, philanthropist and supporter of the generally despised Kingswood Colliers.

It seems that the whole of our portion of what remained of the historical "Park" encompassed an area from Hopewell Hill to the edge of Kingswood Hill, nudging the rim of Budgett's ground. The fact that it was all called "Victoria Park" may have been due to lazy census takers who in 1891 listed some hundred houses as "Victoria Park in Mangotsfield parish", with a schedule rather than house numbers. Some of these by 1901 have house numbers in Victoria Park proper, but whether the resident families moved into them or if these are the same houses it is impossible to say. This whole area would soon become new roads with ranks of houses to accommodate workers in the booming boot and shoe industry which had taken over from the declining coalmines. Worcester Road, Kimberley Road, Cross Street, Alsop Road/Terrace, aka York Place came into being as well as the lower part of our own street, which became the bottom end of "Victoria Park". The area containing the new roads was removed from Mangotsfield, (county of Gloucestershire but diocese of Bristol) to

the relatively new parish of Holy Trinity, Kingswood, causing a mild furore among the ratepayers, not so much NIMBY as a possible financial loss.

“It was suggested that they (the ratepayers of Mangotsfield, Soundwell) give Kingswood that part of the parish which runs into Kingswood known as Victoria Park between Hopewell Hill and Hunter’s Lodge and if they give that up, Kingswood (Holy Trinity) should give them that part of Lower Soundwell which would make the parish square.”¹

The burghers of Staple Hill/Soundwell eventually got their way and kept the more lucrative part of Mangotsfield where the Midland Railway paid the rates.

This storm in a teacup only refers to the bottom end, for Bristol had spread to include all of the old London Road going east through Lawrence Hill, St George and Two Mile Hill, (parish of St Michael’s) and gathered up the top part of Victoria Park into the bosom of the City. Midway down was a small enclave, a *cul de sac* leading off the main dead end, of which “ours” was the end house, beside an alley and this was in the parish of Holy Trinity, Kingswood and therefore in Gloucestershire, both civic and ecclesiastical, but none of us really knew for sure, or for that matter, cared. At census time, every decade, enumerators were engaged and issued with separate books for the various bits. Finding the people and their residences (who, what, where and how?) has proved simpler for the top end, (“the townies” of Bristol) than us country bumpkins of Holy Trinity, Kingswood/Mangotsfield who resided at the middle and bottom. It is worth mentioning too that the inhabitants played a sort of musical houses where they often moved out of one house and into another nearby. Their children also, have given me much amusement, by being so enamoured of “the Park” they appeared unaware of the great big world beyond the enclave. Many married the boy or girl, if not “next door” then one from a few doors away, and even started their wedded life near their parents in Victoria Park or in nearby Boulton’s Lane or Alsop Road as soon as a house became available. Some even stayed put and took over a tenancy from father or father-in-law.

Running across Victoria Park, parallel to “the main road” (which became Regent Street) was Boulton’s Lane, or Road. That part adjacent to Downend Road, was alternatively called “Little Lane” and there was also a mysterious 1-6 Back Lane which led into Victoria Park proper. In time the whole became Boulton’s Lane or Road, but 1-6 often had Victoria Park tagged on for good measure. Boulton’s Lane was, wouldn’t you know (?) in Kingswood, so its inhabitants do not appear in the Bristol Directories, though mistakenly our enclave, the houses 30-38 do appear. (We were thus assumed to be in Bristol, so I attended a Bristol Education Committee School, Two Mile Hill. In 1948, the error was discovered, and like the butterfly whose broken wing in Brazil causes a tidal wave in China, for me it had, literally, devastating consequences.) Also at the top end, opposite Boulton’s Lane, was another 1-6, this time known as “Victoria Park Buildings” which faced the main road and became part of

¹ WDP 4.11.1889

Two Mile Hill as shops at each side of the entrance to Victoria Park proper. These addresses included Albert Buildings, (“off Soundwell Road”) inhabited from 1871 with some familiar names, Zion Place, inhabited from 1881, ditto, and Bath Buildings which on occasion was also given the sub-heading “Victoria Park”.

The merging of Back Lane and Boulton’s Lane, the Albert and Victoria Park Buildings plus Zion Place, which was adjacent to the grandiose chapel of that name, appears to explain the eccentric house numbering, certainly at the top end. The present Victoria Park’s numbers begin with no. 7. with a small rank adjacent to the bulk of Zion Chapel, through to number 14, which then crosses over and continues to run consecutively down the street to no.29 where it takes a right turn into our shoe-box *cul de sac* of nine houses, emerges and turns right again, running still consecutively down to no. 49. The end of Victoria Park is marked by two concrete pillars which prevent traffic going out into what is now Cross Street. So far so good. Then more fun begins for the pedestrian who traverses the road then continues back up the way he has come. Is the next number 50? Of course not. The next house is no. 69 followed by numbers 70, 71 and 72. Even then, there is more amusement to be had, for no. 72 is followed by numbers 90, 91, and 92. And this is the way it continued in our youth until new houses began to appear in the spaces in the 1960s. I believe that nos. 50-68 inclusive were once in what is now Cross Street, which runs parallel with our *cul de sac*. The missing houses at the other side of the road were once there, but are there no more. Perhaps they began disappearing gradually subsiding into the ground, for at the time when that side of the road was built there were defunct clay pits there, where a little boy, William Smith of 9 Victoria Park was accidentally drowned in 1900. Three years later, another child, Lily Milsom aged 11, of May Street, Kingswood, killed herself there, overcome by grief at the death of her mother, the year before. She told school friends, “I wish I was in Heaven. Mother is there. I would jump into the water, only you are all here.” She told another friend, Winnie Bush, crying all the time, what she intended to do, but swore her to secrecy.²

As well as three parish churches, St Michael, Holy Trinity and St James, Mangotsfield to choose from there were numerous chapels for the saving of our souls. The inhabitants of Victoria Park were most likely to be seen at Zion Chapel or across the road at the Wesleyan, built by the aforesaid Samuel Budgett and now a derelict shell.

² WDP 11.12.1903 etc.



<http://derelictmisc.org.uk/wesley.html>

Many Pillingers lie in both graveyards, but the one at Wesleyan is so overgrown that once upon a time when poking about in there, I fell through a heap of brambles into an open tomb, almost cutting out the middle man in a premature meeting with my ancestors, “scragging both knees to blood” as they would say in Kingswood. In close proximity to Wesleyan Chapel, where our Dad in his youth “went three times on a Sunday” is the Georgian “Black Horse” public house, where once many an inquest was carried out, and where in our time he was a more enthusiastic habitu , departing every evening, rain or shine, about 9.30 for a pint “up the top” before closing time. As well as the numerous places of worship in Kingswood there was a pub every few yards.



The street was not, it would seem, very savoury. An anonymous writer to the Western Daily Press in 1908 asked “when does the Sanitary Authority mean to take action before an epidemic breaks out due to the smells that have haunted the residents of Victoria Park, Kingswood, all summer?”

The Houses and their inhabitants.

The top end was variously Back Lane, afterwards Boulton’s Lane, (or Road, or Terrace) often with Victoria Park tagged on. One part of Boulton’s Lane, at the end nearest Downend Road was previously known as Little Lane.

In November 1889: Two dwelling houses in Boulton’s Lane in occupation of Mrs Williams & Mr F. Davis were advertised for auction³ and sold to Mr Davis for £230. Two more dwelling houses with workshops and large gardens in Boulton’s Lane in occupation of Mr S. Boulton & Mr Thomas sold to Mr S. Boulton for £325. A cottage & garden in Boulton’s Lane was sold to Mr George Taylor, for £101.⁴

(Back Lane/Boulton’s Lane/Boulton’s Road/Little Lane seem to be interchangeable)

No. 1 Back Lane/otherwise 1 Boulton’s Lane, Victoria Park

³ WDP 6.11.1889

⁴ WDP 6.11/9.11.1889

In 1891 the occupants were Barnes Grobistien, married, 32, boot finisher, born Russia, British Subject; Hannah his wife, 30, born Putney, their daughter Deborah, 5, a scholar, born Hackney, and sons Harry, 3, born Nottingham and Joseph aged two, born Hackney.

This was a Jewish family, Grobistein being one of several alternative spellings of the surname. Barnes, or particularly Barnet, is a common Jewish first name as indicated by London census returns. The family registered a daughter, Katie Grobstein in the summer of 1891, but had left Victoria Park by the end of that year when the marriage of a "Barnet Grabstein" to Hannah Lissack was registered at Cardiff in December 1891. Early the following year they were in Whitechapel, London where the baby Katie died. Another child, Hannah, was born and died in Whitechapel in 1894. In 1901 "Barnett Grobshstein", a shoe laster, born Russia, "single" and aged "29", lived among other boarders in the house of a Barnet Davison, a Russian born shoemaker, with the same popular first name. Very likely the information was given to the census taker by his landlord, which could easily account for the age discrepancy and his stated single status. There is no sign of the other members of his family in 1901 and by 1911 he is not found either. Like Davison and many another Jew he probably changed his surname to "fit in" as members of his race tended to do.

By 1901, a local man, Samuel Flew, aged 46, a coalminer, born in Warmley had moved into 1, Boulton Road (*sic*) with his wife Mary, 47, and children, George, 21, shoemaker, Nellie, 16, corset maker, Albert, 14, house painter and Alice, aged ten.

Samuel Flew married Mary Gage in 1879. By 1911, they had moved to 36 Victoria Park in our *cul de sac*; the extended Gage family occupied various neighbouring houses, including the house that became "ours", number 33.

By 1906, 1 Boulton's Lane was occupied by a labourer, Henry James Dixon and his wife Nellie Jemima, who had a son Philip Randall, christened at Holy Trinity, Kingswood (HTKW) that year. The Dixons had moved from 54 Victoria Park, and by 1911 were living at Tower Rd, Warmley.

In 1911, the house was occupied by Edwin Iles, 43, a boot clicker, his wife Ethel, 38, and children Wilfred, 17, boot clicker, Hubert, 14, ditto, Kathleen, 12, Frederick, 10, Henry, 8, Edward, 4, Philip aged one. (Before his marriage Edwin lived at 2 Back Lane, with his parents, John & Hester, see below. He married Ethel Bane in 1892 and in 1901 they lived at 10 Ducie Parade, Two Mile Hill.)

Between 1911-31, the residents are unknown, but "1 Victoria Park" was synonymous with 1 Boulton's Lane! Between 1932 and 1939, Gilbert James Cook of 1 Victoria Park/1 Boulton's Lane was a tireless newspaper correspondent, venting his opinion in the Western Daily Press on such diverse topics as:

The over-burdened tax-payer, March 1932

Married women who work (generally in favour) October 1933

Wind Power, December 1933

Railway stocks and shares and reduction to railwaymen's wages, April 1934

Water shortage, divining & dowzers, June 1934

Increase in salaries of public officials (against), August 1934

Slum clearance, December 1934

The Means Test and the injustice of taking into account the earnings of relations, February 1935

Able-bodied people too lazy to walk, September 1936

Don't be a litter lout, pick up your litter when out for a walk or on holiday, May 1938

Scandal of MPs not turning up to Parliament, only a handful in the chamber to hear the defence debate, December 1938

Old Age Pensions, a miserable 10 shillings a week, January 1939

Perils of rock climbing without proper equipment, May 1939

Juvenile Crime, June 1939

Most of his opinions lean to the left and many of the points he raised still have resonance today. In his last letter, published 2 January 1940, he refers to people snarling at each other like hungry wolves and says "all ordinary people want is peace, security, freedom, leisure, food to eat and all the simple things which spell happiness", which is precisely what we were told we were fighting for. He goes on "before another year may we rise to a crescendo of Peace on Earth, Goodwill to Men." Some hopes.

Back in 1901, Gilbert had been a railway signaller, living in lodgings at Bishops Cleeve, Gloucestershire. He seems to have evaded the census man in 1911; perhaps he had "joined up"? In 1939 he was at 1 Boultons Lane, with a 71 year old widow, Ethel Payne. He died on 15 May 1948 aged 73, apparently intestate as indicated by a legal notice concerning his estate which appeared that October.⁵

In 1953, 1 Boulton's Lane was the address of Robert Tony Dowd Stone, a stevedore, aged 25, who married Joan Patricia Horton, 21, a shop assistant in 1953 at HTKW.

No. 2 Back Lane/Boultons Lane (2 households)

⁵ WDP 15.10.1948

In 1891, the house was occupied by John Iles, 53, a retired coalminer, born at Bitton, his wife Hester, 53, (nee Fry, mar. 1862), a baker, and their children Edwin, 23, boot clicker, John, 17, boot finisher and Ann, 14, boot machinist.

John Iles had died by 1901 by which time Hester (Esther) his widow, and their daughter Ann had moved into no. 4 Boulton's Lane.

In 1901, the house now called 2 Boulton's Lane was occupied by George Bown, 52, a domestic coachman, born Taunton, his wife Elizabeth, (Eliza Jane), 57, (nee Callow, mar. Bridgwater, 1878), from Street, their children George, 20, shoemaker, Esther, 18, bootmaker, Kath, 17, corset maker and Annie, 14, plus a granddaughter, Florence Flook aged eight, child of their daughter Mary Jane and her husband, George Flook. (In 1891, George & Eliza with 8 children had been living at "Victoria Park, Mangotsfield", no. 342 on schedule.)

The Bowns and Florence were in the same house ten years later by which time George Bown worked for a boot manufacturer, possibly Mr G.B. Britton, whose factory was the largest in Kingswood and seems most likely to have owned a coach, though there were many more smaller boot factories around.

George the younger, Private George Henry Bown, was killed in 1917 during the Great War. His name is inscribed on his parents' gravestone at Wesleyan Chapel, Kingswood: *"Eliza Jane Bown died 2 September 1918 aged 68; her husband George Bown, died on 1 April 1937, aged 88; Private George Henry Bown, Durham Light Infantry, son of the above, killed in action at Hollibeke, Belgium, 31 July 1917, aged 37. Also of his nephew Corporal Wilfred Bown, 14th Glosters, son of H.A. & W.J. Bown, grandson of George and Eliza Bown, who died of wounds at Marcel Cave, Flanders, 2 April 1918, aged 22."* George who was married to Ella is remembered on the War Memorial at St Anne's, Brislington, mis-spelt as "G.H. Bound".

The 2nd household in 2 Back Lane (1911) consisted of the Bown's daughter Kate, who was married to Thomas Tarr, aged 28, a London born bacon curer; they were married in 1909.

No.2 Boulton's Road, was the address of (William) Joseph and Lily Andrews, (nee Alderwick, married 1908), when their daughters Frances May, born January 1913, and Rita Doreen, born November 1917 were belatedly christened at Zion Chapel on 25 February 1936. Lily was the daughter of James Alderwick of 11 Victoria Park. W.J. Andrews was a coalminer who went to South Wales to work but "he was a Conscientious Objector. The Welsh miners were hostile towards him so he returned to work in the Kingswood mines."⁶ Rita Andrews married Leslie Breddy in 1939 and they had a daughter, Tessa, born 1944. Tessa, though born in Hanham, spent much of her childhood at 2 Boulton's Road with her grandparents. Her mother Rita, still alive in 2018, remembered calling on our parents, Jack & Flo Pillinger

⁶ Presumably Speedwell?

at 33 Victoria Park “during the war, collecting the Co-op Insurance payment” when deputising for the regular man who had been called up. Rita also said that Dad “had made her a pair of sandals as she had very wide feet”. Though Dad was able to do most things, I think this is incorrect; he never completed his shoemaking apprenticeship and it’s most likely he passed the job on to his father Albert Pillinger, my grandfather, “Pap” who was a journeyman bootmaker, still working, “tapping and heeling” shoes well into his nineties. Tessa went to Zion Chapel like most of us and remembered going to her cousin Jean Alderwick’s wedding in 1950 – “the first I had ever attended” to George Phipps. Both bride and groom were residents of Victoria Park. Jean Phipps who died “recently” (i.e. before 2017) ran the Salvation Army charity shop in Kingswood. Tessa, now Roxburgh, sent this delightful picture of herself and other children playing in “Boulton’s Road, near the Patch in front of the bakehouse that burnt down”, though it was Saunders’ factory which burnt down.



Left to right: Pauline Cryer, Tegwin ..., her brother, Lynda Breddy, (Tessa’s cousin), Sandra Cordy, (who lived in a “big house in Downend Road, and were well-off” and Tessa Breddy (now Roxburgh), about 1950.

In 1939 No.2 Boulton’s Lane was occupied by Gilbert and Mary Hudd, (nee Cook) aged 39 and 41 respectively.

In 1940 this was the address of Samuel Roach, aged 74, who died 12th January that year and was buried at HTKW four days later. (Samuel had previously lived in Little Lane with his widowed mother in 1901. In 1911, he was a bachelor aged 43, a bootmaker, living alone at 14 Little Lane.)

In 1960 it was the address of Brian George Flower, 23, typewriter mechanic, 2 BL, son of George Albert, bus driver, Bristol Tramways married at HTKW Sylvia Fane Spencer, 18, shorthand typist.

No. 3 Back Lane/Boulton's Lane.

On census night 1891, William Cleverley, a coastguard, whereabouts unknown, was away from home, when his wife Mary aged 28, place of birth Northumberland and her one year old son, William, born at Stapleton lived in the house. By 1901 they had had moved to Bradwell by Sea, Maldon, Essex and in 1901 Henry Millard, 30, a stonemason and his wife Selina, (nee Haskins, mar.1890), a boot machinist were resident; in 1911, at "3 Boulton's Lane", William Bees, 38, boot packer, born Aberyschan, Mon and his wife Florence Ida, 36, (nee Smith, mar. 1903)occupied the house.

In 1939, it was the address of two widows, Mary A. Smith, and Mary A. Bryant, with Arthur Hudd, born 1909, and Mabel Adelaide Hudd, born 1919. Mabel Hudd married Albert Hill in 1941. For nine years he had been "Chief of Staff" at the Odeon Cinema, Kingswood and lately for 2½ years at the Odeon, Union Street, Bristol. He died at the BRI aged 44 in August 1950.⁷ They had a son, David Hill, born in 1942, who played with my brother Colin and Eddie White. I remember him and his mother well. According to one of Colin's annotations, "she was very thin and clearly had TB. She lived with Granny Smith and they kept chickens – they were always boiling up potato peelings." David never looked well either, also very thin and rather unkempt, probably because his mother was so ill.



David Hill lived in no. 3 Boulton's Lane.

No. 4 Back Lane/Boulton's Lane.

⁷ WDP 22.8.50

In 1891, Nimrod Wilmot, 23, shoemaker, born Bitton, his wife (Jane) Sophia, 24, (nee Davis) and daughter Miriam aged one, were resident.

In 1901, 4 Boultons Lane was the home of Esther Iles, widow, 64, born Chipping Sodbury and Ann, her daughter, 24, bootmaker, who had moved from no. 2.

In 1911, Henry James Lavis, 30, a carter, born Hotwells, Bristol, his wife Lily, 37, (nee Ponsford), and their sons Harold, 6, and Cecil, 3 lived there. Their daughter, Marjorie, born in 1912, was belatedly christened at Zion on 25 February 1936.

In 1931, Cecil Lavis married Ethel C.M. "Chrissie" Carpenter. They had children Jack, Ronald, Joan, Sally, (born and died 1939) and Jennifer, 1952. They lodged at 34 VP, Sam Britton's house, in the 1930s! Chrissie was a sensation at the street's VE Day Celebration, May 9th, 1945 when she arrived in full Marlene Dietrich male rig, sharp suit and slicked down hair in an Eton-crop, making a passable, rather sexy, man. Of the children, I only remember Joan, who was exactly my age, and Jennifer, whose late arrival caused much tut-tutting as though her parents should have known better.

In 1939, Lily Lavis, widow of H.J. is listed alone in the house.

No. 5 Boulton's Lane.

The house is not listed in 1891, but by 1901, William Chivers, 24, a boot clicker, born Paulton and his mother, Caroline, 64, widow of Joshua Chivers, a journeyman tailor had moved in. William returned to Paulton shortly after the census and by 1906 Francis Beese, a shoemaker had arrived with his wife Lottie (nee Angorson, formerly of 20 Victoria Park), and their daughter Dorothy Emily Mary, born December 1905, and christened HTKW 26 March 1906.

In 1911, Eliza Clark, 64, widow (10 children born alive, 7 now living) born Whitchurch, and her son William, single, 42, shoemaker, own account, born Whitchurch were recorded at the house.

In 1930, Stephen, bootmaker, and Agnes Sheppard (nee Wiltshire) were resident when their daughter Agnes Ellen born 16 June 1918, was christened belatedly at HTKW on 1 Feb. 1930. Stephen and Agnes were still there in 1939, with their son Stephen, born 1916, and two unnamed children. Stephen junior, aged 23, a metal polisher, married Irene Norah Pritchard, 19, in 1940, at HTKW.

No. 6 Boulton's Lane.

No information until 1916 when James Stanley Sweet, Superintendent of the Pearl Insurance Society and his wife Effie Blanche Sweet (nee Davis, mar. 1903) took their daughter Iris Ethel, born 19 March 1911 to be christened at HTKW, 9 April 1916. (Effie

Sweet, born c1884 was the daughter of Tom & Ellen Davis, who lived at Little Lane, Kingswood in 1901.)

James and Effie's daughters, Esme Muriel born June 1920, was baptised on 25 August 1920, and Nancy Corran Effie, born May 1922 was bp. 11 October 1922 at HTKW.

On 30 July 1927, Doris Mary Sweet, 21, shop assistant of 6 Boulton's Lane married Stanley Edwards, insurance agent at HTKW.

In 1928, no. 6 was home to Alfred Herbert Worlock, boot finisher and his wife Sarah Ann, (nee Jacobs, mar. 1916), whose children Alfred Henry, b. 1917, Kathleen, b. 1918, Iris, b. 1919, Roydon Herbert, b. 1921, Desmond, b.1925, and Dorothy, b. 1928 were christened in a job lot at HTKW on 15 August 1928. Their final child appears to have been Arnold Worlock, born in 1939. He was one of the boys in Colin and Eddie White's "gang", though being a late child of his mother, by then widowed, he was more likely to be seen in her company. He was a pale, tall boy, with rather beautiful black wavy hair, but his teeth slightly protruded and his eyes peered out from round tortoiseshell specs.

In 1939, Iris Worlock married Verdun Close, (named to commemorate one of the most bloody battles of the Great War, 1916.) Verdun was a soldier in 1940 when their daughter, Anita Maureen, b. December 1940, was bp 20 April 1941, HTKW.

In 1953, Dorothy Mary Worlock, 25, machinist married Royston Thomas Flowers, 27, butcher, of Knowle at HTKW.

No. 7 Boulton's Lane/Boulton's Road.

In May 1924, John Oliver George Bryant was born and bp. at HTKW in June. He was the son of George Bryant, labourer and his wife Harriet (nee Hook, mar. 1922). Harriet was the daughter of John and Martha Hook of no. 8 B.L.

Gilbert Hudd and family, who had moved from no. 9, were resident at no. 7 when Beatrice Hudd, 22, daughter of Gilbert, shoemaker, married Reginald Charles Fry, laundryman on 16 December 1925, HTKW. Her sister, 20, married Bertie Iles of Longwell Green, a year later on 27 December 1926, also at HTKW.

No. 8. Little Lane/Boulton's Lane

....was home to Henry Arthur Crew, a bootmaker & his wife, Ethel, nee Roberts, when their daughter Florence Mary, born 22 January 1908, was bp. 8th April the same year at HTKW. They were still there - 8 Little Lane - in 1911: Henry Arthur Crew, 23, boot maker, rounder, born Soundwell, wife Ethel and daughter Florence, 3.

Also in 1911 at 8 Little Lane lived John Hook, 29, boot maker, rounder, b. Staple Hill, his wife Martha, 28, (nee Crew, mar. 1901), and their daughter Harriett, 8. Martha Hook was Henry

Crew's sister. Young Harriet, the daughter of John & Martha, married J.O.B. Bryant, of No. 7 BL in 1924.

On 19 August 1954, Grantley Haskins of 8 Boulton's Lane, aged 83, was buried at HTKW. (see 26 VP)

No. 9. Boulton's Lane

19 May 1924, Clara Phyllis Hudd, 28, of 9 Boulton's Lane, daughter of Gilbert, shoemaker, married Leslie Higgins of Fishponds at HTKW. (see no. 7)

No. 10. Little Lane/Boulton's Lane/Road.

In 1901 Wallace T. Davis, 24, boot maker, b. KW, Florence Ida, (nee Cartridge), his wife and daughter Marjorie, 1, lived at 10 Boulton's Road, Little Lane. Three children Ethel May Cartridge Davis, b. May 1903, Hilda Winifred Cartridge, b. April 1905, and Alice Maud, b. November 1907 all bp at HTKW.

In 1911, 10 Little Road.(sic) Wallace H.T. Davis, 34, bootmaker, Florence Ida, 34, wife, and children, Coreen M.C., 10, Reginald W., 9, May E., 8, Hilda W., 6, Maud A., 3.

On 4 July 1925. Ethel May Cartridge Davis, 22, married Gilbert Burfoot, 25, tram driver, and two days later Reginald William Davis, 23, baker, married Nellie Kerlake, 23, tailoress. On 28 August.1931. Alice Davis, 23, of 10 Boulton's Lane, married Francis William Bennett, druggist, and on 22 April 1935 Owen Davis, 22, butcher, 10 Boulton's Lane, married Vera Gertrude Morgan of Warmley,all at HTKW.

Henry Wallace Davis, died aged 82, "of Boulton's Lane" was buried on 5 January 1959 at HTKW.

No. 11. Little Lane is erroneously shown in the census of 1911 as 10 Little Lane where dwelt Alfred Banfield, 47, bootmaker, Dora, his wife, 37, and their children, Alfred, 16, Priccella, (sic) 15 mths, George W., 4 days; George Banfield, father, 75, labourer, Priccella, 78, mother, and Ellen Worlock, 64, visitor.

Alfred Banfield and Dora Minnie Worlock were married in 1904. In 1901 Alfred Banfield was living with his parents at Little Lane and Dora Worlock with hers at Laurel Street, Kingswood. Alfred Banfield junior, born c1895, appears to have started life as Alfred Worlock. There is presumably a connection with another Alfred Worlock, the father of Arnold, (see above.)

No. 12 Little Lane

In 1911: Henry John Yeoman, 44, bootmaker, b. Durham, his wife Sarah Ann, 41, (married 18 years, 5 ch. born, 4 still living,) born at Aberyschan, Mon, and their children, Wesley

Wilfred, 16, bootmaker, William John, 13, bootmaker, Arthur Reginald, 8, b. Aberyschan, Lillian Grace, 6, b. Aberyschan.⁸

Then comes the family for whom Boulton's Lane was named, though in 1901 it was still Little Lane (un-numbered, but no. "27" on the enumerator's schedule):

Samuel Boulton, 55, undertaker, b. St George, his wife Sarah Ann, (nee Lewis, mar. 1867), 60, and their son Samuel Hartley, 20. In 1911, Samuel then 66, and his wife "married 44 years, 3 children born, 2 still living" was at the address; staying with them was a widow, Ellen Haskins, 57, "of private means, born in Salisbury".

Samuel Hartley Boulton, a carpenter and joiner, lived in a separate menage with Emily, his wife of nine years and their sons, Frederick Samuel, b. 1903 & Harold Henry, b. 1901. Emily Boulton, aged 54 died in 1930 and was buried at HTKW

Frederick Samuel married Mabel G. Brown in 1922 and they had a daughter Gwendoline Claire in 1929 who died aged three, and was buried at Holy Trinity KW in January 1934.

The undertaking business continued in partnership with Frederick Griffin, brother-in-law of Fred and Sam Boulton, who married their sister Bertha at Abergavenny in 1900. The Griffins also lived at Little Lane (1911) with their two sons, (confusingly) called Frederick and Samuel.

By 1933, the business advertised its new address: "Griffin & Sons, (late Boulton), undertakers, formerly of Boulton's Road, now 11 Regent Street."⁹

Others at "Little Lane" 1901, un-numbered houses, listed by schedule numbers:

(25) Fredk. Hopes, 26, bootmaker, wife Maud, 25, & daughter Maggie, 1,

(26) Sam Bryant, 44, gardener, domestic, wife Jane, 44, ch. Sarah, 8, Thomas, 6, George, 3, plus Jane Lavis, 20, boarder, gardener, b. Bristol. (Jane must be a relative of the Lavis family, see above.)

(28) Samuel, 35 & Charlotte Roach, 67- see above

(29) William Williams, 37, mason's lab, Emily, wife, 37, Willie, 11, Emily, 9, Charley, 7, Jessie, 4, Nellie, 1

(30) Robert Lane, 26, bootmaker, b. St James, Bristol, Georgina, wife, 27, corset maker, ch. Beatrice, 4, Sam H, 1, Julia Lane, mother, widow, b. Cork, Ireland

Victoria Park Buildings.

No. 1 Victoria Park Buildings

⁸ Mum's stepmother, Eliza Yeoman, was presumably related to these people through her first marriage.

⁹ WDP 4.7.1933

In 1901: Tom Gale, married, 39, bootmaker, b. Bristol, Frances Lydia, wife, 32, refreshment proprietor, b. Yeovil and their children Ethel, 15, Thomas, 12, Philip, son, 8. Tom & Frances Gale were married at Yeovil, 1884.

By 1911, this address had become 349 Two Mile Hill. Mrs Gale and her daughter continued to run the café.



Tom and Frances Lydia Gale, with Ethel and Thomas. (courtesy of their descendant Bob Gale.)

No 2 Victoria Park Buildings.

In 1900 Henry William Tosvedine, HQ, F. Company, Bristol Rifles, is listed in Bristol Directory. The birth of a Claud A.P. Tosvedine, Bristol, 1886, 28th Foot is registered in GRO Regimental Indexes. The death of Alice Maud Tosvedine, aged 6, is registered in 1890. I can find no other reference to this surname. The 28th Foot was the North Gloucestershire Regiment which merged with the South Glo'sters to form the Gloucestershire Regiment proper.

No 3 Victoria Park Buildings. 1901 – empty. In 1911, it was a laundry, and the address was 353 Two Mile Hill.

No. 4 Victoria Park Buildings, 1901/1911. George Scudamore, 38, chemist, own account, b. Bristol, wife Elizabeth Kate, (nee Leader, mar. 1890), 36, b. Cork, Ireland, Dorothy, their daughter, 3, and Mary E. Bryant, 15, domestic servant. George died suddenly aged 45 after a brief illness on 4 July 1908 and was buried at HTKW.¹⁰

In 1911, address now, 355 Two Mile Hill, it was a “drug store”, run by Percy Albert Stevens. I remember “Steven’s” the chemist being on the corner of Soundwell Road (towards Bristol) perhaps Percy subsequently moved there? It became a TV rental place and by 2013 was boarded up.

No. 5. Victoria Park Buildings.

1900, Mrs Ann Clarke, draper. (BD). In 1901: Ann Clark, widow, 55, draper, b. Bishopsteignton, Devon, son William, 19, born Teignmouth, paralysed since 18 years old; daughter Annie, 11, b. Liverpool; plus Mary E, boarder, single, 47, b. Bishopston. In 1911 Mrs Clark was still in business as a draper, address now 357 Two Mile Hill.

Gleanings from Bristol Directory, 1900, end of Victoria Park Buildings, and shops at the top of Victoria Park:

James William Stonenettle, (another unique name), green grocer

According to Bristol Directory: “Here Victoria Park intersects”: Alfred John Flook, grocer and provision merchant. During my lifetime this shop was still on the corner. Everything was sold loose and weighed into paper cones. When the new craze for supermarkets came in from USA after the war his nephew Julian took over and became “Look! Julian Flook!” lower down towards Bristol after Grantham Road.

John Wintle, confectioner.

¹⁰ WDP 7.7.1904

No. 1 Claremont Place: Rev Charles Pye, Minister, United Methodist Reformed Church. He officiated (1902) at the wedding of George Bryant Britton to Annie, elder daughter of John Henshaw, Manager of Kingswood & Parkfield Colliery, at Zion Chapel.¹¹ The Pye family had moved to Bishopston by 1911.

No. 2 Claremont Place: John Godfrey

Then shops, no numbers:

John Cook, corn and forage

Philip Watkins, builder. (This must be the shop I recall as “Pat Watkins’s, ironmonger”, who could never find anything. I wonder if I misheard the first name and it was actually “Pap”, which is *Kangs’oodese* for Father?)

Moses Crew, greengrocer

William Newman, butcher

“End of City Boundary, here cross over”. (I presume this is the spot where the milestone which advertised “Bristol 3 miles”, was situated. It is now missing. Another yardstick is in Regent Street, set into the shop front beside the little alley leading to Bouton’s Road.

No. 6 Victoria Park Buildings.

1901. William Ford, 38, shoemaker, at home, b. Bitton, wife Martha, (nee Thomas, mar. 1882), 36, children: Ernest, 17, shoemaker, Florence, 15, Amy E., 2.

In 1902, William Ford, by then of 6 Victoria Park, KW” advertised a cottage for sale in Downend Road, for £160.¹² By 1925, he had had moved to no. 14 VP.

This house, known as “6 Victoria Park” in 1902, had become 359 Two Mile Hill by 1911, with the next house in the sequence on the census, being No. 8. Victoria Park where the occupant was James English, see below.)

No 7. Zion Place/7 Victoria Park. In 1891 7 Zion Place, adjacent to Zion Chapel, was occupied by Henry Hook, married, aged 27, a bootmaker, born Bath, Ellen his wife and their sons Arthur, 5 and Herbert, 11 months. One day in September 1892, a boy of fifteen called William Flew, the brother of John Flew, one of Hook’s employees, arrived at Hook’s premises in “a state” bearing the shocking news that their mother had been murdered. Hook hastened to the house in Soundwell Lane, (now Soundwell Road) where he encountered a gaggle of neighbours and Dr Milner, locum to Dr Henry Grace, brother of W.G. the cricketer. The unfortunate woman, Jane Elizabeth Flew, who had been shot to death, was lying in a pool of blood near the front door. She had co-habited for about ten

¹¹ WDP 23.5.1902

¹² WDP 26.4.1902

years with Albert Manning(s) and he was immediately suspected of the crime, especially since he had previously issued threats against her. He had been issued with a restraining order by the police not to molest her; furthermore, a passer-by, Walter Rowe, had seen him going into the house and heard the fatal shot. Hook went with two constables to Mannings' mother's house in Warmley where he was found hiding "behind a perambulator under some bedclothes". After a struggle, he was arrested.

Jane Flew, nee Peache, was married to Job Flew. In 1881, curiously listed as "Fews", they were living at Wick, with their children aged between eight and one year old. Albert Mannings, then aged 26, also married, was the family lodger. Sometime within the next few months, Jane Flew and Mannings eloped, taking Mrs Flew's children with them. In 1891 they were living at the top of Victoria Park, possibly next to Albert Buildings, though it is impossible to be sure of the exact address as that page of the census is torn and only the following can be discerned: "Mary Ann..... William (ditto marks), s..... John Flew, s..... Albert Manning, 36, boarder....."

By the time of Mrs Flew's death the parties had separated, allegedly over the attentions of an un-named man. The motive was said to be jealousy. Mannings was tried for murder, and was hanged.¹³

All of Victoria Park would have known the participants in the tragedy. More detailed research would be necessary to ascertain any kinship between the Flew and Mannings families who lived in our *cul de sac*, and the ill-fated Albert and Jane.

In 1899 Ellen Hook, Henry's wife, died aged 34. In 1901, 7 Victoria Park stood empty. By 1915, James John English had moved from no. 8 Victoria Park, (see below) to no. 7 Victoria Park.

James English is listed at the address in Bristol Directory, 1915 and 1921. He died aged 70, on 4 August 1925. He was

*"A kindly caretaker. A familiar figure has disappeared in Kingswood through the death of Mr James English, forty years caretaker at Zion Chapel. Many ministers have come and gone and his quiet courtesy and readiness to help strangers and the pride in the church for which he was responsible endeared him to all. For 20 years he was a Sunday School teacher. Funeral at Zion tomorrow. Asleep in Jesus."*¹⁴

Between 1932 and 1938, John Stone was resident. In 1947, James John Challenger and in 1950 & 1956, William Edwin Elston(e). William E. Elston married Gladys M. Weeks in Bristol in 1930. Elston, born 1903, was caretaker at Zion, the house perhaps tied to the Chapel. (Whether or not John Stone, the previous resident of no. 7, took over the job following the

13 WDP 29.9.1892 and 1892, passim)

14 WDP Obit. 6.8.1925/7.8.1925.

death of James English, - see below – is unknown. Prior to the arrival of the Elston family, Flossie Hodge was somehow involved with the maintenance of the chapel. (I believed she was caretaker but she may have been the cleaner.) The Elstone's had a foster son, Tommy Allard, who was a couple of years older than their natural son, Edwin, born in 1940. Edwin and Tommy spent most of their time fighting, with each other and with my brother Colin and Douglas Garland, grandson of the Drinkwaters of no. 35. With Anne Garland, Duggie's sister, Colin remembered that I once gave Eddie and Tommy "a real going over". I was never to be trifled with and it is a pity but I have forgotten the incident.

Other inhabitants of "the spur" adjacent to the Chapel, whose dwellings faced "the main road" were Mickey Sullivan, (see no. 8 Victoria Park) and the Totterdells, Roy and Evelyn, nee Pyle, of otherwise unknown provenance, who had a girl and a boy called Greta, born 1935 and Laland, born 1937. Greta's name came out as the guttural "Gree-ta", rather than the dainty continental version "Gretta" and the uniquely named Laland, was pronounced "Lay-land".

In 1960, no 7 was unoccupied. Between 1964 & 1973, the tenant was Wilfred Gunter

No. 8 Zion Place/8 Victoria Park

In 1891 the house was occupied by a former coalminer turned bootmaker, James English, 35, his wife Dorcas, 32, (nee Bright, mar. 1876) and their children Sidney, 14, Rhoda, 11, Fred, 9, and James H., aged two. By 1901, the house had become no. 8 Victoria Park, with James English then "chapel keeper". They had two more children by this time, Bert and Ethel. Rhoda, Fred and James still lived at home.

In 1905, Cyril Charles Douglas Sims Lippett, son of Arthur Tom, car driver, & Lizzie Maud Lippett, of 8 Victoria Park, was baptised 27 January 1905, at HTKW. They were probably lodgers of the English family; they had moved to Birmingham by 1911.

In 1911, still at 8 Victoria Park, James John English, was a "bootmaker, at home". He and Dorcas had been married 35 years, produced 7 children, with six still living; those currently in the family menage were Sidney, 34, widower, bootmaker, Harry, 21, clicker, Bert, 19, patternmaker, Ethel, 14, at school and Florence Hilda, granddaughter.

In 1912 Dorcas died aged 54; James J. moved to no. 7. (see above). Their son James Henry who married Nellie Knight died aged 27 in 1916. Nellie English, his widow, is listed at the address in the BD until 1921 when she married Arthur T. Cannock, and moved away.

1925-1950. BD: Henry Owen, born in 1880, is recorded at 8 Victoria in 1939 with Lilian Owen, born 1911, later Austin, plus Arthur and Phyllis Sullivan. Phyllis Owen, Henry's daughter, married Arthur Sullivan in 1934. They had Maureen, 1935, Margaret, 1938, and Michael O., 1940, who we knew as "Mickey". I also vaguely remember the two girls. Colin recalled that that Mickey Sullivan, Margaret's brother lived with their grandparents, the

Owens, in no. 8. Margaret aged 20, was still living there when she married Raymond Underhill on 14 February 1959, at HTKW.

Henry died before 1956. "Mrs Connie Owen" is listed by BD up to 1964. Constance M. Owen died aged 78. Between 1970 and 1973, the occupant was Caroline Owen

No. 9 Zion Place/9 Victoria Park

1891: Thomas Flook, 33, shoemaker, Frances, his wife, sons Joseph, 12, shoemaker, Arthur, 12, scholar, Albert, 8, Edward G., 7.

By 1900 it had become 9 Victoria Park and Albert Smith & his family were resident. A tragic accident occurred when William Smith, 12, their son was playing on the banks of a claypit at Victoria Park, Two Mile Hill when he fell in and was drowned. The pit contained water 12 feet deep. James English¹⁵ who lived nearby rescued the body with a pole. Mr Heppenstall, the assistant of Dr Perrett of KW was called and pronounced life extinct. The boy was conveyed to the residence of his parents at 9 Victoria Park."¹⁶

1901: Albert Smith, 40, shoemaker at home, b. Mangotsfield, wife Mary (nee Long, mar. 1884, and daughter Florry, 10.

In 1905 Jesse Westlake Greedy married Florence Alderwick, daughter of James & Mary of no. 11 VP. In 1911 they lived at no. 9 VP: Jesse Greedy, 33, brickyard worker, b. Birmingham, Florence, wife, 31, and ch. Lily May, 5 & Albert Edward, 2.

1915-25: Onslow Enos Hodge (BD) who married Flossie Flay in Bristol in 1908. In 1911, when both were stated to be "single" he lived at 272 Two Mile Hill, with Flossie's parents. Her father, Thomas Flay, aged 49, a blacksmith, probably at the smithy which was at the top of Kennard Road. I used to take Flossie's granddaughter, Cherry Hodge to school at Two Mile Hill and we used peep in to see the horses on our way home until chased away by one of the smiths. In this census, Flossie was still "Flossie Flay" and Onslow Hodge, a house painter, born Ystad, Monmouth, was a "boarder" in the household. There seems to have been more to this drama than parental disapproval, for ten years before in 1901, Onslow was at home in Canton, Cardiff, with his *wife*, nee Daisy Smith aged 20, who he married in 1899. As it would seem that Daisy was still alive in 1908, he had committed bigamy, which would account for the low profile.

Another Onslow Hodge, born 1897, probably a nephew of Onslow Enos, was living in 1901 with his parents William, b. Ystad, and Sophia in East Ham, London. He was recovering from wounds sustained in the Great War, when he met and married a London girl, Florence Mary Lane at Chipping Sodbury in 1920. In 1929, he caused a great stir when he ran off with his mother-in-law, Elizabeth Lane, who was nearly twice his age. Despite the understandable

¹⁵ See 8 Victoria Park

¹⁶ WDP 29.5.1900

furere, it was not until 1947, when he lived at Shirehampton, Bristol, that he brought a divorce petition against his wife (which was granted on the grounds of *her* misconduct!) He died in Bristol, aged 67.

In 1881, his near namesake, Onslow Enos (later of Victoria Park) aged 3, lived in Mangotsfield with his father, another William, “born Monmouth”, in 1851, mother, Alice, a local girl and 4 siblings. William was “a grocer and preacher”, the family being sufficiently well off to be able to employ a young maidservant. By 1915 Flossie and Onslow were living at Victoria Park with their two sons, Ralph and Gilbert Wesley Hodge. Onslow Enos died aged 50 in 1929.

In 1934, Ralph Hodge, 16, riding a bicycle, was in collision with a motor car and suffered head injuries.¹⁷ His younger brother, known as Wesley, married Gladys Nichols in 1941 and the couple lived at no. 9 with the widowed Flossie. As previously stated I was entrusted to take Cherry, their only child, a fair curly-haired moppet, to school at Two Mile Hill when I was nine and she was five. “Old Mrs Hodge” to whom I was invariably polite, gave me a good character, saying I was “a nice sensible girl.” The old woman, who was involved with Zion Chapel was very devout; she played hymns on the harmonium, kept in their tiny front room, with gusto. Her bird-like physique disguised an iron will. She habitually dressed in a black ensemble and carried a neatly rolled gamp. She wore her steel-grey hair twisted into a bun though I seldom saw her without a hat. She ruled the roost with terrible tyranny and her daughter-in-law, poor bottle-blond Gladys, “young Mrs Hodge” was bullied by her to such an extent that the younger woman suffered severely from “nerves”. Gladys was subjected to the ghastly electric shock treatment, then popular.

In 1922, various dwellings in Victoria Park and Two Mile Hill, (the estate of Daniel Flook, deceased) were advertised for auction.¹⁸ Lots 7-12, known as 9-14 Victoria Park, 6 dwelling houses with workshops were let to Messrs Hodge, Smith, Alderwick, Clarke, Lack & Thomas.

1932 – 1976. Mrs Flossie Hodge (BD). Flossie, born 19 November 1882, died aged 94. Wesley died in 1979 and Gladys in 1994. Cherry married Michael Beck in 1960.

No. 10 Zion Place

In 1891, John Long, 53, shoemaker, Ann his wife, 72, b. Monmouthshire, lived there. Despite the large age gap, John died first and in 1901. Ann Long, widow, 84, born Cumyoy, Hereford (sic) with Elizabeth Hyman, visitor, 19, domestic, Monmouth, John W. Thomas, single, 39, labourer, born St George, and Elizabeth Flook, widow, 75, born Aust.

Sometime after this, the Smith family moved from no. 10 to no. 11 and in 1911 were living there with the same lodger, John Thomas.

¹⁷ Ibid 30.10.1934

¹⁸ WDP 1.4.1922.

No. 11 Victoria Park

In 1911. Albert Smith, 50, bootmaker at home, wife Mary, 56, domestic duties, married 26 years, had only one living child, daughter Florrie, aged 20, their son having drowned in the claypit some years before. Florrie was single, working in a factory, tailoring. A lodger, John William Thomas, 48, single, labourer completed the household.

1915 - 1947. Albert Smith (BD)

In 1916, Solomon Iles married Florence Smith. Their son Albert, born 16 November 1919, son of Solomon, chocolate worker & Florence Iles, was bp. 9 December 1919 at Zion. They had a daughter, Kathleen, also bp. Zion, on 19 March 1922. They continued to live with the Smiths.

In 1928: The body of an elderly man, John Long, aged 70, of 10 Victoria Park, Two Mile Hill, found in the river at Crew's Hole. "From the condition of the body, it was evident he had not been in the water long. A hat and coat was found on the bank nearby.¹⁹ He was buried 8 February 1928, at HTKW. He was probably a relative of Mrs Smith, nee Long and the Longs of no. 10. The tragedy must have brought back terrible memories for the Smiths.

1932. 2 households: Albert Smith & Solomon Iles (BD) Albert Smith died pre-1950.

1950 -1964, Solomon Iles (BD). He died in 1966, aged 76.

1970 – 1973. Edwin Coles (BD)

No. 11 Zion Place

In 1891, occupied by James Alderwick, 39, shoemaker, born Stroud, his wife Mary Ann, (nee Demmery, mar. 1876, Stroud), 34 and their children: Albert, 15, shoe maker's assistant, Frank, 13, at school, Florence, 11, Bessie, 9, Mabel, 7, Lillie, 5, Beatrice, 11 months.

1901: James Alderwick, 51, mason's labourer, born Ebley, Stroud, wife Mary, 47, born Soundwell. Children: Albert, 24, shoemaker, Frank, 22, shoemaker, Florence, 20, boot machinist, Mabel, 17, Singer shoe factory, Lily, 15, boot machinist, Beatrice, 11, Ernest, 8, Walter, 6.

In 1908, Lily Alderwick married William Joseph Andrews. Their daughter Rita Doreen Andrews was born in 1915, (see 2 Boulton's Lane or Road).

1911: James Alderwick, 62, general labourer, Mary, wife, 57, (mar. 34 years, 11 children born, 8 still living). Those at home: Albert, 34, single, Mable, 28, single, Beatrice, 21, Ernest, 19, Walter, 17, all working at a boot factory.

¹⁹ WDP 4.2.1928

In 1911, their son Frank, 32, and his wife Mary Elizabeth were living at Hanham Road with children Lillian, Hilda & Grantley. Frank states his place of birth as "Victoria Park, Kingswood" showing that "the Park" evidently had fond memories. Florence, his sister, the wife of Jesse Greedy lived at no. 9 Victoria Park.

1915-1925, James Alderwick (BD). James died aged 74, in 1925.

1932 -1960. Albert Edgar Alderwick (BD) who remained a bachelor, died aged 85 in 1962.

1964: Miss M. (Mabel) Alderwick (BD) his sister, also never married; she died in 1968, aged 85.

No 12. Zion Place

1891. Mary Ann Rogers, widow, shoemaker, with her children from two marriages: Edward Long, 22, shoemaker, Gilbert Rogers, 15, Florry Rogers, 13, scholar, Fred Rogers, 7.

1901. William Abner Britton, 25, shoemaker, at home, born Made for Ever, wife Charlotte, 22, born Leeds, (mar. 1895) with daughters Violet, 3, Florence, 1.

1911. 12 VP. William Britton, 35, "bootmaking for Birds & Brothers", wife Charlotte, (married 16 years, 10 ch. born alive, 6 now living), Alice, 14, worker at Crane's Firework Factory, Violet, 13, at school, Florence, 11, Willie, 6, Beatrice, 3, Doris, 2.



Warmley's principal contribution to the First World War effort came from Crane's Fireworks Factory, which switched production from fireworks to hand grenades or Mills Bombs as they were called. In this period the workforce increased to nearly 100, mostly young women, who when filling the boxes of grenades to be shipped to the Front, would often slip in a little note for the Tommies to find, and frequently they would receive a reply, sometimes in a

foreign language. Ten million grenades passed through Warmley Station between 1914 – 1918, a tremendous achievement.

For recreation, these fit young women formed themselves into a tug-of-war team, calling themselves the 'Warmley Grenadiers'. They proved formidable opposition during tournaments held in the district, including events at Douglas's the famous motor cycle manufacturers in Blackhorse Road. The tradition of the Douglas's Sports Days was kept up until well after World War 2, usually held on Bank holidays. I remember them well, for the Westbury Harriers, for whom the middle-distance runner, Bill Nankivell, was a big draw, and for Cycle races round the track.

As to Crane's, a girl worker, Helen Brewer, aged 18 died in an explosion at the factory in 1935, and several more received burns to their hands and arms.²⁰ The factory apparently closed in 1938.

1915. William Britton (BD) 1921 – 1925. Gilbert Clarke. (BD)

In July 1933, Harry Long, 55, boot operative, collapsed and died in the street near his home. He had been unwell for some time and had just returned from a visit to the Doctor's."²¹ Albert Henry Long, 53, of "12 Victoria Park, Two Mile Hill", was buried at HTKW.

1960 - 1964. Herbert Shearman (BD); 1973. Adrian Orley (BD)

No. 13 Zion Place

1881: Thomas Lack, 40, boot & shoemaker, born Kingsthorpe, Northants²², wife Selina, 33, b. St George & children: Samuel, 15, Mary, 13, Minnie, 10, Alice, 7, William, 4 and Gilbert, 1.

1891: Thomas Lack, 49, boot finisher, wife Selina, 44, b. St George, ch. Mary, 23, bootmaker, Minnie, 21, ditto, Alice, 17, boot machinist, Willie, 15, bootmaker, Gilbert, son, 11, scholar.

Thomas Crowley Lack and Selina Wolland were not married until June 1896. This tardiness seems to be because Thomas was previously married in 1862 in Northants, and presumably his wife, until then, was still alive. In 1871, he was thirty and living with Selina at Hanham Lane with their children, Samuel, 5, Mary, 3 and Minnie, a month old. Also in the household were Elizabeth Wolland, Selina's sister and her two sons.

1901: Thomas Crowley Lack died in Bristol, aged 59, just before the census was taken for that year. The occupants were Selina Lack, 50, widow, children William, son, 25, bootmaker, home, Gilbert, 21, baker, bread maker.

²⁰ WDP 18.10.1935

²¹ Ibid 24.7.1933

²² Northampton is a centre for the bootmaking industry, hence "The Cobblers" being the nickname of Northampton Town FC.

In 1903 Gilbert Henry Lack married Jennie Packer and by 1911 the entry for no.13 he was the head of the household, aged 31, baker, Jennie, 29, his wife, and daughter Rosalie, with Selina Lack, mother, widow, 66, and Wyndham Bond, a visitor, 38, boot trade, born Welton, Somerset.

Selina Lack died aged 67 in 1915. Between then and 1938, Gilbert Lack is named in Bristol Directory at the address and then 1947-1950, Mrs Jennie Lack.

In 1953, the house was taken over by George Albert Phipps, formerly of 49 Victoria Park (qv) who married Jean Alderwick (qv) in 1950. Their daughter, Pamela Jean, born 22 October 1953, was bp. at Zion in July 1954.

1953-1960. George Phipps (BD); 1964-73. Thomas G. Frankcom (BD)

No 14 Zion Place/Victoria Park.



The sign above 14 Victoria Park, formerly Zion Place.

1881. Susan Wooland, 64, nurse, lived at Zion Place with Elizabeth Wooland, 40, William, 18, & Emily, 13. (Susan was the mother of Selina Lack, and Elizabeth Wooland.)

1891: Elizabeth Wooland, widow, 50, home keeper, b. St George, with her son and daughter, William and Emily, her mother, Susan Wooland, widow, 74, sick nurse, plus , Annie Whitcombe, 23, a visitor, born Normanton.

In 1892 William Wooland won third place at Kingswood Poultry Show for his "Menorca cock or hen". Mrs Elizabeth Wooland was then still at "Victoria Park, Two Mile Hill, from High Street to Bath Buildings, Parish of St Michael. (BD)

1899. A boy called Ernest Stanley Gwillam, son of Ernest and Mary Jane, of Bath Buildings was christened at Zion Chapel. The Gwillam family had a small rather run down greengrocery on the corner of Broadfield Avenue (adjacent to Soundwell Road going towards town) which I passed the way to school at Two Mile Hill (1942-48). Graham Isaac Pillinger and Lawson James Pillinger and their various families also lived at Bath Buildings which seems to have been a tenement of some sort.

1901. Elizabeth Woolan, (sic) widow, 61, domestic, Susan Woolan, boarder, single, 83, monthly nurse, ret'd, b. Oldland, William Woolan, son, 38, widower, bootmaker, born Tewkesbury, Windham S. Bond, visitor, 31, shoemaker, born Welton.

1905. Mrs Elizabeth Wolland (BD)

1911. Sarah E. Wolland, 71, single, domestic, b. KW, 2 children born, 2 living; Emily Wolland, 42, daughter, single, machinist, b KW, William, son, single, 49, bootmaker, b. KW

1915. William Edward Wolland (BD) (The last of the Wollands with their various spellings, an unconventional, mostly female family, who disdained the married state.)

1921 – 1925. John William Thomas.

1932. William Ford (BD, who married Martha Thomas in 1882; lived 6 Victoria Park Buildings, 1901 and in 1911 at 359 Two Mile Hill, next door in the schedule to 8 Victoria Park, where James English the chapel keeper lived. William, b. 1863 and Martha had Ernest, 1884, and Amy in 1899. In the middle was Florence (or Flossie, see below) who was married between 1901 & 1911.)

1935 -1938. BD: William Ford & Ernest Ford, Commission Agent

1942: Obituary. "Ernest James Ford, 58, son of William and brother of Amy and Flossie, died 18 Dec.1942. Funeral at Zion Chapel."²³ Family gave thanks to friends for sympathy and flowers following their "recent bereavement".

1947. William Ford (BD)

1950 -1973. Gerald Doughty Talling (BD) who married Grace M. Hale, 1944. Grace, born in 1920, was the daughter of Gilbert W. Hale & Florrie, nee Dury. Any connection with no. 26 V.P. is still to be established. Their son Martin was bp at Zion 6 May 1956.

No. 15 Albert Buildings/15 Victoria Park



The sign on the front of no. 15 Victoria Park.

²³ WDP 19/23.12.1942.



Nos. 15 & 16 Victoria Park (2016), with the opening to Boulton's Lane at the right.

1891: George Palmer, 27, shoemaker, b. St George, Elizabeth, wife, (nee Demmery, mar. 1883), 25, ch: Gilbert, 8, Minnie, 5, Percy, 3, Ann, 1; Ann Demery, widow, 63, mother-in-law, b. Reading, Elsie Demery, niece, 18, shoemaker, b. Mangotsfield. By 1903, the Palmers had moved to Alsop Terrace.

1899: Bristol Directory: "Victoria Park, Two Mile Hill, from High Street to Bath Buildings, Parish of St Michael." Only 4 houses, 14-17 listed, included George Palmer.

1901: 15 Victoria Park. Frank Fry, 33, shoemaker at home, b. Bitton, wife Alice, 32, ch: Gertie, 10, Richard, 9, Winnie, 7, Olive, 5, Nora, 4. The Frys moved to 21 VP pre-1911.

1905. Henry Powell (BD)

1911. Henry Watts, 34, clicker, wife Lizzie, 22, dau Lizzie, 8 mths; Mrs Ellen Carnell, boarder, 34, household duties, b. Wedmore.

1911: Stafford Brewer, clay miner, of High Street, KW married Eva J.V. Hendy of 15 VP, the daughter of James, living at no. 30 in 1901. In 1912, Gratten Henry, son of Stafford, collier, & Jubilee Victoria (sic) Brewer, 15 Victoria Park, born 12 August and bp. Zion 14 November 1912.

1915. James Hendy (BD) moved from no. 30.

1921. Ernest George Alderwick (BD). House in "Estate of Daniel Flook, deceased" – various dwellings in Victoria Park and Two Mile Hill auctioned. Lots 13-19, known as 15-21 Victoria

Park, 6 dwelling houses with workshops let to Messrs Alderwick, Roberts, Buck, Blake, Sims & Lovell. Workshops at 16, 17, 18, 20 & 21.²⁴

1925. Ernest Alderwick (shown in Bristol Directory as "Harderwick"! (He was born 1880, son of James, bootmaker, married Bessie Harris, 1905. Lived in South Street, 1911.

1932 – 1956. Ernest George Alderwick (BD); Bessie Alderwick died aged 74 in 1956, Ernest G. died aged 79 in 1960.

1960. Michael J. Constable (BD); 1964. Dudley Davies (BD); 1970, 1973, Alan Coldrick (BD)

No 16. Albert Bldgs/Victoria Pak

1881: Thomas Demmery, b. 1835, wife Sarah, & children Annie, 17, George, 16, & Ernest, 13.

1884. Edward Roberts married Emma Britton, nee Demmery, the widow of Joseph Britton. And by 1891 at 16 Albert Buildings: Thomas Demmery, widower, 56, born Mangotsfield; Edward Roberts, married, 28, son-in-law, shoemaker, b. Mangotsfield, Emma Roberts, dau of Thos Demmery, wife of Edward, 27, Ernest, grandson, 1.

1899. Bristol Directory "Victoria Park, Two Mile Hill, from High Street to Bath Buildings, Parish of St Michael." Only 4 houses, 14-17 listed.

1901. Edward Roberts, 38, shoemaker, home, Emma, wife, 37, shoemaker, ch: Ernest, 10, Victor, 6, Mary, 4.

1905; 1915-1947. Edward Roberts (BD).

1910. Emma Roberts died aged 46 and in 1911: at 16 Victoria Park. Edward Roberts, 49, widower (married 22 years, 5 children, 3 living); ch: Ernest, 21, clicker, boot factory, Herbert Victor, 16, heel maker, boot factory, Hilda, daughter.4.

1920. "A young man, Victor Roberts of 16 Victoria Park, working at the Challenge Boot factory was putting a driving belt on a wheel when his left arm was caught and severed. He was taken to BRI."²⁵

1934: Hilda Roberts – see Florrie Phipps, (49 VP)

1950. Mrs Sarah Ann Roberts (BD) (not known whether she was Edward's 2nd wife or wife of one of his sons.)

1956. John Brunt (BD); 1964 – 1973. Royston Bryant (BD)

No. 17 Albert Bldgs/Victoria Park

²⁴ WDP 1.4.1922

²⁵ WDP 27.1.1920

1871/1881. Daniel Demmery & family (Daniel Demmery mar. Harriet Dash, 1855.)

1891.17 Albert Buildings. Daniel Demmery, 57, shoemaker, Harriet, wife, 52, Robert, son, widower, 32, shoemaker, Ellen Wooland, dau, married, 27, shoemaker, other children: Elsie D, 17, William G.,14, both shoemakers, Albert,10, & Ernest, 10, Thirsa, 8, Gilford H. Wooland, g/son, 3.

1894:Elsie Dora Demmery married James Buck.

1899. Bristol Directory "Victoria Park, Two Mile Hill, from High Street to Bath Buildings, Parish of St Michael." Only 4 houses, 14-17 listed incl: Daniel Demery. (sic)

7.11.1900. Harriet Demmery died aged 62, of Victoria Park, KW, buried Whitfield Tabernacle.

1901. Daniel Demmery, widower, 67, bootmaker, home; Ellen Wooland, dau, married, 38, Albert Demmery, son, 20, bootmaker, home, Theresa Demmery, granddau, 18, staymaker, Gilford Wooland, grandson, 13.

1905 - 1915. Daniel Demery (BD).

1908. Gilford Wooland mar. Bertha May Chapman.

1911. 17 Victoria Park. Gilford Henry Wooland, 23, bootmaker, Bertha May, wife, 24, married 2 years, Daniel Demery, 77, widower, old age pensioner, retired bootmaker, Ellen Wolland, dau, 47, married, bootmaker, home.

19.6. 1916. Daniel Demmery died aged 82, buried Whitfield Tabernacle, KW.

1918. Lillian Mary Buck, 19, of 17 VP, daughter of James Buck, haulier, married Sidney Haggett of no. 38 VP.

1921-1947. Mrs (Elsie) Dora Buck (BD); Elsie Dora Buck died Bristol, 1954, aged 82.

1923. Joyce Eileen, daughter of Sidney, gardener. & Lilian Mary Haggett, 17 VP, bp 19 Dec.1923, HTKW; their daughter Barbara Jean, bp 25 March 1925, HTKW

1939. House occupied by Elsie Demmery (born 1872), married; Hilda, born 1902, spinster & Helen Wolland, widow, born 1863.

1939: Funeral at Wesleyan of Miss Emily Wolland, many years resident at VP, KW, mourners Mrs Wolland, son-in-law Mr S. Lack, Mr G. Lack, etc.²⁶

1950. Miss Hilda Maud Buck (BD)

1956-1960, Sidney Haggett (BD) (formerly of 45 Victoria Park?)

²⁶ WDP 18.8.1939

1964. Mrs L. M. Haggett (BD); 1970. Henry Parry (BD); 1973. John Bristow (BD)

No. 18 Albert Bdgs/Victoria Park

Henry Watts and his wife Sarah Ann Pillinger (married 1871) lived at this address from 1881. In 1891 the family consisted of Henry Watts, 37, watchman, b. Acton Turville, Sarah, wife, 40, Miriam, 16, boot machinist, Henry, 15, errand boy, Wallace, 12, errand boy, Lewis, 9, Joseph W., 6, Nellie, 2, Florence, 9 months.

In 1901, 18 Victoria Park, Henry & Sarah Ann with children Henry, 25, shoemaker, Walter, 21, (sic) shoemaker, Lewis, 19, Factory, Joseph, 16, Nellie, 12, Florence, 10, Bella, 8.

In 1905, Henry Watts appears in Bristol Directory. In 1911, same address, he worked at Fry's cocoa factory; wife Sarah and children: Joseph Wilford, 26, bootmaker, Nellie, 22, packer, Fry's, Florence Mary, 20, tailoress, & Bella, 18, tailoress.

1915. Arthur George Bourton (BD) (he was of 92 VP in 1911)

1921. Ernest Blake (BD). (Ernest Blake and Mabel Bourton were married 1916).

1925-1932. (2 households in BD): Ernest Blake & Herbert Percy Bourton. (He was the son of Arthur George Bourton & the brother of Mabel Blake.)

1927. Roy George, son of Ewart & Mary (May?) Alderwick, cabinet maker, of 18 VP. born 12 Feb. 1927, bp. 13 March 1927 at Zion. (Ewart Blake married May E. Keniston, 1926; he was the son of Ernest & Bessie Alderwick)

1935 – 1964. Ernest Blake (BD).

1940. "Ernest William Blake, only son of Mr & Mrs Blake of Victoria Park, KW and Marjorie Winifred Jesty of Westerley, married at Downend Methodist Church."²⁷

Colin's addition: "Mrs Blake had a Chow dog."

1964: Ernest Blake died aged 79. 1970. Mabel Blake (BD); she died in 1975.

1973. Robert Dixon (BD)

No. 19 Albert Bldgs/Victoria Park.

The Burroughs family.

1866: "*The announcement in Monday's impression of the marriage of Louis Burroughs of Kingswood to Mary Downing of Paulton is a silly fabrication.*"²⁸

²⁷ WDP 26.4.1940

²⁸ WDP 2.10.1866

1876: Mr L. Burroughs, Chairman of Sick & Burial Association; Dinner at Flower Pot Inn, KW.²⁹

1877. Obituary: Feb. 14, at 5 *Albert Buildings*, Kingswood Hill, death of Florence Bendell Burroughs aged 1 year 9 months.³⁰

1881, Albert Buildings: Louis Burroughs, 38, tailor, b. Fishponds, Jane, wife, (nee Brudell or Bendell, mar. 1872), 40, tailoress, b. Hutton, Gertrude, 7, scholar & Christiana, 2, both b. St George.

1891. 19 Albert Buildings, Louis Burroughs, 48, tailor, b. Stapleton, Jane, 50, wife, boot machinist, b. Hutton, daughters: Emily, 17, boot machinist, Christiana, 12, Phoebe, 8, both scholars.

1901, 19 Victoria Park: Louis Burroughs, 57, tailor, home, Jane, wife, 61, daughters Christiana, 22, at home, Phoebe, tailoress.

1905 - 1915. Lewis Burroughs (BD)

1911 census, 19 Victoria Park, Louis Burroughs, 68, tailor, Jane, wife, 71, married 38 years, 5 children born, 2 still living, Christiana, 32, & Phoebe, 28, both single.

1916. Louis Burroughs, 73, 19 Victoria Park, died Cossham Hospital.³¹

1919. Arthur George Bourton of no. 18 VP in 1915 and later of no. 92 VP, widower, married Phoebe Burroughs and moved into the Burroughs house; they had a daughter, Gertrude in 1920.

1921 – 1925. Arthur George Bourton (BD). He died in 1930: “Arthur George Bourton, 64, husband of Phoebe of 19 Victoria Park. Funeral at Wesleyan.”³²

1932 – 1938. Mrs Phoebe Bourton (BD)

1939. Charles Kitchener Tompkins married Gertrude Bourton.

1939-1960. Charles K. Tompkins (BD); 1964 -1973. Mrs G. Tompkins (BD)

No. 20 Albert Bldgs/Victoria Park.

1869/1881. William Angorson married Emily Rogers in 1869. In 1871 he was noted as living in “a road leading from Kingswood Road” in 1871 and at Albert Buildings in 1881.

1891. 20 Albert Buildings.³³ William Angorson, 41, coalminer, b. Mangotsfield, Emily, wife, 42, bootmaker, children: Gilbert, 20, Nelly, 17, both bootmkr, Mabel, 9, Lottie, 7, Jessie, 3.

²⁹ Ibid 1.4.1876

³⁰ Ibid 17.2.1877

³¹ WDP 20.6.1916

³² Ibid 25.7.1930

1901. 20 Victoria Park. William Angorson, 57, coalminer, Emily, 52, shoemaker, home, ch: Gilbert, Mabel, Jessie, 13, Frederick, 5, & Morston Angorson, grandson, 6.

1905. "Wm Anderson" - Bristol Directory – should be William Angorson.

1906. Death of a William Angorson registered, though the age shown, 79, must be incorrect.

1911. 20 Victoria Park. John Lambert Sims, 55, bootmaker, home, b. Paulton, Somerset, Mary, (nee Biggs, mar. Clutton 1881), wife, 54, "married 29 years, 10 children born alive, 7 now living"; at home: Florence May, 21, general servant, Ernest John, 18, bootmaker, Laura Tabitha, 14, tailoress, Lambert William, 12, scholar. (Another son, Tom, lived briefly in no. 28, before "migrating" to Wales.)

1915 - 1921. John Lambert Sims (BD)

1916. Ernest John Sims, 24, bootmaker, 20 VP, son of John, bootmaker married at HTKW 19 Oct.1916, Helen Sarah Ann Hill, 23, boot machinist, 27, VP, daughter of Morley Gladstone Hill, clicker.

1922. Advert: "BSA Cycle for sale. Apply Sims, Victoria Park." (WDP 3.1.1922)

1925 -1932 Ernest Sims (BD) (son of John Lambert & Mary)

1926. Lambert W. Sims married Daisy Tippett.

1927. Jack, son of Ernest & Ellen Sarah Ann Sims, 20 VP, labourer, b.9 Feb.1927, bp 13 April 1927, HTKW

1935 -1938: Mrs Daisy Sims, shopkeeper (BD) (Daisy died in 1964 aged 70)

1940: Kenneth Edward Evans 22, fish fryer, son of Oliver, dec'd, miner married Betty Sims, 21, corset maker, 20 VP, dau of Thomas John, fitter, May.1940, HTKW

1942. Lambert Sims (died aged 44)

1947 – 1956. Alexander Gay, shopkeeper (BD); 1960 – 1970. Miss C. Hicks (BD); 1973. E.L. Hicks (BD)

No. 21. Albert Buildings/ Victoria Park

1891. census page broken – impossible to say who was living there.

1897: John King married Ellen Maud Palmer.

³³ This is the last usable entry for Zion Place or Albert Buildings in 1891 as the succeeding pages of the folio are torn.)

1900. "Baker's man wanted, 21 Victoria Park, Kingswood." & "Lad wanted for bakehouse, & delivery, 21 Victoria Park, Kingswood."³⁴

1901. 21 Victoria Park. John King, 30, master baker, employer, home, b. Bitton, Ellen, (nee Ellen Maud Palmer, m. 1897) wife, 26, ch: Emma, Elizabeth King (*sic*) mother-in-law³⁵, 69, born Mangotsfield.

1905 – 1915. Francis Fry (BD); 1911: Francis Fry, 43, bootmaker, b. KW, Alice, wife, 42, ch. Gerty, 20, tailoress, Richard, 19, bootmaker, Winnie, 17, Olive, 16, Nora, 14, all tailoresses.

(Francis Fry previously lived at no. 15. VP. In 1946 he was of 368, Two Mile Hill, when he apparently died intestate: notice in WDP 16 Dec. 1946. Richard Fry of 1 Grantham Road was appointed executor.)

1919. Joyce Jennie, dau of Victor William & Mary Jane Lovell, 21 VP, boot pressman, b. 22 Feb. bp 23 April 1919, HTKW. (Victor Wm Lovell married Mary Jane Phillimore, 1910. (In 1911, their son Douglas was a month old, recorded on census at 21, Lees Farm, North Common)

1921. Victor Lovell (BD)

1925- 1960. Alfred William Dix (BD). He was born in 1875, a copper worker, living at 21 VP in 1939 with his wife Jane, b. 1872.

1964 – 1973. Kenneth Symons (BD)

No. 22. Albert Bldgs/21 Victoria Park

1881 census: Isaac Haskins, 39, living at Albert Buildings with wife Elizabeth (nee Summerhill, mar. 1864). 1891 not listed.

1901. 22 Victoria Park. Isaac Haskins, widower, 59, shoemaker, home, b. Hanham. Ch. Bertha, 30, single, household duties, Elizabeth, boot machinist, Samuel*, 21, bootmaker, Phoebe, 16, corset stay maker, all b. KW. (*Samuel was living at no. 32 in 1911)

1905. Isaac Askens (*sic*!) (BD)

1911. Bertha Haskins, 36, single, boot machinist, Phoebe, 29, sister, stay fanner (?), Emily Padfield, 42, boarder, b. Paulton

1915 - 1921. Miss Bertha Haskins (BD)

1922: "Lots 21-26, for auction known as 22-28 Victoria Park, 6 dwelling houses with workshops let to Miss Haskins, Miss Garland, Messrs Bowen, Taylor, Hale, Sims & Gage."³⁶

34 WDP 15.12.1900, 20.12.1900

35 M-in-law could also mean stepmother.

1925 -1960. Ernest Alderwick (BD) who had moved from no. 11 where he was living in 1911. He married Eliza Shields in 1916 and they had 2 sons, Ronald and Mervyn, and a daughter Jean who married George A. Phipps, of no.49, in 1950. (Mervyn Ernest, son of Ernest & Eliza Alderwick, labourer, 22 VP, born 14 July & bp 1 Aug. 1926 at Zion.)

1964. Mrs E.A. Alderwick (BD); 1970 – 1973. Mervyn E. Alderwick. (BD)

No. 23. Albert Bldgs/Victoria Park

1881. Thomas Garland, coalminer, 27, born Mangotsfield, wife Mary, 28, (nee Mary Ann Jefferies, mar.1873) and their children Rose, (sic) 7, Albert, 6 & Matilda, 1, lived at Reformatory Lane, Kingswood. In 1891, Thomas, 46, telephone labourer, born KW, was at Wraxall with his second wife, Jane, 37, (nee Rogers, mar. 1899) with Henry, 13, son, b. KW and Eleanor, aged 1, born Wraxall. No Trace of the other children. In 1901, the three eldest were at 23 Victoria Park: Rosina Garland, single, 27, bootmaker at home, Matilda, sister, 21, bootmaker, Thomas, brother, 17, plumber's labourer.

1905, Thomas Garland had returned to 23 VP (BD)

1911. Thomas Garland, 57, national telephone road labourer, Jane, wife, 47, dressmaker. Details of both wives supplied: a. married 36 years, 7 ch born, 6 living & b. married 12 years, 1 child born, 1 living.) Albert, 35, single, bootmaker, Thomas, 27, bootmaker, Henry, 23, clothier's trimmer, Rosina, 37, bootmaker, Matilda, 31, housekeeper, Nellie, 11, scholar.

1915 -1921 the house occupied by the "The Misses Garland" (BD); 1922. Matilda married William J, Porter, of no. 25 VP.



1922 - 1964. Miss Rose Garland.

1970 - 1973, Ernest Bywater, (BD) (born 1915 died 1997)

23 Victoria Park, (September 2012)

No. 24 Victoria Park

1881. Edwin Sheppard, 36, shoemaker, wife Mercy (nee Churchill, mar. 1866), machinist, ch: Harry, 11, Emily, 6, Alice, 4, and Edith, 2.

³⁶ WDP 1.4.1922

1888: "Wanted for Zion Chapel, American Organ, must be good condition. H. Sheppard of 24 Victoria Park." ³⁷

1891: census page broken. 1901. Edwin Sheppard, 56, boot maker, home, b. Bitton, wife Mercy, 58, ch. Alice, 24, Ernest, 21, both bootmakers at home, Arthur, 13.

1905, Edwin Sheppard (BD); By 1911, the Sheppards had left and the Bowens had moved to 24 from 41 Victoria Park.

1911. Charles Bowen, 51, bootmaker, home, b. New Radnor, wife Susan, (nee Davies, mar. Carmarthen, 1885), 50, born Paulton, Som. "Married 27 years, 5 ch. born, 5 living". At home: Stanley, 22, bootmaker, Evan, 21, clicker, Edward, 17, boot finisher.

1915 - 1921. Charles Bowen (BD). He died in 1927.

In 1911, William J. Porter, born 1880, bootmaker, lived at Hudd's Vale Rd with his mother Arabella. In 1922 he married Matilda Garland of no. 23 VP. (see above) and they came to live at 24 VP.

1932 – 1960. William Porter (BD). Though he died in 1958, (buried 1st April at HTKW) aged 78, he was still listed in BD up to 1960!

Colin remembered: "Mr Porter walked with a cane. He had a moustache and sometimes wore a boater. He lived half way up the street by the sisters (Rose & Matilda) who painted their garden walls and washed their steps at 10 o'clock at night!" He evidently didn't realise that Mr Porter was married to Matilda.

1962. Matilda Porter, aged 82, 24 VP, buried 18 May 1962, HTKW

1970 – 1973. E.E. Shackleton. (BD)

No. 25 Victoria Park.

1901. Thomas Taylor, 46, shoemaker, born Marshfield, Emily, (nee Roberts, mar. 1877) wife, 44, shoemaker, b. St George.

1905 – 1938. (Edwin) Thomas Taylor (BD)

1911. Edwin Thomas Taylor, 56, bootmaker, home, Emily, wife, 54, married 33 years. They had no children, but they seem to have sub-let rooms to a variety of couples.

In 1914, Emily's niece Clementina Roberts married Arthur Percival J. Tucker and they were living at 25 VP when their daughter, Irene Violet, was born in April 1920 and bp. at Zion, 24 November 1920.

³⁷ WDP 27.10.1888

In 1922 Albert Samuel Rogers, boot pressman, and his wife Cissie Elizabeth were living there when their son Trevor Albert, born 19 Nov 1921, was bp. 17 May 1922, at HTKW.

1924 - 1927, James Albert Gregory, cigarette operator and his wife Lily gave 25 VP as their address when their sons James Albert (b.10 Aug.1922) and Jack, born 18 April 1924, both bp. 18 May 1924 at Zion. Their daughter Betty Margaret was also born there, bp 3 July 1927 at Zion. Lily, nee Pillinger, was my aunt, Dad's (Jack Pillinger's) elder sister and the children were 1st cousins to Colin and me. Sadly, Betty died of meningitis aged five. (I had no idea they had lived in VP before I started this research. FMI see Pillinger FT.

1929: Emily Taylor of 24 (should be 25) VP died aged 71. Buried 4 Jan.1929, HTKW.

1937. Edwin Thomas Taylor, died 27 April 1937, buried 1 May 1937, of VP (no number given) KW, aged 82, HTKW.

1939. Francis Louis Fudge born 1894 lived at 25 VP with his wife Hannah (nee Davis), b. 1900, and sons Ivor, born 1923 and David, bc1936. (After his marriage David lived at 74 VP.)

1947-1973. Frank Louis Fudge (BD)

Frank Fudge who was slightly built and dapper, usually wore a brown suit and a trilby hat to match. He started life as a butcher's boy, (1911) but was a machine driller by 1939.

Ivor his son of 25 VP, a tanner, married at HTKW 17 Mar.1951, Nancy Richardson, 23 of 4 Pillinger's Road, Kingswood.

No. 26 Victoria Park.

1901. Grantley Haskins, 29, shoemaker, home, wife Minnie, (nee Crew, mar. 1894) 29, boot machinist, both born at St George. Grantley Haskins is missing from 1891 census for Kingswood and may be the "G. Haskins" listed as a soldier at Chelsea Barracks. Ten years previously, aged 10, he lived at Two Mile Hill with his father Robert, a coalminer & mother, Ellen, plus many siblings and a granddaughter of Robert & Ellen, called Alice Angerson, aged 7. In 1911, he and Minnie were living at 247 Two Mile Hill. He died at 8 Boulton's Lane, (qv) in 1954.

1905. Isaac Rogers (BD). He came and went between censuses.

1906: Milburn Bowen married Lillie Fudge

1911. Milburn Bowen (formerly of 41 VP in 1901, qv.) 26, bootmaker, home, born Paulton, wife Lillie (nee Fudge, mar. 1906), 25, "married 5 yrs, 2 ch. Born", Frederick, 4, William, 1.

1915 - 1947 Matthew Hale (BD). He was born in 1873 and married Ada Hendy at St Michael's Two Mile Hill in 1896. Their children were (probably) Gilbert, tram conductor, who married Florence Dury. They were of 26 VP when their daughter Grace Mary, born 21st Oct.

was bp 16 Nov.1920 at Zion; Matthew who married Rosina Jones,1923 and Gladys who married Frederick Osborne in 1935.

1939. Matthew & Ada Hale, (parents); Frederick & Gladys Osborne lived 26 VP.

1950 - 1956, (BD): Matthew Hale & Frederick Osborne

1960 – 1973. Mrs G. Osborne (BD)

No. 27 Victoria Park.

1901. George Willmott, widower, 55, bootmaker, born Bitton (incorrectly shown by the census taker as “Haskins”, with son Sidney, 23, b, St George

1911. George Willmott, widower, 65, bootmaker, home, with son Sidney, single, 32, bootmaker.

1915. George Wilmott (BD)

1916. Helen Sarah Ann Hill, 23, boot machinist, daughter of Morley Gladstone Hill, clicker was of 27 VP when she married Ernest John Sims, 24, bootmaker of 20 VP. (*qv*) on 19 Oct.1916, at HTKW.

1918: Thomas John Sims, engineer, & Martha Elizabeth, his wife of 27 VP, when their daughter Betty, b. 29th June was bp 31 July 1918 at HTKW

1919. Thomas John Simons, (*sic*) a fitter of 27 Victoria Park, KW gave evidence when Alfred Milsom, 24, was charged with dangerously driving a motor cycle in Regent Street, KW, exceeding 25 mph. A girl was knocked down and treated at Cossham Hospital. Milsom fined £2 and licence endorsed.³⁸

1921. Thomas John Sims (BD). (moved to no. 28 VP)

1925. Miss Bertha Haskins (formerly of No. 22 VP.) (BD) Bertha died in 1937 aged 69

1932 -1956: Miss Phoebe Haskins (BD)

1939. Phoebe Haskins born 1 Oct.1881 of 27 VP, corset maker; she died in 1958 aged 76 but by then the house was occupied by Ivor Thomas Fisher, electrician and his wife Pearl Ivy, Their son Christopher, born 16th July was bp. 24 Aug 1947 at Zion.

1960 -1973. Arthur Wood (BD)

No. 28 Victoria Park.

³⁸ WDP 2.5.1919

1899. Sidney Chas Roach, painter/decorator & wife Louisa (nee Johnson, mar. 1895) of 28 VP, KW, when daughter Ethel was bp 28 Sept.1899, at Wesleyan Methodist Chapel.

1901. 28 Victoria Park. Sidney Roach, 27, painter/paper hanger, b. Trevithen, Monmouthshire, Louisa, wife, b. Bitton, Henry W, son, 4, Ethel L, dau, 1. They were still there, 1905 when Sidney Roach is named in the BD, but before 1909 they had moved to Two Mile Hill.

1909. Tom and Laura Sims, (nee Palmer, married 1905), had moved in with their son James, aged 3. Tom, the son of John Lambert Sims of no 20 VP, and Laura were of 28 VP when their daughter Gertrude Edith, born 8th Aug. was bp at Zion 30 Sept.1909. By 1911 the Sims family had moved to Mountain Ash, Glamorgan, where Tom worked as a carter, probably in the coalmines.

1911. Thomas Gage and his wife Mary (nee Mary Whitchurch, mar. 1897) were living at "Bath Buildings, Soundwell Road" un-numbered, when this notice appeared in 1900:

*"I, Thomas Gage will not be responsible for any debts contracted by any member of my family after this date."*³⁹

To whom does he refer? If he means his wife, surely he would have said so? His children were too young to contract debts! perhaps "family" refers to brothers/sisters? In 1901, he and Mary were at 2 Cross Street, (which was also known at the time as Victoria Park!) with children Ethel, 11, Alfred, 9 and Stanley aged one. In 1904, their address was again shown as "Bath Buildings" when their daughter Ivy Florence was bp 13 Nov.1904 at HTKW.

In 1911 the Gage family were living at 28 Victoria Park: Thomas Gage, 44, bootmaker at home, b. Bitton, Mary, wife, 46, corset maker, ("married 13 yrs, 3 ch. born, 2 still living"), Stanley, 11, scholar, Ivy, six. (I believe Ethel and Alfred to have been children of Thomas's first marriage and that there were three from his marriage to Mary, one of whom died.)

1915 – 1921. Thomas Gage (BD) (house part of estate of Daniel Flook)

1916: Stanley Gage, 16, of 28 Victoria Park, KW, arrested for theft of a bicycle worth £5 from outside the house of Henry S. Bottrill, Newbridge Rd, Bath. Gage alleged the bicycle had been stolen by a youth named Pillinger⁴⁰. *Gage's bike had a puncture and Pillinger stayed behind to mend it. He later caught up with Gage and was riding the stolen machine. He said "I've got this one, it's better than yours!" and Gage bought it from him for 12 shillings. Pillinger had left the old machine outside the house in exchange. After consultation with his father, Stanley Gage pleaded guilty to the lesser charge of receiving the bicycle knowing it to have been stolen. Gage senior had lived in KW for 20 years, and was of good character. The boy too was of previous good character. He was bound over in the sum of £5 plus surety of*

³⁹ WDP 1.10.1900

⁴⁰ Unfortunately no Christian name given for the otherwise unidentified Pillinger.

same amount. Pillinger, aged 15, was one of a gang of boys previously sentenced. It appeared that Gage had got into bad company. ⁴¹

1920, 5 April, Stanley Gage, 20, boot clicker, 28 VP, son of Thomas, married Nellie Davies, 19, a boot machinist, at HTKW

1925 – 1937. Thomas John Sims (BD) who had moved from no. 27 VP, see above)

1938. Arthur Silas Pressey (BD) His tenure was brief, as in 1939 the house was occupied by George Caple, born 1911, bricklayer, wife Eileen, son Brian, 4 and another child. The Caples likewise had departed by 1940 when Keith Michael, son of Jack Edward & Flossie Maud Iles, (nee Holliday) of 28 VP, dairyman, b. 5th Sept. was bp 27 Oct.1940 at HTKW. The next family to move in were the Dunns who were there by January 1944 when Christine Beryl, daughter of Thomas, “armed forces”, & Frances Muriel Dunn, (nee Innes, mar. Bedwelty 1933), 28 VP, was born and bp in March at HTKW. They also had Raymond, born in 1934, and David in 1935, who died shortly after birth. I remember Raymond and Colin remembered Christine.

Thomas Frederick Dunn appears in BD 1947-1950. They emigrated to Australia as “Ten-Pound Poms” and the house was taken over by their friends, the Penns, Thomas and Hilda, who had been Godparents to Christine.

Thomas Penn married Hilda Spurdens, Tadcaster, Yorkshire, 1922. He is listed in Bristol Directory 1956.

In 1960, Robert Thomson is listed in Bristol Directory. He was of mixed race, which caused a stir in itself, but it was subsequently decided that “he wasn’t too bad”.

1964 -1973. Gladys L. Kinver (BD)

No. 29 Victoria Park

1901. William Roberts, 30, boot cutter, Emily, wife, 37, (nee Wiltshire, mar. 1890), daughters Beatrice, 9 & Elsie, seven.

September 1901: “Wanted, boy, just left school, to lead blind man, a few hours daily. Good wages to honest lad, 29 Victoria Park, Kingswood.” ⁴²

By 1911, the house had changed hands and was occupied by William Rooke, 34, clicker, boot trade, b. Mounthill, his wife Sarah Matilda, (nee Chandler, mar. Blackburn, 1905), 31, b. Leicester, mar. 5 years, 2 ch born, 2 living, only one, William Henry, 2, named.

1915. House Empty (BD) but by 1921 was among various dwellings in Victoria Park and Two Mile Hill advertised for auction. Lots 29-33, known as 29-30 Victoria Park, 4 dwelling houses with a workshop at no. 31, let to Messrs Sealey, Baldwin, Manning & Haskins. ⁴³

⁴¹ WDP 16.9.1916

⁴² WDP 25.9.1901

1921 - 1938. Thomas Sealey (BD)

1911, Orchard Rd, KW: Tom Sealey, 42, married 23 years, boot finisher, wife Sara Alice, (nee Bateman, mar. 1887) 42, 8 ch. born, 7 living: William, 21, Herbert, 17, gardener, Ralph, 15, pressman, Harold, 11, Albert, 9, (Percy) Jack, 6, & Gilbert, one.

1932. Gilbert Cyril Sealey, 23, engineer, 29 VP, married Ellen Bird, 24, corset maker.

16.12. 1933. Percy Jack Sealey, 29, chauffeur, 29 VP, married Lilian Vera Hinton, 23, metal worker, HTKW.

1947 -1973. Bristol Directory: Gilbert Sealey

No. 30 Victoria Park.

1901: James Hendy, 51, plasterer & tiler, b. Mangotsfield, Maud Mary (nee Davis, mar. 1874), wife, 50, b. Bitton, children Maud, 20, shoemaker, Mabel, 18, boot machinist, Henry, 15, boot sizer, Eva, 13, & Agnes, 10, both scholars.

Maud Hendy died aged 60 in 1910. James had moved to London Street by 1911 but moved back to Victoria Park by 1915 (no. 30) to live with his daughter Eva (full name: Eva Jubilee Victoria, named for Queen Victoria's Golden Jubilee of 1887) by then Mrs Brewer.

On 25 June 1905, Mary Clements nee Nott, died at 30 Victoria Park. She was born at 10 Lyppiatt Lane in 1862. In the census of 1891 she was at Seneca Street and in 1901 near the Old School, Kingswood with her husband George Henry, a boot factory foreman. They had moved to Victoria Park c1905 when George Clements shown **as the householder**:

1909 survey: GA/D2428/1/64/1 – Hereditament Number 249; *Place*: Kingswood - North Ward.

Income tax parish: Hanham: *Person(s) served with valuation*: owners; *Occupied by*: Clements, George (M); *Owned by*: Flook, Ernest (M)

Property: Description: house & garden

Address: 30, Victoria Park

Size: 161 yards

Gross Value	Site Value	Difference	Tithe	Agricultural Value
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£116	£35			
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Buildings	Timber	Fruit	Taxable Value
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£81			£35
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Poor Rate

Number	Size	Gross Value	Rateable Value
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£9	£7		
	10s.		

⁴³ WDP 1.4.1922

Comments: owner 're Smith & Flook' .



George Henry Clements is the old man on the left at the wedding of his daughter Dolly Clements (by his second wife Emma Passmore) to Fred Hatton at HTKW in 1930.

By then George was living at Worcester Road and was there at the time of his death.

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By 1911 John Baldwin, widely pronounced as “Jack Bollin” by Dad and other inhabitants of the Park had moved into no. 30 VP. John Baldwin, 32, bootmaker, b. Kingswood, Mary Ann, wife, (nee Matthews, mar. 1906) 32, 4 ch. born alive, 2 still living, James Richard, 3 & William Wilfred, 2 months.

The two dead children are included on the census form with their names, poignantly crossed out. Daisy, aged 4 & John aged 2. John (Jack) Baldwin, born in 1879, the son of James, “coalminer’s labourer, underground” and his wife Elizabeth lived in Moravian Road, 1901, with an adopted brother Gilbert and a sister, Sarah Ann Peters. Sarah Ann’s husband John Peters was away in 1901 but by 1911, he had returned, presumably from Monmouth, his birthplace, to Sarah and their 9 children, at Moravian Road

1915 – 1960. John Baldwin (BD)

1922. Edwin, known as Ted, youngest son of Jack and Mary Ann was born.

1929. James Richard, (Jim) married Edith “Annie” Smart, who lived at no. 42 VP. They were living at 30 VP when their daughter Betty, and son Harold James, were bp at Zion, on 25 May.1930 and 25 June.1936 respectively. Harold was a particular friend of ours. His exploits and those of the wider Baldwin family are fully chronicled in my “Memoirs”.

⁴⁴ Information from Jane Clements, widow of Ron Clements, Mary’s grandson. jcolleclem@gmail.com

In 1928: *“Kingswood Man Pleads an Alibi. John Baldwin of 30 Victoria Park summoned at Staple Hill Police Station for stealing a quantity of apples, value 15 shillings, the property of Alfred Henry Lucker, market gardener of Upton Cheyney. Lucker told the court he went into his fruit plantation where he saw the defendant and another man putting apples into a sack. Asked what they were doing defendant said “picking up a few apples.” Baldwin and his friend then picked up their sack which contained about 90lbs of apples and went. Lucker followed them until the second man threatened him. Next day he identified Baldwin at his home. Mr H.A. Coles, an employee of Mr Lucker, identified Baldwin as a man who had previously been at the plantation. The defendant totally denied being anywhere near the place. The magistrate adjourned the case for 7 days for enquiries.”*⁴⁵

Presumably the enquiries came to nought and the case was quietly dropped. Can you imagine such a trivial matter being reported today?

Jack Bollin’s younger son Ted married Alice Harvey in 1947 and they moved in with Jack, by then a widower. Their children were Carol, Michael, Philip and Yvonne. They departed after a hue and cry when the children were believed kidnapped – but fortunately found safely playing in an abandoned car. They had departed by 1957 – another tale from my “Memoirs” and Jack had other lodgers by 1960 when Mary and Frederick Powell were recorded at 30 VP when their son David Gordon was bp 24th April that year at HTKW.

1967. John Baldwin died aged 87; 1970-1972, Eva Baker was at no. 30 VP. (BD)

No. 31 Victoria Park.

1901 (from “Hill Street, Oldland” i.e. KW Hill, 1891): Samuel Rogers, 47, coalminer, b. Bitton, Mary Ann, (nee Pillinger, mar. 1874)⁴⁶, 47, wife, b.KW, two sons and six daughters, Ernest, 22, Mary Ann, 18, Florrie, 16, Alice, 13, Emily, 11, Ellen, 8, Mary, 5 and Samuel, 10.

William “Bill” Mannings, born Wick, was living at 2 Crofts End when he joined the Gloucestershire Regiment on 8 Feb.1900. He was aged 17 years & 10 months, 5 feet 3 inches tall with a fresh complexion, grey eyes and brown hair. He was staying with his brother George at Court Road when the 1901 census was taken, prior to embarking for South Africa on 13 April where he served until 17 July that year. He was awarded the South African Medal. Strangely neither Colin nor I ever heard this army service mentioned.

William Mannings married Eliza Ann Rawbones in 1902 and they moved into 31 VP before 1911: William Mannings, 29, Eliza, wife, and their children Raymond Wilfred 7, scholar, Amy, 6, and Eliza, “Elsie”, 4, plus a lodger, Laura Sawrfield, an ironer.

1915 – 1934. William Mannings; 1935-1947: “Coal delivery” – (in what were known as “hand trucks in Kingswood?)"1947-1956. (BD)

⁴⁵ WDP 19.10.1928

⁴⁶ One of Dad’s many cousins; daughter of Alfred

His son, Wilfred Manning, (*sic*), 21, chocolate worker, 31 VP, married Elsie May Chapell, 25, preserve maker, at HTKW on 8 Nov.1924. In 1927, still living at 31 VP, he gave evidence in a motoring case. A motor cyclist with the similar name of William Mann of Winterbourne *knocked down an old man called Britton, rendering him unconscious. Wilf Manning said he was proceeding along Downend Road on his own machine when he was startled by the sounding of a horn and then passed by another motor cyclist with a pillion rider, "in a flash, travelling at least 30 mph".* The bench gave Mann the benefit of the doubt.⁴⁷

1955. Bill Mannings, died aged 73, buried 11 March 1955 at HTKW. Irene, his granddaughter, the daughter of Amy and Percy Bracey, by then married Roy Cordy was at 31 VP when their son Stephen, was bp 23 Sept.1956 at HTKW.

1960 -1973. Mrs E. Mannings (BD). Eliza Mannings died in 1976 aged 93 in an "Old Folks Home". Elsie, her daughter, my godmother, married to Reg Wooff , said that they had confiscated all the numerous pills and potions she had taken throughout her life. Whether this hastened her end, it is difficult to prove one way or the other.

No. 32 Victoria Park.

1891, identified as no. 326 on schedule, (no house numbers), "Victoria Park, Mangotsfield". Frederick Davis, 53, widower, bootmaker, b. Bitton, Grantley, son, 26, bootmaker, Annie, dau, 13, school, b. St George. (For more on Grantley Davis see "Football Crazy" - Alsop Road.)

1901, 32 Victoria Park, Civil Parish, KW, Holy Trinity, Mangotsfield Ward. Fred Davis's son-in-law Edmund Denning (mar. Sarah Ann Davis, 1897) 30, boot clicker, b. KW, Annie, (*sic*) wife, 24, ch. Polly, 2, Amy, 1, and a new-born, Louis. Frederick Davis, father-in-law, widower, 63, shoemaker, home, b. KW, Josephine, step-daughter, 7, b. KW

(These Dennings were, I believe, relatives of Tessie Denning who lived in Worcester Road, was of Kingswood Grammar School, and went to the Congregational Chapel with us.)

⁴⁷ WDP 15.7.1927



1902: "A Kingswood Leather Transaction". Fred Davis was charged with receiving six pairs of boot soles from a small boy, Gilbert Poole, knowing them to have been stolen from Messrs House & House of Kingswood. Sarah Ann Denning, the defendant's daughter said she was there during the transaction and that the soles were not worth the 2 shillings Davis paid for them and he had been reluctant to buy them. Poole said he had found them on a handcart and it was stated that in Kingswood it was the custom for shoemakers to buy leftover stuff. Young Poole was sent to Kingswood Reformatory School for 3 years. Davis was discharged by the Chairman who reprimanded him for acting imprudently and said if there were no receivers there would be no thieves.⁴⁸

By 1911, Samuel Haskins, aged 33, (son of Isaac of no. 22 VP), also a bootmaker had moved in with his wife Rose (nee Newman, mar. 1906), 32, and children Ruby, 3 and Clifford, 4 months old. Another son, named Ronald Belgium, (to commemorate the Great War) was born 6 March 1915 and bp. at Zion exactly 2 months later. A daughter Peggy Barbara followed, in April 1920, bp Zion 15 June 1920.

1915 - 1921. Samuel Haskins (BD). He died aged 43 in 1922. 1925 – 1960. Mrs Rose Haskins (BD)

In 1931, Clifford Haskins, 20, was "in collision with a lorry whilst riding a motor-cycle at St Andrews" and taken to hospital with a fractured left thigh.⁴⁹

In 1942 Ronald Haskins married Mabel Gay. He died "of consumption" otherwise TB in 1948, aged 33.

⁴⁸ WDP 21.11.1902

⁴⁹ Ibid. 31.8.1931

Rose Haskins died in 1962 aged 91. I cannot imagine anyone less like a Rose. She was always very sniffy with me and said I was “Ikey” (High Key?) = stuck up.

1964 – 1973. Clifford Haskins (BD). The Bristol Directory’s function was taken over by Telephone Directories after this date and it appeared no more. Cliff, born in 1911, of course continued, until February 1994 when he “collapsed in the precinct” which was an end that Mum herself dreaded. He never married. Perhaps Mrs Haskins should have worried about him rather than me. (see “Memoirs for more Haskins gems.”)



Earth Privy, bottom of garden, no. 32. (photo taken by me in 1995)

When the house was being “guttled” I happened to be at no 33 visiting Mum and I asked the builders if I could have a look. The only photo of the interior I managed to get was the fire grate in one of the bedrooms, but the outside privy at the end of the back, and the air raid shelter were still intact. What a bit of luck. The people who bought the place from the builder were “very rough” and stayed only briefly having had a bust-up and a fight in the

street to which the police were called. The next lot didn’t stay long either.



The current occupant is “Mr Barker, Pet Services”. His van was outside when I was mooching about there in 2013. His parking problems must be unbelievable.

No. 33, Victoria Park, our stately home.

1891 census, no. 346 on schedule (no house numbers), Victoria Park, Mangotsfield: Aaron Williams, 35, shoemaker, born Clutton, Sarah, (nee Maggs, married 1887, Barton Regis) wife, 31, b. Timsbury and their only child, Edith Drusilla, aged three, whose romantic name, (rather better than mine, Doreen!) suggests that Mrs Williams was a reader of historical fiction if not Gibbon's "Rise & Fall..." The family remained unchanged in 1901 and 1911, by which time Edith Drusilla was 22, and a dressmaker.

1915 – 1936. Aaron Williams, (BD)

1927, re-enter the Gage family (no. 51 & no. 28), presumably as Aaron Williams' lodgers. Alfred Gage was a son of Thomas Gage of no. 28 VP. He married Kathleen Freckum (1916) who was born 1898, the daughter of August Freckum, a German spelterman and his English wife Jane who lived at St Philip & St Jacobs, Bristol (1901). Alfred Gage lived at 15 Cromwell Rd, St George, 1911 as a boarder with his sister Sarah Lavinia Brain, nee Gage. (see no. 51.) In 1927, when Jean Kathleen, daughter of Alfred Henry & Kathleen Gage of 33 VP, bootmaker, was born in November 1927 and bp 8 Jan.1928 at HTKW.

In 1933 *"an inquest was held on Alfred Gage, 41, of Victoria Park, Kingswood, found dead in bed in the early hours of Monday 24 July by his wife. Verdict: Natural causes."*⁵⁰ He was buried three days later at HTKW.

Mum always said the previous occupant was a "Mrs Gage". In the 1937 Bristol Directory, No. 33 is shown as "unoccupied". My parents rented the house from the Misses Gerrish just



before I was born in June 1937. Mum refused to take it on unless a flush toilet was installed – it was, but was still outside and there was no Bathroom until good old Harold Wilson brought in grants umpteen years later. Electricity was put in as well, instead of gas lighting, but only downstairs. For many years we went to bed in the dark or with a candle! Frightening.

Then in 1937, Doreen Patricia, (ME!) daughter of Alfred & Florence Pillinger, 33 VP, gas worker, b. 13th June and bp. 18 July 1937, at HTKW. Godparents: Alice Butland, Frederick Butland, Elsie Wooff. ("Auntie Alice" had worked with Mum at G.B. Britton's; Elise lived across the road as previously noted.

And in 1943. Colin came on the scene. Colin Trevor

⁵⁰ WDP 26.7.1933.

Pillinger, son of Alfred & Florence, 33 VP. Gas worker, born 9th May 1943 and bp 31st ...1943 (date obscured by blot) at Zion. His Godmother was Joyce Comley, our first cousin.

Famously Colin's 2nd birthday took place on 9 May 1945, the day of the Victoria Park Street V.E. Party. He stood on the table and everybody sang "Happy Birthday". His taste for the limelight never left him!

1938- 1973. Alfred Pillinger (BD)

Mum stayed there after Dad's death, very bravely by herself, but after two burglaries, the second of which the perpetrator came in through the back in broad daylight, allegedly "looking for a kitten". He snatched her pension money which was on the table, it having just been collected by her home help. After that, she lived with us until her death. We took with us the cast iron foot scrapers which were once clamped outside the doors of all the houses. I have one and Colin had the one from no. 34.



"Our House" is thankfully much the same (2018) but what were the new occupants of no. 34 thinking of?

No. 34 Victoria Park. In this house, next door to us lived "Mrs Mary" [Britton], a gentle soul, a castaway in a raging sea. I was attracted to her because like me, she never really fitted in. An orphanage girl, she confided a few tiny details of her sad early life from which much later I was able to research her life story and wrote "A Victorian Girl". It was perhaps the most exciting project I have ever done, but sadly she had passed away before I knew that "ordinary people" had a history, and she never knew about her own past and her surprising ancestors. Riches to Rags in two generations! Among other "travels in time" Mary's life took me to British India during the Raj, and included a walk on part for Tipu Sultan, he od the notorious "Tiger".

But in 1891, "it appears as Victoria Park, Mangotsfield" The census that year has Henry Norman, married, 28, rough stuff cutter, b. Mangotsfield, Mary A. wife, 30, boot machinist, b. Pontypool, ch. Oliver, 10, Ellen, 8, Blanche, 3, Gertrude, 1 mth. In 1901, the Norman family was in the same house, with two additions, daughters Alice, 7, and Miriam, 4.

By 1911, Samuel Britton, 41, bootmaker, b. Bitton was the householder his wife Rose, 28, his son Clifford, 17, "upper clicker", (boot trade) and his mother, Priscilla, aged 82, a widow, born St George.

(Priscilla Harris, a cotton reeler, married Thomas Britton, a coalminer, 21, in 1849. By 1851, they lived at Footshill, Hanham, with their son John, aged one. By 1871, they had ten children, including Samuel, then aged three. He married his first wife, Mary Brain in 1890 and by 1901, Samuel, Mary and Clifford, aged seven, lived at Potterswood. Mary died during the next decade, and Sam married his second wife, Rose Grivell in 1910. Rose was the sister of Mary Ann (Polly) Grivell, shortly to become the wife of Henry Drinkwater (no.35 VP)



Sam and Rose had two sons, Herbert in 1911, and Reginald, 1923. Sam's widowed mother Priscilla Britton died in 1913 "aged 80" and Rose, his wife died in 1924, aged only 41.

1915 - 1950, Samuel Britton (BD)

Reg Britton, son of Samuel, – Royal Navy, WW2, left.

Sam Britton, widowed for the second time took in various lodgers:

1928 – 1929, the children of Walter Wolland, a "grist miller" (one of the extended Wolland clan of 13 Zion Place, etc) & his wife Dorothy (nee Hendy) were of 34 VP when their children Leslie, (18 Sept.1928), and Gwyneth Joyce, (1 Jan.1929, were bp. at HTKW.

1931 - 1933. Cecil, a butcher's asst. & Ethel Christine Lavis, were then lodgers at 34 VP when their sons Jack, 15 Aug.1931, and Terence, 27 Sep.1933 were born. Both bp at HTKW. They had left 34 VP for 383 Two Mile Hill by April 1936 when their next son Ronald James was born. See Boulton's Lane.

Samuel Britton married his third wife Mary Leighton, "The Victorian Girl" in 1939.



Mary, with Pam Britton, Reg's daughter. (Mary's jumper was hand-made after my Mum had taught her to knit. Pam's garment was then fashionable, called "a duster coat", usually made of sail cloth. Nicely brought up Young ladies wore summer gloves!)

1956 -1973: Mrs M.A. Britton, (BD)

After "Mrs Mary" died, a retired couple lived there, who did not stay long, and after them, June and Ray, surname unknown. June sadly died a few years later and Ray moved on. All I recall about him is that I used to pick the prolific red currants which in late summer hung like jewels on the shrubs at the bottom of his garden. "Help yourself. Can't stand the things!" he said. The current occupants who "improved" the windows are unknown, but deserve to be placed in the stocks.

No. 35 Victoria Park.

190: Isaac Rogers, 34, boot and shoe maker, b. Bristol, Kate, (nee Millard, mar. 1889), wife, 36, and their children Minnie, 10, Edmund, 7, and Dora, aged two. The latter was bp 1 June, 1899, and on 25 June 1903, a newcomer, George, was bp also at Zion.

1904. Ernest & Laura Parker were living there when their daughter, Beatrice Winifred, was bp 30 Nov.1904, at the Primitive Methodist (Bourne Chapel) KW. (They were living at Alsop Rd by 1922)

1911: Frederick Williams, 40, bootmaker, Annie, (nee Bradshaw, born Leicester, mar. 1889) wife, 42, (married 21 years, 8 children born alive, 7 now living); those still at home: John, 17, Kate, 17, Annie, 15, Ella, 12, Hilda, 10, Gladys, 7.

1912: Another daughter, Gertrude Kate, was born 24 Mar.1893, but not baptised until 11 December 1912 at HTKW.

1915. Bristol Directory names Frederick Charles Williams though he had moved to 17 Alsop Road by this time. "Mrs Mary Ann Drinkwater, general shop" is also listed for No. 35. She was the former Mary Ann Grivell, (always called Polly) sister of Rose Britton, of no 34. She married Harry Drinkwater in 1912.

Back in 1894, there was an inquest at the Black Horse on a little boy called William Harold Hocken, aged 3. A girl, May Grivell gave evidence that she had put the child to bed as usual at 7.30 pm. on the night in question and coming downstairs the next morning said "'I can't find Willie'" and "going into the shop, exclaimed 'The house is on fire!'" The boy's father, Joshua, a twenty four year old Cornishman, believed his son had "come downstairs, and playing with the fire, ignited the tablecloth which set his nightdress alight." The garment was completely burnt off and the boy was terribly burnt from head to foot. He was found in the pantry where he had crawled. Dr Clarke was sent for and dressed the boy's wounds, but it was too late, and the child died the same evening.⁵¹

This sort of tragedy is all too familiar in the annals, children left at home unattended or looked after by older children. In this case, May Grivell was herself only *nine years old*. She would have no part in this tale of Victoria Park, except for the fact that she was the elder sister of Polly Grivell. They were among the many children of Elias Grivell, a general haulier and his wife Fanny, of Hanham Road; May was born in 1886 and Polly, in 1892.

1925 – 1960, Harry Drinkwater, (BD).

Vera Rose, the only child of Henry & Mary Ann Drinkwater, 35 VP, boot operative, b 21nd Feb. was bp. the following 9 April 1919, at HTKW. In 1936, Vera married Cecil T. Garland and they were living at no. 35 when their son "Barry Painswick Garland", was born 3 May 1937, followed by Ann Yvonne on 9 May 1938. (I was taken aback that her birthday was the same as Colin's – and rather surprised that she didn't share the V.E. Day Limelight with him). Both children were bp. at Zion. A third child, Douglas Henry was born in 1941.

Harry Drinkwater died in 1956 aged 67. Bristol Directory, 1964, names Mrs M. Drinkwater and 1970 – 1973: Miss Elizabeth Flower.

No. 36. Victoria Park

1891. (no. 319 census schedule, no house numbers, as Victoria Park, Mangotsfield.)

Edmund Brain, 49, shoemaker, b. St George, Mary, wife, 51, children: Rosina, 23, upper machinist, Frank, shoemaker, James, 17, clicker, George, 14, shoemaker, Dora, 10, scholar.

⁵¹ WDP 9.11.1894

In 1895, Rosina Brain married Robert George Lear and by 1901 Robert Lear was the householder: aged 29, chemical works labourer, b. St George, Rosina, wife, 33, Edmund Brain, father-in-law, widower, 58, George Brain, brother-in-law, single, 24, occupation "leather skiving. By 1911, the Lears had moved to Soundwell Road, and the householder was Samuel Flew formerly of "1 Boulton Road", 1901.

1911, Samuel Flew, 56, collier, born Bitton, wife Mary (nee Gage, married 1879) 57, (married 32 years, 6 children born alive, 4 still living): at home: George Henry, 31, married, bootmaker, Ellen, 26, married, Albert, 24, house decorator, Alice, 20, corset maker.

In 1908, Alice Flew of 36 VP wrote to the Western Daily Press with a passionate plea to home owners to provide provisions for pets to save them from starvation if the house was left empty, or during holiday periods not to turn them out into streets to fend for themselves.⁵² On 20 Dec. 1914, then aged 24, she married Gilbert Herbert Britton, 24, clerk, of Totterdown at HTKW.

1915 - 1921. Samuel Flew (BD)

1925. Albert Flew, 38, decorator, 36 VP, son of Samuel, miner married Nellie Elizabeth Mackay, 37, 94 Regent St., daughter of Joseph, dec'd, engineer, 3 Aug.1925 at HTKW.

1925 - 1956: George Flew (BD), who was there in our time.

1930. Arthur Edward Flew, 26, coalminer, 36 VP, son George Henry, bootmaker married Elizabeth Alice Beese of 4 Victoria Road, KW, 7 Jun.1930 HTKW. (Confusingly Victoria Rd is near Holly Hill.) Their son, Arthur John, bp. 20 Jul. 1932, at Zion. Ann May, their daughter, 4 Victoria Road, bp 25 Sep. 1935, HTKW. Godparents Phyllis Flew & Lily Dyer.

1934. Ernest Albert Flew, 22, bootmaker, 36, VP, son of George Henry Flew, bootmaker married Rosina Phyllis Crew of Siston Way, 30 June 1934, HTKW. They still lived at 36 VP when their son William Terence was born, Christmas Day 1935, and bp 23 Jan. 1936, HTKW. Colin their son, of 36 VP, was born 9 June 1937, and bp 18th July, also at HTKW.

1952. John Claude Hopkins married Marjorie Flew, born 1920, daughter of George Henry & Lilian.

1960 - 73. Claude J. Hopkins (*sic*), BD.

I knew him as "John" and some people even called him "John Flew". I remember that they invited an orthopaedic bed salesman into their home, who became threatening, trying to bully them into signing papers. A distraught Margie came round our house and Dad went up there "and saw him off," probably one of the (many) occasions when he "cussed flashes".

1999. John Hopkins died aged 79 and Marjorie in 2001 aged 81.

⁵² WDP 25.7.1908

No. 37 Victoria Park.

1891, Victoria Park Mangotsfield, 318 on schedule: William Bright, 54, (b.1837), coalminer, b. St George, Ann, wife, 52, children: Sidney, 25, shoemaker, b. Garndiffaith, S. Wales, Mary J, 22, and Lizzie, 19, boot machinists, b. St George, Jenny Bright, niece, 8, b. S. Wales.

Elizabeth Bright married Albert Willis, 1895 and in 1901: William Bright, 62, coalminer, b. Kingswood, Ann, wife, 61; Elizabeth Willis, dau, 29, boot machinist, home, Albert Willis, son in law, 30, boiler maker, b. KW, their ch. Beatrice, 2, & Ethel Willis, 8 months.

1903. *"Death of Kingswood Miner". Inquest held on body of William Bright, 62, of 37 Victoria Park who died suddenly on the 21st inst. Mrs Ann Bright told the inquest that he came in at 6.30 am. after a shift, and said he felt unwell. He went to bed and she gave him a cup of tea. She later took him some breakfast but he did not eat any. At one o'clock she found him dead in bed. He had suffered rupture for some time, but had been regular at his work until recently when he had missed several turns. Doctor Campbell who examined the body said he was well nourished, but his heart was fat. He also showed signs of Bright's disease. Verdict heart failure owing to the Bright's disease.⁵³ (an apt complaint!) (NB. William Bright appears in my book "Killed in a Coalpit".*

Ann Bright died in 1905. In 1911, Albert & Lizzie Willis were living in Kimberley Road.

1911. Alexander Payne, 30, bootmaker, at home, b. KW, wife Clara, (see Watts, married 1903) 31, married 7 years, no children.

Alexander Bruce Payne, was a son of Somerset born Henry Down Payne and his wife Emma from Kilmington, Devon who led an itinerant life until 1881, when they settled down at Two Mile Hill with their children Clara, 7, born Bristol, Henry, 5, born Beer, Devon, Lionel, 4, Burton, Wilts; Daisy, 3, and Albion, 2, at Ilsley, Bedfordshire and "Alec", born in Bristol in 1880. After Alec came four more children.

1915 – 1960: Alexander Payne (BD)

This couple kept to themselves and we knew very little about them. Mrs Payne used to wear an old fashioned floral mob-cap covering her hair. For an unknown reason, Alec was called "Sooty" by the Drinkwaters. His niece moved in when Colin was a student, but I don't remember her.

Clara Payne of VP, aged 74, was buried 11 Jul.1952, and Alexander Bruce Payne, aged 82, of 37 VP, buried 21 Jan.1963, both at HTKW.

Michael Knight, a compositor and his wife Elizabeth were at no 37 when their son Mark Rodney, bp 23 Jun.1963; another son, Paul Christopher, bp 4.April 1965, both at HTKW.

⁵³ WDP 24.1.1903. He also gave evidence on death of a miner called Kinsey. (See also "KIACP", D.P. Lindegaard)

The Park never swarmed with children, but they were even fewer by this time. There were still plenty of infants being christened at HTKW, but they mostly came from families of one and two in number, who lived in the many new roads with gentrified names like “Wychwood”.

1964. Michael Reuben Knight (BD); 1970 - 73, Ronald H. Hill (BD)

No. 38 Victoria Park.

1901. George Flook, 44, brickyard labourer, b. Stapleton, Emily, wife, 45, laundress, own account, at home, b. Pucklechurch

1911. occupying two rooms: Miss Alice M. Flook, single, 20, laundress.

George Davis married Elizabeth A. Haggett, of no. 45 VP in 1913 and they moved into no. 38 which seems to have been conveniently empty, having previously (in 1911) housed Alice Flook, a young washerwoman, aged 20, living alone in two rooms. Elizabeth Haggett, known as “Lizzie”, was born in 1893.

1915 – 1956. George Davis (BD).

1918. Sidney Haggett, 21, Private, Glos. Regt., 38 VP, son of Jacob Haggett, labourer, married Lilian Mary Buck, 19, cigarette packer, of 17 VP, daughter of James Buck, haulier at HTKW 16 June 1918. Sidney was living with his sister Lizzie Davis following the death of their father. Pte Haggett, 30463, survived the war and received his medals, 31 Dec.1920.⁵⁴

1960. Mrs E. Davis & Mrs A. Sealey (BD). (otherwise the Haggett sisters, Lizzie & Alice.)

1964. Mrs E. Davis; (BD) ;1970 Gilbert Powell (BD); 1973, Alan White (BD)

No. 39 Victoria Park.

By 1901, the Powell family had moved from Field Place, Two Mile Hill. George Powell, 38, packer, boot factory, b. Mangotsfield, Kate, wife, 38; children: Stephen, 15, stock keeper, boot factory, Alice, 12, Charles, 9, Willie, 7, all scholars, Alec, 3, & Edith, 4 mths.

The Powell’s tenure was brief. On 14 Feb.1904, 39 VP was the address of Arthur Edward, son of George & Lilian May Flew, VP, bootmaker. He was followed Myrtle Lilian, in 1909, both bp at HTKW.

1911: George Flew, 31, bootmaker, born Warmley Tower, Lillie, 31, (nee Lilian May Summerill, mar.1903) wife, ch: Arthur, son, 7, Myrtle, dau, 2. Another son, Ernest Albert, was b. 17 Nov.1911, and bp 1 Feb.1912, HTKW

⁵⁴ WO 372/8/192881

George Flew was entered twice on the 1911 census, both at his father's house, no. 36 VP and at his own dwelling, no. 39. He had moved back to no. 36 by 1932.

1915. George Flew (BD); 1921- 1937. Ernest Davis (BD); 1938 – 1956. Albert Sealey (BD)

1960 - 1964. Ernest Powel, & 1970 -1973, Ada White (BD)

No 40 Victoria Park.

Two households are listed for this address in 1901. NB, one for Two Mile Hill & one for Mangotsfield. I think the first one shown here was on the other side of the road.

1. 40 Victoria Park Two Mile Hill, parish of St Michael:

Francis Chivers, 31, shoemaker, b. Milton, Somerset, Mary, wife, 34, ditto, Walter F., son, 6. (By 1911 they had gone to Paulton where Francis was working as a colliery labourer.)

2. 1891: No. 297 on schedule: Victoria Park, Mangotsfield. (This is clearly the house that we knew as No. 40 – as Eveline, the daughter of George Davis married Sam Darke and they lived there during our time.)

1883: Joseph William Davis and Caroline Palmer were married. Their daughter Eveline Susan "of VP" born 12 Jul.1890, bp 1 Apr 1909, HTKW.

1891. Joseph W Davis, 28, bootmaker, b. Bedminster, Caroline, wife, 28, b. Over Stowey, Som, children: Alice, 7, Arthur, 6, Harold, 3, Eveline, one.

1901: 40 Victoria Park, parish of Mangotsfield: Joseph W. Davis, 38, bootmaker own a/c, b. Bristol, Caroline, wife, 38, b. Bridgwater, children: Alice C, 17, boot machinist, Arthur J, bootmaker, Harold P, 13, bootmaker, Eveline S, 11, Ernest S. 8, Herbert H, 7, all scholars.

1905 - 1921. Joseph William Davis, General shop. (BD)

1911. Joseph William Davis, 48, bootmaker, own account, Caroline, 48, wife, b. Over Stowey, "married 28 years, 6 ch born, 6 alive", Alice Caroline, 27, boot machinist, Arthur Joseph, 25, bootmaker, Evelyn Susan, 21, domestic duties, Ernest Sainsbury, 18, apprentice pattern maker, Herbert Henry, 17, ditto.

1911. Cynthia, daughter of Harold Palmer & Ellen Davis, VP, bootmaker, bp HTKW 27 May 1912. (for young Cynthia Davis as bridesmaid, see below.)

1918. Alice Caroline Davis, 33, 40 Victoria Park, daughter of Joseph William Davis, bootmaker, married Frederick Poole, 29, 2nd Lieutenant, Yorkshire Regiment, also of 40 VP, son of William, Police Pensioner, 25 April 1918, HTKW.

1921. Marriage announcement. "At Holy Trinity, Kingswood, Samuel Bridgeman Darke, eldest son of Mr S. Darke of South Road, Kingswood and Miss Evelyn Davis of Victoria Park

*Kingswood. Canon Dandy officiated. The bride was accompanied by Miss Mary Darke, sister of the groom, and Miss Cynthia Davis, niece of the bride. Mr Fred Darke, brother of the groom was best man. The bridegroom is a commercial traveller with Messrs Jay Brothers, Boot Manufacturers of Kingswood. The honeymoon is at Torquay.*⁵⁵

1921. Obituary. *“Joseph William Davis, 58, beloved husband of Caroline of 40 Victoria Park, Kingswood, funeral at Wesleyan Chapel.”*⁵⁶

1925. Mrs Caroline Davis (BD)

1932 – 1938. (2 households): Mrs Caroline Davis & Samuel B. Darke (BD)

1947 – 1960. Samuel B. Darke (BD); 1964 – 1973. Eveline S. Darke (BD)

Colin said: “I often ran errands for Mrs Darke, who always gave me twopence no matter how far I had to go.”

The house now is very much “done up” with lattice windows, who do they think they are kidding? Painted white and much obscured by trees.⁵⁷

No. 41 Victoria Park.

1901: 2 households listed for this address:

1. 41 Victoria Park, Two Mile Hill, parish of St Michael: Charles Bowen, 41, bootmaker, b. New Radnor, Susan, wife, 41, b. Paulton; children Mary, 17, Milborne, 16, Stanley, 12, Evan, 10 and Edward, 7, all b. Paulton.

2. 41 Victoria Park, Mangotsfield. 288 on schedule, James Williams, 32, boot finisher, b. Monmouthshire, Mary, wife, 30, b. Glam. children: Richard, 4, b. KW, Florence, 10 mths.KW.

1909. Elizabeth, dau of James & Mary Williams, VP, bootmaker, b. 4.9.1888, bp 1.4.1909(!)
HTKW

1911, 41 Victoria Park: James Williams, widower, 42, boot finisher, home, b. Aberyschan, Mon, children: Richard J, 14, Elizabeth, 12, b. Merthyr Tydfil, Arthur, son, 8, b. KW, Edith, 3, b. Aberyschan; with Emily, sister, 46, cook, domestic, 46, b. Aberyschan.

Also listed for 41 Victoria Park, 1911: George Counsell, 30, bootmaker, rounder, Eliza Ann, wife, (nee Headington, mar. 1901) b. Ebbw Vale, married 9 years.

⁵⁵ WDP 29.3.1921

⁵⁶ Ibid 8.9.1921

⁵⁷ If you put in “40 Victoria Park” into Google, you can do a street scan of the Park.

1913. Frederick Headington, 25, chocolate moulder, Victoria Park, son of William, collier, married Alice Kate Iles, also of VP., daughter of Thomas, cooper, 10 Dec.1913, HTKW. Fred Headington was a younger brother of Eliza Ann Counsell. Alice was living at Cossham Road, St George in 1911.

1914. Percy William Edwards, 19, fireman, 41 Victoria Park, son of George, foreman fireman married Winifred Wilcox, 24, tailoress, also of 41 V.P., daughter of Frank, mason, Christmas Day 1914, HTKW. (Percy was living in Barton Hill in 1911 and Winnie in St George. Were they lodgers?)

1915 – 1950. George Counsell (BD); 1956 – 1973. Ernest Wiltshire (BD)

1955. Robert, son of Ernest & Dorothy Wiltshire (nee Webb) of 41 VP, foreman, bp. Zion 19 Jun 1955.

Colin remembered: “The Wiltshires had two boys, Jimmy, who worked for Bristol Zoo as a keeper and Robert, born with a disabled foot. When Colin died suddenly in 2014, Jimmy, who obviously still lived in Victoria Park stood outside “our house” no.33, and pontificated to BBC Points West telling the world incorrectly that “the scars on Colin’s face were due to an early rocket experiment gone wrong.” Still, as they “Print the Legend”.

No 42 Victoria Park. 2 households listed in 1901.

1. Isaac Haskins, 25, bootmaker, b. KW, Clara, wife, 21, shoemaker, home, b KW; Ivy, dau, 1, & Harriet Hicks, boarder, 78, b. Mangotsfield. (Isaac: son of no 22, 1901?) By 1911, this family had moved to no. 90 Victoria Park.

2. Sarah A. Hendy, widow, 27, bootmaker, b. St Geo, Gilbert, son, 6, Florence M., dau, 4, Hester Woodington, widow, mother, 56, bootmaker, home, b. St George.

William Charles Hendy married Sarah Woodington in 1893. He died in 1899, aged 28 and Sarah Ann in 1902, aged 27. By 1911, their orphaned children, and Sarah’s mother were in service at a greengrocery, 7, The Triangle, Clevedon working for Owen Gulliford & his wife Louisa: “Gilbert Hendy, 16, servant, errand boy, b. KW, Florence Hendy, 14, servant girl, b. KW, Ester (*sic*) Woodington, 65, lodger, house duties, b. St George.” At least their grandmother managed to keep them together.

1911. 42 Victoria Park; Willie Bright, 45, miner, hewer, born Wales, Charlotte, (nee Burchill mar. 1884), wife, 45, born Bristol. No children. Perhaps Willie was a son of no. 37 VP, listed 1901 census?

1915 - 1938 William Bright (BD) 1947. Mrs Charlotte Bright (BD). She died in 1947.

1950 – 1964: James Richard Baldwin (BD)

James R. Baldwin (Jim Bollin) and wife (Edith) Annie, nee Smart, moved into no. 42 from no 47. James was the son of our near neighbour, Jack Bollin, of no. 30. Jim was a driver "on the buses". Their children were Betty, born 1930 and Harold, born 1936. Betty cut rather a dash just after the war as a blonde in Land Army uniform, bottle green jumper and jodhpurs. Betty's intended was Mick, who also lived at 42. In 1956, their son Michael James, cheekily "Baldwin or Mapston" was born 13 March and bp 3 Jun.1956 at Zion, son of Michael Henry & Betty Silvia Mapstone, 42 Victoria Park, painter & decorator. Michael senior, otherwise "Mick", born 1925, died in 1970. Betty appears to be still alive.

Also living at no. 42 was "Reen" their skivvy who did all the housework. She was always at the ready in pinny and turban and spoke - euphemism - screeched is a better word - in a language only they understood. The antecedents of Reen appear under no. 47. Harold was my friend, and he figures prominently in my "Memoirs" and like "The Victorian Girl" can be read about elsewhere. The next item was a surprise to me:

1963: Yvette Ann, daughter of Harold James & Margaret Rose Baldwin, (formerly Perryman) 42 VP, Taxi Proprietor, born 12 Aug.1962, bp. Zion 24 Feb.1963. They had another child, Dean R. born in 1964. Harold died in 1966 aged only 30 of stomach cancer. I wrote to Annie his mother that he had lived "more in 30 years than most people live in a proper lifetime." Dean R. married Jane Abrook in North Somerset in 1998. Yvette married Adrian Dixon in Bristol in 1981. If either of them see this, I would love to have a photo of their Dad, Harold.

1970 – 1973. E.A. Baldwin, (BD). This was Jim's younger brother Ted, who had formerly lived with his father at no. 30.

No. 43 Victoria Park.

1901. George Parker,34, bootmaker, b. St Geo, Florence, (nee Sparkes) wife, 28, b. Soundwell, Elsie, dau, 6, Gertrude dau, 4, Blanche, daughter, 1.

George Parker died aged 34 shortly after the census was taken and Florence married secondly William Fry, a coalminer, from North Common. In 1911, they were living at "small cottages, Soundwell Road", which speaks for itself. People now moan that they are over-crowded and ring their MP. Elsie, 16, and Gertie, 14 were working as boot machinists with Blanche, 11 and George's last daughter, posthumous, aged 9, both at school. (It must have been at my alma mater, Two Mile Hill). William and Florrie also had their children, Dennis, 6, Ada, 4 and a baby, Doris, 9 months.

1911. Albert Hendy, 48, bootmaker, home, b. KW, Mary Jane, (nee Sheppard, 1885) wife, 45, b. KW, "mar 25 years, 8 children born alive, 5 still living", at home: Charles, 19, clicker, Wilfred, 15, bootmaker, Doris, 18, tailoress, apprentice.

1915 - 1937 Albert Edward Hendy (BD)

1927: Albert E. Sealey, butcher, of 43 Victoria Park* gave evidence when Henry Otho Edwards, 25, was accused of maliciously wounding with intent to murder Kate Green at her shop in 57 High Street, Kingswood, apparently in a botched robbery.⁵⁸ Albert stated he saw Edwards in Holly Hill Road with a red mark on the right side of his face.

*This makes 3 addresses in Victoria Park where Albert lived. He must have been the lodger in this one.

1938 – 1960. Herbert Arthur Spiller (BD); 1964. Ada M. Spiller (BD)

Arthur Herbert Spiller (sic) and Ada M. Fuller were married in 1932 and had one child, Janet, born 1933. A.H. Spiller died in 1956 aged 76 and Ada M. Spiller in 1963 aged 56.

Janet Ada Spiller, typist, dau of Arthur Herbert, married Royston Vear aged 23, a salesman of Bedminster, were married at HTKW on 25 Sep.1954.

1970, 73. Keith Jefferies (BD)

No. 44 Victoria Park.

1901. Martha Hendy, wife, married, 65, b. Bitton; George, son, single, 36, rough stuff cutter, boot factory, b. Bitton, Mollie J. Angorson, 27, lodger, b. Bitton.

2nd Household, 1901:

Hannah Hawkins, married, 54, boot repairing, b. Mangotsfield; Ernest, son, 24, single, bootmaker, b. Mangotsfield. Hannah, of Victoria Park, KW, aged 59, was buried at Whitfield Tabernacle, 9 May 1906.

1911. Ernest Parker, 27, collier, hewer, born St George, Florence, (nee Crew, mar.1908) wife, 25, bootmaker, b. KW, mar 2 years, daughter Irene Florence, 1.

Also in 1911 census: John Crew, 53, shoemaker finisher, home, b. KW; Clara, nee Harvey, mar. 1883) wife, 44, mar 27 years, 5 ch born alive, 3 still living. Florence, 25, bootmaker, Bert, 23, collier, Maud, 16, slot making.

(I suspect that Florence was put down twice in error, both as wife to Ernest and daughter to John!)

1915. Mrs Florence Parker (BD); 1921 – 1925. Wilfred Britton (BD)

1937. John Rodda, 23, postman, 44 VP KW, father Tobias, soldier, married Edith Hill, 27, boot machinist, 11 Counterpool Road, daughter of Isaac, dealer, 23 Oct. 1937 at HTKW (The birth of John Rodda, was reg'd Bristol, 1914, mother's name Ford, otherwise he is a total mystery)

⁵⁸ WDP 15.9.1927

1932 – 1960. Wilfred Britton (BD)

1946: Ralph Britton, 25, draughtsman, 44 VP, son of Wilfred, shoemaker, married Florence Polly Harris, 25, typist, 3 Aug.1946, HTKW. (They moved to 45 VP) (Ralph was a soldier in WW2 and I recall the flags and “Welcome Home” signs put up when he returned.)

(Colin: “In this house lived ‘Granny Britton’ who smoked aromatic cigars in a yellow packet. Husband very stout, always wore a cap.”)

(In 1911, a Wilfred Britton, b. 1883, boot finisher, Mary, wife, b. 1885, (nee Mellor) “tip attacher” is recorded with their sons Wilfred Stanley, b. 1904 & George Henry, 1906. Ralph born 1921 is not likely to be son of this household. Ralph’s mother’s maiden name was Baker or Taylor, and I can’t match up either, so the cheroot smoker is unidentified. Watch this space for the 1921 census!)

1964. No entry for this house; 1970, Michael Angell; 1973, Brian Mains (BD)

No 45. Victoria Park

1901. Jacob Haggett, 31, coalminer, b. Paulton, Mary J. (nee Bright, mar. 1891), wife, 32, boot machinist, home, b. KW; children: Elizabeth, 8, Nellie, 6, Sidney, 3, Alice M., 1.

Other children were christened as follows: Gladys Lily, bp 7 Dec.1910; double christening: Alice Mary, b. 1899 (presumably forgotten before?) & Annie Victoria, bp 13 Feb.1907; William George, bp 6 May 1908, all at HTKW.

Mary Haggett died March 1910, presumably following the birth of William. She was born 1869, lived in “Victoria Park, Mangotsfield” in 1891, daughter of William & Ann Bright, see 37 VP and 1891 list.

1911. Jacob Haggett, 41, widower, brickworks, navvying, (sic) b. Clutton, Som., 7 children born alive, 7 still living.) Elizabeth Ann, 18, Iset Helen, 16, boot factory, Sidney, 13, scholar, Alice May, 11, Annie Victoria, 9, Gladys Lily, 7, William George, 1.

Annie Haggett married Ernest J. Sealey, brother of Albert & Gilbert, but they lived (I think) in Speedwell.

1915. Jacob Haggett, (BD); 1918 – see 38 VP for Sidney Haggett

1921. Bristol Directory: Albert Peters; 1925. James Boughton; 1932. Arthur Edward Smith (BD)

1935 – 1938: Arthur Leslie Spiller, (BD) (see 43 VP, any connection?)

1947 - 1973. Ralph Britton (BD) who was formerly of no 44 VP, see above. These Brittons were not related to Den Britton who lived opposite. Ralph, according to Colin, had very a son Johnny, who must be John son of Ralph & Florence Britton, 45 VP, clerk, born 23

May.1947, bp 7 Oct.1956 (!), HTKW. I wonder what brought on this belated religious fervour?

No. 46 Victoria Park

1901. William Koch, 34, coachman, domestic, born Germany, British Subject, Sarah L, wife, 31, born Bristol, Willie, son, 10, scholar, Kath, (sic) dau, 2, both b. Bristol. Something that has surprised me during this (admittedly small) number of people not born in the British Isles of whom a few lived in our small corner of the world.

July, 1901. *“Troublesome Boys. William Gane & William Koch, two small boys brought up on remand charged with stealing 3 live pigeons property of Luke Peacock, of KW. Having had a week’s imprisonment, they were cautioned and discharged.”*⁵⁹

Alas in September Willie was at it again. *“FOND OF CAKE. William Koch, 11, charged with theft of 11¼d from his father who had given him the money to pay the baker. He kept 11¼d which he spent on cakes in Bristol with another boy. Arrested by PC Hawker who said ‘He had known him 3 years. The boy was a bad one.’ Inspector Ricketts said the boy’s mother was an invalid and the father was unable to manage him. He was well known to the Police and often disappeared for two or three days. The boy was remanded for enquiries to see if he could be taken aboard the Formidable.”*⁶⁰



HMS Formidable, otherwise Portishead Nautical School.

Poor little Willie may be the otherwise unidentified “W. Kok” who died at sea in 1905.

⁵⁹ WDP 5.7.1901

⁶⁰ WDP 13.9.1901. see also Pety Sealey

By 1911, the Koch family had left Victoria Park and were living in Hanham Road; William, 44, now a shoemaker, German, German resident (!), Sarah, aged 40, his wife, born Clifton, "married 13 years, 5 children born alive, 3 still living". The three living children are listed, Katie, 12, b. Clifton, a scholar, Mary, 8 and Annie, 1, born Kingswood. The information was given by William in very neat Gothic handwriting.

The family probably had to endure the anti-German feeling prevalent in World War One. In 1939 they still lived at 56 Hanham Road, William by then "retired, gas engineer", with Agnes (otherwise Annie) who never married, a music teacher, "own account". Sarah died "aged 83" and William "aged 87", both in 1951.

1909. The house, 46 VP, was occupied by a collier, Henry Vowles and his wife Flossie (nee Winter, mar. 1905) whose son Colin Henry was bp HTKW 22 Dec.1909. They had moved to Bedminster by 1911, presumably for work, the KW mines being in decline.

1915 – 1921. Moses Crew (BD). In 1911, he was an "out of work bootmaker" living at Moravian Road with wife Ann, "married 46 years, 10 children born, 7 still living", with an unmarried son Tom aged 31, living at home.

1917. Advt. "*Lost, near Black Horse, Kingswood, Manchester Terrier. White spot on chest. 46 Victoria Park, KW. 5 shillings reward.*"⁶¹ Manchester Terriers were specialist rat killers.

In 1923, Tom Crew married Edith P(riscilla) Sweet, and took over the tenancy, 1925 – 1947 (BD).

Edith Priscilla Crew, 64, 46 VP, died 23 Jan.1948, and was buried on the 28th at HTKW.

1950: house empty; 1956 – 1960, ----- Gifford (BD)

This house was occupied by "The Striker" name unknown, who was nicknamed thus by Colin & Ed. White, either because he was "always out on....." (Colin) Or derived from football, as he would never allow them to get their ball back. So they gave up asking and used to climb in via Johnny Britton's, next door.

1963 – 1964. Malcolm Taylor (BD), electrical engineer and his wife Rita, (nee Williams) whose daughter Karen Sally was born 4 Feb.1963.

1967 - 1970 Ian Hawkins (BD) a carpenter, and his wife Pauline, nee Powell. Their son Robert Ian was bp 25 July 1967, HTKW. He was a baker's rounds man when their daughter Nicola Jayne, bp 14 June 1970, also at HTKW.

1973. house empty (BD).

No. 47 Victoria Park.

⁶¹ WDP 28.8.1917

1891, Mangotsfield, 307 on schedule: Albert Hendy, 27, bootmaker, b. Bitton, Mary Jane, wife, 24, (nee Sheppard, mar. 1885), children: Herbert, 4, Mabel, 1.

1901. Albert Hendy, 38, shoemaker, home, b. Mangotsfield, wife Mary Jane, 34, children: Herbert, 14, Mabel, 11, Charles, 9, Wilfred, 5, Doris, dau, 3. (By 1911 they had moved to no. 34 VP.)

By 1905, the Smart family were resident. Gilbert Smart was the son of Fred, a coalminer and Ellen, and previously lived in Soundwell Road. One young girl member of the Smart family had the interesting job of "rubbing down the seams of boot tops" (and I thought banging an addressograph at Fry's was a miserable occupation!)

On 15 Nov.1905, Francis Hubert son of Gilbert Frederick & Emma Smart, 47 VP, shoemaker, was bp at HTKW, the same date as Phyllis Britton, of no. 48, which suggests they were good friends with their neighbours. Their son Reginald Gilbert followed, bp 13 Feb. 1907, also at HTKW along with the multiple christening of young Brittons, Doris, etc., from no. 48 VP. A daughter Edith Annie was bp. 6 May 1908, HTKW and another son, Reginald Clifford, bp 7 Dec.1910 HTKW.

1911. Gilbert Frederick Smart, 30, boot maker, Emma, wife, 31, married 6 years, 4 children born 3 living, b. St George: Francis Hubert, 5, Edith Annie, 3, Reginald Clifford, 5 mths. (Reginald Gilbert died in 1907 before his first birthday. Edith Annie, of No. 30 VP, married James Baldwin of no. 42 in 1929.)

1913. Alfred Leopold Smart, 25, miner, son of Fred, miner, married Alice Maud Reeves, daughter of William, miner on 27 Dec. 1913, HTKW. Alf was Gilbert's younger brother, and lived at the Soundwell Road ménage in 1901. It seems probable that he was the Alfred Smart, who was working at Old Black Vein colliery at Risca in 1928 when he was caught in a fall. Another miner, Thomas Brown rushed to save him but sadly was killed though Smart survived.⁶² As the local mines gradually closed, many KW colliers went to South Wales for work. Alfred Leopold Smart died in Mid-Glamorgan in 1972.

1915 – 1921. Gilbert Frederick Smart. (BD); More children born: Violet Eveline, bp 12 Apr.1916 and Joseph Fred, bp 27 Feb.1918, both at HTKW

1925 – 1938. (Dual occupants): Gilbert Frederick Smart & James Dearning. (BD).

James Dearnning, (sic) has led me to the mysterious "Reen", the Baldwin's (no.42) maid of all work. He married Annie Reeves in Bristol in 1900 and appears in the 1901 census as James H. Dearning, aged 18, b. St George, a builder's labourer, married to Annie, 19, a boot machinist, born Warmley; they had a baby, Ellen aged 2 months, all living at 15 Chalks Road with his parents, James and Elizabeth. The baby Ellen was buried later that same year as Nellie Miriam. They also lost another baby, William in 1905. In 1911, James Dearnning was a

⁶² WDP 19.5.1928

stoker, RN, at Devonport, married 10 years, with Annie and a new baby, Irene Violet May Dearnning aged 17 months. Annie Dearnning died aged 59 "of 47 VP", buried 6 Feb.1942 at HTKW; James Henry Dearnning, aged 64, also "of 47 VP" was buried 4 Mar.1947, also at HTKW. Irene Violet May Dearnning, without the extra "n", otherwise "Reen", died in the June Quarter of 1982. Her date of birth (in 1939) is given as 10 October 1909, though the date on her death cert. states 10 Oct. 1908 so she was 73 rather than 74. In 1939 she was living at no. 47 VP with her parents and the Smarts, occupation "boot freeing" (?) What was the connection between Gilbert Smart and the Dearnnings? As yet, I cannot say. And why did "Reen" land up doing all the housework for the Baldwins at no. 42. She had a very severe speech impediment and only they were able to understand her. She always seemed to be pegging out washing (said Colin). I suppose it was better than life in an institution which otherwise might have been her lot.

In 1945 Gilbert Fredk Smart married his second wife Nellie Hayden. He died in 1954 aged 72.

1947 - 1950, Gilbert F. Smart (BD). 1960. Mrs N. Smart (BD); 1964 - 1973. John Taylor (BD)

No. 48 Victoria Park

1901. Frederick Britton, 32, bootmaker, home, b. KW, Laura, wife, (nee Flook, mar. 1892) 35; children: Flossy, 8, Bertie, 7, Nellie, 5, Dorrice, (*sic*), 3, Graham, 1; and Joe Britton, 32, single, boarder, bootmaker, home, b. KW

1905: Phyllis Beatrice, dau of Fred & Laura Britton, 48 VP, shoemaker, bp 15 Nov.1905, HTKW. (same date as Francis Smart, next door, 47 VP.)

1907: a multiple christening

Nellie, b. 5 Nov.1895; Doris Beatrice b. 24 Sep.1898; Graham, b. 30 Apr.1899; Violet, b. 31 Jul.1901; William, b. 6 Aug.1902: children of Fred & Laura Britton of 48 VP, bootmaker, all bp. 13 Feb.1907 at HTKW (same date as Reg Gilbert Smart, who lived next door in no. 47) I suspect the vicar toured the district rounding up scallywags. Another child, Gladys was bp 6 May 1908, HTKW

1911. Fred Britton, 42, bootmaker, rounder, Laura, wife, 45 & their children: Flossie, 18, Bert, 17, Nellie, 15, Maud, 13, Graham, 11, Violet, 9, William, 8, Phillis, 7 & Gladys, 3. (The form was only half filled in & the enumerator had written across it "Enquiry")

1915 – 1956: Frederick Britton (BD)

4 July 1925. Graham Britton, 26, waiter, 48 VP, son of Frederick, bootmaker married Vera Edith Marietta Taylor, 21, corset maker, of 95 Downend Road, at HTKW.

7 August 1940. Edwin Robert George Laver, 37, engineer of 16 New Brunswick Avenue, Kingsway, son of John George Laver, dec'd, farmer, married Gladys Britton, 32, of 48 VP, daughter of Frederick, bootmaker, at HTKW.

1960 – 1964. (BD): George John Laver (known as “John”) was born Barton Hill in 1887, the son of Edwin a shoemaker, and his wife Leah. In 1901 they were at 15 Aiken Street, Bristol. George John married Florence Phillips in 1909. In 1911, aged 24, he and Florence were living at 49 Rosebery Park and worked as a galvanised iron worker and cigar maker respectively. I believe they lost a baby later that year, but had no more children. Both died in 1961 despite the entry in the Bristol Directory.

1970 - 1973: Edwin R. G. Laver (BD) was born 13 Jul.1903 in Glastonbury, the son of John George Laver born 1877, a cattle dealer from Bradley Stoke and his wife Beatrice Mary. In turn, John George was a son of Edwin Laver, cattle dealer and auctioneer, & his wife Jessie who lived at Glastonbury in some style, with two servants. Though there was evidently a close bond between the Lavers, as for kinship, they appear to be cousins once or even twice removed. As shown above, Edwin married Gladys Britton in 1940. He died in 1985 and Gladys in 1990. They too were childless. The house came to the Lavers through Gladys Britton.

No. 49 Victoria Park

1889. Advt: *“For sale. Small greenhouse, span roof, pots etc., cheap, 30 shillings. 49 Victoria Park, Kingswood.”*⁶³

1891: Edwin Wiltshire, son of Robert & Louisa, living at Siston Common. 1891: Beatrice Pillinger, daughter of Isaac & Hannah, living at Clay Pit, Oldland

1895: Edwin Wiltshire married Beatrice Pillinger. 1896: Abraham Watts married Carry Pillinger, Beatrice’s sister Catherine or Caroline. Carry died before 1901.

1901. Edwin Wiltshire, 27, bootmaker, home, b. KW, Beatrice, (nee Pillinger) wife, 25, b. Hanham, children: Wilfred, 4, Edwin, 3, and Abram Watts, brother-in-law, widower, 24, bootmaker, home, b. Bitton. (These Pillingers were distantly related to us. See “Pillinger, Part 1.)

1902: Edwin Robert Isaac son of Edwin & Beatrice Ellen Wiltshire, 49 VP, bootmaker, b. 19 Nov.1897, bp. 21 Sep.1902, HTKW.

1903: Beatrice Wiltshire died aged 27

1903: Abraham Watts married Helen Phipps. By 1911, they were living at Waters Road, with their daughter Lena Martha, aged 7, named after Helen’s mother Martha. Helen may have been a relative of Aaron Phipps, below, a later resident of 49 VP.

1905: Edwin Wiltshire married his 2nd wife Annie Hollier at Axbridge. Leslie Thomas, son of Edwin & Annie Wiltshire, 49 VP, shoemaker, bp HTKW 27 Jul. 1910

⁶³ WDP 11.5.1889

1911. Edwin Wiltshire, 36, b. 1875, (married 16 years*, 4 ch. born, 4 living) bootmaker, b. KW, Annie, wife, 28, children: Willie, 14, bootmaker, Edward, 13, bootmaker, Raynold, 2, Leslie, 9 mths.

*married 16 years, yes – but to two different wives.

1915. Joseph Brain. (BD) (moved from Unity Street in 1911); 1921. Mrs Sarah Ann Brain (BD)

1925 – 1960. Aaron William Phipps (BD). Aaron W. Phipps married Ada Iles in 1912 and moved from Stanley Street, St George; their daughter Florence (Florrie) was born in 1914 and their son George A. Phipps in 1920. He married Jean Alderwick *qv*, in 1950, one of the many “Park Romances”.

Ada Phipps died in 1922 aged 31. Aaron remarried in 1924: Aaron William Phipps, 34, widower, builder’s labourer, 49 VP, son of Aaron, carter, married Sarah Ann Brain, 42, widow, of same address, daughter of John Caines, labourer, dec’d., at HTKW 26 Jan.1924.

1934. Florence Miriam Phipps of 49 VP & Hilda Roberts of 16 VP KW, Flossie Palmer of Allsop Rd, KW and Chas. Henry Reed of Church Rd, Soundwell were members of a “Diddlum” (Diddle ‘em) Club, run by Albert Baber of Allsop Road, due to be paid out at Christmas 1934. He was accused of converting the sum of £13.4s belonging to these four persons to his own use. In evidence he stated that he lost a box containing £27.10s the previous July which contained the members’ money. He had hoped that he would be able to make up the loss, and continued to make collections, but “I was unfortunate,” he said, “and went away.” He later gave himself up to the Police and was sent for trial at the next Gloucester Sessions.⁶⁴

(Nothing new under the sun: reminiscent of the Farepak Christmas hamper scandal of a few years ago. I’ve never understood why people can’t trust themselves to save their own money!)

Lilian Ada Phipps, 24, laundress, 49 VP, daughter of Aaron William Phipps, labourer, married Stanley George Weeks, 26, oil & coke worker, of Shipham, 10 Apr.1939, HTKW.

1968. Aaron W. Phipps died aged 79.

1964 - 1973: Miss Florrie Phipps (BD) (Florrie and her friend Grace lived together. They were both in the Salvation Army and we would often see them in full uniform, including bonnets, going to the Citadel on the top of Kennard Road. They were certainly a couple, though I never heard any remarks suggesting anything untoward. (Colin said Lesbians had not then been invented.)

The disappearing houses:

They are not listed in Bristol Directory as they were in Gloucestershire. Some of them may have become house numbers in Cross Street and others demolished.

⁶⁴ WDP 1.2.1935

No. 50 Victoria Park.

1901. 50 Victoria Park, Mangotsfield Ward, parish Holy Trinity: Samuel Brain, 53, chemical works labourer, b. KW, Emily, (nee Bateman, mar. 1872), wife, 52, boot machinist, home; children: Clara, 28, boot machinist, Eliza, 26, housework, Samuel, 23, bootmaker, George, 21, ditto, Emily, 31, ditto, Mary, dau, 11, scholar, Walter, single, 15, boot clicker.

This family moved from Staple Hill, where they were living in 1891. By 1911, they had moved to Wiltshire Place, Soundwell where they lived with a houseful of seven grown-up children, ranging in age from 39 to 20. Perhaps the parents did not encourage followers?

1911. "50 Victoria Park, Cross Street". Gilbert Bateman, 30, boot maker, employer, b. Bristol, Mary Ann, 27, wife, married 8 yrs, 2 children born, both living, Gilbert, 7, Stanley, 4.

In 1881 and 1891, Gilbert Bateman was living at the famous Blue Bowl Inn in Hanham where his father, Joseph, was landlord. This old inn can be traced back to at least the 14th century. In 1996 it was purchased by a brewery chain which with high-handed disdain for history infamously and arbitrarily changed the name to The Mill House, which had no local connotations whatsoever. No Mill, no House. Such was the public outrage that a petition was organised and furious meetings ensued. Weight was given to the protests that the bus-stop opposite continued to be called "The Blue Bowl" which the driver would holler out as passengers neared the stop, "Blue Ball" of course. People power sometimes works. The chain retired hurt, tail between legs, sold up, and the new owners restored the historic name. It seems possible that Emily Brain was Gilbert's aunt, or at least a relative of Albert of no. 70 VP. Gilbert married Mary Ann Kaines in 1903.

No. 51 Victoria Park.

1901: Harriet Gage, widow, 70, laundress, home, own a/c, b. Warmley; Sarah L. Gage, niece, 14, corset maker.

Harriet, 76, wife of the late Robert Gage, of the Batch, Warmley, died Feb 24 at VP KW. Funeral took place at Warmley Church attended by George, Thomas & Arthur Gage (sons) Samuel Flew & Aaron Winters, sons-in-law, and other members of the Gage, Flew and Winters families, all male, a tradition in KW even if the deceased was a woman!⁶⁵

Later in 1908 romance blossomed when Sarah Lavinia Gage married Alfred Brain, a locomotive boiler washer, the boy next door. In 1911 they were living at 15 Cromwell Road, St George, where they had a lodger, none other than Sarah's brother, Alfred Gage. See 42 & 33 VP!

No. 52 Victoria Park

⁶⁵ WDP 3.3.1908

1901. Mary A. Brain, widow, 60, living on her own means, b. Soundwell, Emily, dau, 22, bootmaker, home, b. New Cheltenham. (Mary Ann, wife of Daniel, coalminer, lived at Chiphouse Rd in 1891, with Emily, 12 and Alfred, 14.)

1911. 52 Victoria Park, Cross Street: John Trotman, 35, miner, hewer, b. KW, Sarah Ann, (nee Bowyer, mar. 1898) wife, 34, married 13 yrs, 5 children born, 3 living: Ernest, 11, Reginald, 4, Alfred Stephen, under 12 mths.

No. 53 Victoria Park

1899. George Bowler, an Army Pensioner, was “cook and bandmaster” at Kingswood Reformatory School in 1891 (census). He died at 53 Victoria Park on 10 November 1899, aged 67. He was Colin’s friend Eddie White’s great grandfather.

George was the father of Alice Beatrice Bowler who married Albert Honor, in 1896. For more of Eddie’s relatives, see 6 Alsop Terrace, 1901.

1901: Andrew J. Powell, married, 30, mason, b. Mangotsfield, Mary Ann, (nee Davies, mar. 1893) 30, wife, children Beatrice, dau, 6, Gilbert, son, 2.

(In 1891 Andrew was living “off Downend Road” with his mother Martha. By 1911, he was “37”, working as a bricklayer in Abertillery, South Wales, whilst Mary Ann was in Staple Hill, plus several more children.)

1911, 53 Victoria Park, Cross Street: (sic) Harry Robert Wiltshire, 35, bootmaker, home, b. Mangotsfield, Mary Ann, (nee Kendall, mar. 1896) wife, 36, boot machinist, married 14 yrs, no children. Harry R. Wiltshire died in Kingswood, 1946 aged 70. The name “Robert” presumably ties them to the other Wiltshires in VP.

No. 54 Victoria Park.

1891: “Victoria Park, Mangotsfield, ecclesiastical dist. Holy Trinity, no 289 on schedule”.

1891. Harriet Bryant, 66, widow, b. Two Mile Hill; with son Samuel, 39, coalminer, daughters, Martha 36 & Harriett, 30, both “charwomen” and Mary, 26, a staymaker, all born Dudley, Staffs.

1894: “Situation Wanted. As charwoman by the day, apply Miss Bryant, 54, Victoria Park Kingswood.”⁶⁶ (either Martha or Harriett, see above.)

1901. John Fudge, 21, bootmaker, worker, b. Bitton, Minnie, (nee Williams, mar. 1899), wife, 21, staymaker. (In 1891 John Fudge was living at Warmley, aged 11. By 1911, John & Minnie with their children Stanley & Vera were living at Barr’s Court Road, Warmley.)

⁶⁶ WDP 11.8.1894

1902: William James Clifford Dixon, son of Henry James & Nellie Jemima Dixon, 54 VP, coalminer, b. 9.11.1902, bp 24.9.1902, HTKW

(In 1891, Nellie, born 1874, was one of the progeny of William Angerson, (*qv*) coalminer, of 20 Albert Bldgs, Zion Place. She married Henry James Dixon in Bristol, 1901. By 1906 they had moved to 1 Boulton's Lane/Rd)

1911. 54 Victoria Park, Cross Street: Francis John Furber, 32, bootmaker, worker, Hester Elizabeth, (nee Britton, mar. 1903) wife, 29, married 8 yrs, 1 ch, Lillie Hannah, 6.

1916. Frances Elizabeth Edith Sarah, dau of Francis John & Hester Elizabeth Furber, 54 VP, bootmaker, born 6.1.1916, bp 20.6.1917, HTKW.

No. 55 Victoria Park.

1901. Alfred Brain, 24, boot clicker, b. KW, Florence, wife, 24, b. St Geo, Daniel J, son, 1, Alfred Guest, widower, brother-in-law, 35, general dock labourer, Carrie Guest, niece, 8, sch

Alfred Guest married Alice Brain, 1887; Alfred Brain married Florence Britton in 1897. In 1911, Daniel Brain, aged 11, was living with his grandparents, Joseph & Ann Britton, at Nags Hill, St George.

1 April 1903: multiple christening of children of Henry Arthur, bootmaker, and Hannah Brain: Ivy Alice, b. 8.10.1902, Emmie Elizabeth, b. 15.4.1901, and May, b. 17.10.1898, all at HTKW. Another daughter, Nellie was bp 25.3.1906, at HTKW. (They had moved to Fishponds Road by 1911.)

1911. 55 Victoria Park, Cross Street. Alfred Edward Sevier, 32, bootmaker, (nailed), at home, b. Warmley, Tryphena Victoria, (nee Drake, mar. 1904), wife, 31, married 7 yrs, 1 child living, Dorothy Eveline, aged 6. b. KW (Alfred Sevier = Tryphena Drake, 1904.) Twin sons, Hanley James & Thomas George, were born 28.8.1916 and bp 18.10.1916, also at HTKW.

No. 56 Victoria Park.

1901. William C. Ford, 30, bootmaker, b. KW, Elizabeth, (nee Bird, mar. 1894) wife, 28, b. Abersychan, children William, 5, Martha, 4, Wilfred, 3, Albert, son, 1. (By 1911, William & Elizabeth and family had moved to Seymour Road, KW)

In 1904 Ernest Leonard married Clio Eliza Browne, and their daughter Hilda Florence, was born. 2.7.1904, bp 14.9.1904, HTKW, followed in 1908 by Winifred Alice, bp 23.9.1908, HTKW.

1911, 56 Victoria Park, Cross Street: Ernest Leonard, 35, boot maker, rounder, at home, b. St George, Clio Eliza, wife, 34, married 9 years, "3 children born, 3 living" but only Winifred Alice, aged five is listed.

No. 57 Victoria Park

1901. Francis Williams, 26, pressman, boot factory, b. Birmingham, Annie, wife, nee Greaves, married Birmingham, 1900), 22, shoemaker, born Soundwell, Herbert, son, 1.(By 1911, they were living in Worcestershire and had 4 children)

No. 58 Victoria Park

1901. Clement Morgan, 46, plasterer, tiler, b. Oldland Common, Rosina, (nee Williams, mar. 1877) wife, 50, housework, Clement, son, 10, school. In 1911, Rosina, widow, was living with her son Clement at High Street, KW.

1908. John Henry William, son of Tom?/Jim?/ Ruskin & Emily Carter, plumber, 58 Victoria Park, KW, born 13.12.1908 and bp 21 Jul.1909 at Zion.

No. 59 Victoria Park

1901. John Parker, 29, shoemaker, Mary J, wife, (nee Eittle, mar. 1893), 31, shoemaker. By 1911 they had moved to 114 Soundwell Rd with Mary Jane's father, John Eittle, a pauper. No children.

1909: Lilian Emily, born 6 Aug.1904,& Winifred Doris, b. 20 Feb.1909, daughters of Charles & Emily Simons, (nee Williams, mar. 1892), bootmaker, 59 VP, bp. 2 Jul.1909, at Zion.

1911. 59 Victoria Park, Cross Street. Charles Henry Simons, 40, boot maker, home, b. Mangotsfield, Emily, wife, 40, b. St George, children: Ellen Eliza, 17, corset machinist, Blanche, 14, boot machinist, Maud Violet*, 12, scholar, Lilian Emily, 6, Winifred Doris, 2.

1920. Blanche Ruth Simons, 23, boot machinist, 59 VP. daughter of Charles Henry, married Frank Hook, 26, boot pressman of 3 Holly Hill Rd, 1 Aug.1920, HTKW.

* Maud V. married Herbert Bourton of no. 92 VP in 1924. I knew their daughter, Madge Bourton.

No. 60 Victoria Park

1901. Samuel Roberts, 42, bootmaker, b. KW, Mary, wife, (nee Britton, mar. 1883), 39, KW, children: Maud, 10, Mabel, 8, Edward, 6, all at school, all b KW. In 1911 they were living at 15 Cross Street.)

No. 61 Victoria Park

In 1901, the house was empty and by 1903, home to Gilbert Bright, clicker, who married Caroline Mary Cordy in 1899; their son Alfred George William, was bp 11 Jan.1903, HTKW.

1911. 61 Victoria Park, Cross Street: (moved from Albany Terrace), Jesse Monk, 52, coal miner, filler, below ground, b. Bitton, Rosa, (nee Bush, mar. 1883), wife, 46, b. Compton

Martin, "married 27 yrs, 3 ch born 3 living", but two only at home: Ernest , 17, press boy, boot trade, Percy, 15, tacker on, ditto.

(There used to be a little shop here "Monks's", as it was known, which sold general goods, sweets, lemonade, etc. They would give you the deposit back on the bottles which was a good wheeze, (and good for the environment!) though they liked you to buy something with the pennies.

1942: Rosa E Monk died aged 77 and Jesse Monk in 1945.

No. 62 Victoria Park

1901. Albert Buxton, 38, bootmaker, b. St Paul's, Bristol, Polly, (nee Mary Ann Edwards mar. 1883) wife, 38, children: Ethel, 14, fitter in boot factory, Albert, 12, Harry, 9, Arthur, 7, Elda, 5, all at school, William, 2.

By 1911, the family were living at Hanham Road, including young Albert, now 21, by then in the army, but "on furlough".)

1911: 62 Victoria Park, Cross Street. Bertram Williams, 32, bootmaker, b. Stroud, Hannah, wife, 32. They had two children, the elder Reginald, was entered though crossed out with "dead", added. The younger son was Edward, aged two, b. Bristo; they had a lodger, Frank Smith, nephew, 20, clicker, born Stroud.

By 1939, the house was numbered "20 Cross Street". Bertram, otherwise "old Bert Williams" was a bookie's runner: no High Street betting shops in those days, and off-course betting strictly illegal; we used to take Dad's bets to him, done up in a twist of paper and signed "J. Pil"! Bert and Hannah are listed there in 1939 with their son Richard, born 1912.

No. 63 Victoria Park/Cross Street

1901: house empty. In 1911, Samuel Saunders, 35, boot finisher b. Pontypool, Glam, Florence Kate, (nee Monk, mar. 1898) wife, 34. Four children born, all living: Clifford Samuel, 10, Lillian Kate, 8, Reginald Jack, 6, and Harold, 3.

Also at No. 63 VP, a separate household: Samuel Golding, 52, married, bootmaker, at home, b. S. Wales

No. 64 Victoria Park.

1901: empty, 1911 not listed in BD.

No. 65 Victoria Park

1901. Charles H. Simons, 30, bootmaker, home, b. Mangotsfield, Emily, 30, (nee Williams, mar. 1892) wife, b. Mangotsfield, children: Ellen, 7, Blanche, 4, Maud, 2

By 1911, they had moved to No. 59 Victoria Park)

No. 66 Victoria Park.

1901. George Woodington, 60, bootmaker, home, b. KW, Mary, 66, wife, (nee Demmery, mar. 1859); children: Edward, single, 41, George, single, 31, both bootmakers.

Edward Woodington, aged 42, of Victoria Park, KW, was buried at Whitfield Tabernacle 2.8.1903.

Mary Fewes, "of 66 Victoria Park, daughter of Joseph & Ann Fewes, near Warmley Tower, died Jan 20, 1904. Deeply regretted by sorrowing friends."⁶⁷ She was 29.

October, 1909: Frederick, shoemaker, & Beatrice Silvia Rogers, (nee Fudge mar. 1908) lived at 66 VP when their daughter Francesca Emily was bp at HTKW 10.10.1909.

1911. George Stewart Hawkins, 57, widower, Police Pensioner, b. Leigh, Glos: "8 children born 8 living" entry deleted. Living with son, Alexander, 16, printing apprentice, daughter Violet, 13, and Fred Rogers, 27, son in law, bootmaker, b. St George, Beatrice Rogers, 27, his wife (George's daughter) and their infant, Francesca Rogers, one.

Back in 1884, George, the policeman, had been commended for valour. He was trying to apprehend a gang of watercress thieves when one of them fell into the river, 8 or 9 feet deep. Hawkins went in after the man, William Snook, who said he would have drowned were it not for the constable's action. Then on Boxing night 1884, George was called out to deal with a mob of about 50 people assembled at Rabbit Burrows, Fishponds. In trying to arrest one of them, Thomas Kendal, said to be violent, he was badly beaten up, sustaining broken ribs and facial injuries. He collapsed having been kicked when he was on the ground and was unable to attend the subsequent trial.⁶⁸

He was invalided out of the Police Force, aged 31, on 7 April.1886, having served 7½ years and was recommended for a pension by the Chief Constable.

In 1881: at Kingswood Road, Oldland, occupation: "Police Constable". In 1891, at Soundwell, "Assurance Agent"; in 1901 New Cheltenham, "watchman". Emily his wife, born ca1856 in Essex, died in Kingswood aged 47. Their daughter Beatrice married Fred Rogers in 1908. George died in 1918 aged 64.

No. 67 & No. 68 - No information

No. 69 Victoria Park is listed as "the other side of the road" i.e. from no. 49 and we have now returned through the bollards and are back in Victoria Park proper.

⁶⁷ WDP 10.2.1904

⁶⁸ Ibid. 3,6,1884 & 29.12.1885

The house seems to have been added as an afterthought to the rank. It is different in shape to the rest and is now painted white.

1901. William Bryant, 25, shoemaker, home, b. Warmley, Martha Sophia, wife, (nee Watson, mar. 1898), 26, b. Bathford, daughter Luzya, 4 months, b. KW. Another daughter Norah Kate, b. 24 Aug.1902, was bp 21 Sep.1902, at HTKW.

In 1911, the house was occupied by Herbert Hendy, born 1886, a bootmaker, rounder, and his wife Ethel (nee Edwards, mar. 1910.) Their daughter Kathleen born in 1912 married Arthur H. Coles in 1936. Arthur, who worked for a research laboratory, and Kathleen lived at 69 VP in 1939, with Herbert and Ethel.

1915 – 1973: Herbert Hendy, (BD)

1950. To be sold at auction: “Three superior houses, 69, 70 and 92 Victoria Park let to Messrs Hendy, Bateman & Bourton at 6.6½d, 6.6½ d and 6 shillings per week, free from ground rent.”⁶⁹

No. 70 Victoria Park

1901. Thomas Miles, 43, shoemaker, home, b. Aberyschan, Louisa, wife, 33, born Birmingham, and children: Chrissie, 14, Charles, 12, scholars, b. Bristol.

(By 1911, Charles Miles, 23, was in the Royal Navy, at Portland. He appears to have survived the First World War)

1911. Albert Bateman, 30, bootmaker, rounder, b. KW, Mabel, wife, 29, married 6 years, no children, b. KW.

1915 – 1960. Albert Walter Bateman (BD)

According to Colin most people called Mr Bateman “Walt” but I thought Dad called him “Alb”, pronounced in Kingswood fashion as “Awb”. He had a greenhouse and grew the most delicious tomatoes, which then – as now – brought me out in “heat bumps”. When we had Television, sometime after 1953, he always came to our house to watch the Cup Final – black and white in those days! After he “gave up” Dad took over his job as gardener to Drs Brain & Roberts who lived in a big house opposite Kingswood Park. Mabel Bateman had one leg shorter than the other and walked in an up and down motion. She had a collection of brass trinkets hanging from her dresser. I remember particularly the miniature milk jug like something from a child’s tea-set. She always allowed me to examine these treasures. It was a pity they didn’t have children, for she was very nice to me and would have made a lovely mother.

1959. Albert Walter Bateman died aged 78, and Mabel in 1961 aged 80

⁶⁹ WDP 11.3.1950

1960 - 1964. Michael Garland (BD); 1973. Stanley Comley (BD)

No. 71 Victoria Park: No trace in 1901.



Yet another Victoria Park sign – on house no. 71.

1911. Isaac Britton, married, 29 (b. 1882) boot finisher b. St George, Rose, wife, (nee Breddy, mar. 1911), corset machinist, born Hanham. Their son, Dennis was bp 9 Nov.1926 at HTKW.

Isaac & Rose had two other children, Molly in 1924 and Shirley in 1935, though Den is the only one I can remember. He was a painter and decorator by trade, and never married. Mum once thought “he would do for Joycie”, our cousin. This attempt at matchmaking did not come off, and I found out later he had once courted my friend Nesta’s (Jefferies) sister Vivien, but that didn’t work out either. He was one of only two bachelors in “the Park”, the other being Cliff Haskins of no. 32.

1911- 1938: Isaac Britton (BD); 1947 – 1973: Mrs Rose Britton (BD)

“71 Victoria Park” is the middle house, sold for £119,950, June 2012. See the Victoria Park road sign, top right in the picture below, and the next door white painted house.



No. 72 Victoria Park.

1911. Herbert George Demmery, 25, assistant foreman, born KW, Clara, (nee Smith) wife, 26, boot warehouse, b. St George, Robert Stanford Demmery, son, 4 months, b. KW.

In 1901 Herbert, son of Robert Demmery, was living at Fairview Terrace, next to Hopewell Hill. Robert was the son of Daniel, see no. 17 Victoria Park. The Demmerys were related to almost everybody in the Park and to another of our friends, Robert Demmery who now lives in Canada. Of the numerous Demmerys, Joseph and his wife Sarah who lived at Zion Place in 1881 had at least 8 children, among them Henry b. 1868 who married Martha Lovelace in 1882. They went to live in Moravian Road and in their turn begat many children including Grantley (respectable, who had a grocery shop at 115 High Street, KW), Gerald and Harold. A headline in 1923⁷⁰ caught my eye: "Family Affray at Kingswood". Gerald Demmery was summonsed at Lawford's Gate for assaulting and beating his brother Harold on 14th June and Harold with assaulting and beating his mother on the same date. I thought at first this must be a misprint, but Harold told the court that he had had a disagreement with his mother "and clouted her once or twice". Gerald then struck him on the head with a piece of glass. The mother said Harold struck her with his fists and gave her a black eye, threw her daughter's macintosh at her eye and tossed a pair of tongs downstairs, smashing six panes of glass, worth 30 shillings in the process. He was "mad drunk", she said. The case against Gerald was dismissed, quite rightly, and that against Harold adjourned for a week with the condition that he did not go near his mother's house.

⁷⁰ WDP 31.8.1923

Robert Stanford Demmery married Edna May Britton at HTKW in 1933.⁷¹ The bride wore “a gown of white crepe suede with a Juliet cap and a tulle veil”. There were three bridesmaids and the best man was Mr S. Pillinger, evidently one of our relatives....either Sid or Stephen? Edna was friendly with Dad’s sisters in Blackhorse Road. On one memorable occasion when cherry tart was served for tea, Edna politely swallowed the stones, as she could not tell what the others were doing with theirs. Dad said they were “flinging them into the grate” – Buckingham Palace, not; how Edna missed their gyrations is a mystery.

R.S.D. and Edna were licensees at the Kingswood Hotel where Colin worked in the bar during school and University holidays. They previously had a pub in Bath, the Talbot Hotel. In 1948 they were summonsed for serving intoxicants out of hours; the case was dismissed, as the participants were allegedly, “friends”.⁷²

Herbert Demmery and his family did not stay long in Victoria Park as by 1915 no. 72 was in the name of Harold Roebuck, (BD) who was born in Huddersfield in 1869 and worked in the boot trade as a sole cutter. His wife Annie was born in 1870, in Cork, Ireland as were their three eldest children, Margaret, Wilhelmina, and Jonas. The rest, Annie, 1900, Harold, 1902 and Amelia, 1910 were born in Bristol. They came to VP from “Woodstock”, Pettygrove Road where they lived in 1911. Their daughter, Georgina Gladys, born 26 Oct.1913, was bp 13 Jun.1915 at HTKW.

1915. Margaret Alice Roebuck 22, boot machinist, of Victoria Park, daughter of Harold, married William Henry Summerill, 24, bootmaker, of 3 Court Rd, son of George, collier at HTKW.

1921 – 1925. Harold Roebuck. (BD) He died in 1925 aged 57.

1931. “Wedding at Holy Trinity Kingswood of Harold Roebuck, 2nd son of the late Harold Roebuck, and Miss Irene Davis, eldest daughter of Mr & Mrs George Davis. The bride wore an ankle length dress of cream satin with a coatee and veil and a coronet of orange blossom. Bridesmaids were Miss Amelia Roebuck and Miss Molly Davis. The best man was Mr G.M. Davis, uncle of the bride.”⁷³

1932. Mrs Annie Roebuck. (BD). She was buried at HTKW on 19 Aug.1932, aged 63.

1935 - 38. The Misses Roebuck (BD)

1938. Georgia Gladys Roebuck, 25, corsetmaker, 72 VP daughter of Harold, bootmaker, deceased, married Ronald Charles Wallington, 26, warehouseman, 2 Crown Road, father Charles, storekeeper, 3 Sep.1938, at HTKW (They were the parents of Maureen Wallington, b. 1940, who lived in Worcester Road, near the Garlands, who played with us on occasions.)

⁷¹ WDP 17.7.1933

⁷² Ibid 25.8.1948

⁷³ WDP 6.8.1931.

1946. Amelia Roebuck married Ernest W. Rogers. They were of 72 VP when their daughter Jennifer Jayne was bp at HTKW 17 Apr.1949.

1947. Harold Cecil Roebuck of 32 Downend Road, aged 44, died 15 Feb.1947, bur 20 Feb.1947, HTKW.

1947 – 1970, Miss Wilhelmina Roebuck (BD)

26.3.1962. Jonas Frank Roebuck, aged 57, of VP, buried on 26 Mar.1962, at HTKW.

1973: David Sanderson (BD)

Nos. 73 – 90 Victoria Park, New houses

73 VP: 1963. Mark Christopher, son of Victor & Violet Wallis, 73 VP, engineer, bp 21 Apr.1963, HTKW; 1964. James W. Frankham; 1970, 73.Victor Hawker

74 VP: 1970 -73: David J. Fudge (son of Frank Louis Fudge of no. 25, married Andrea Bainton, Bath, 1969.)

75 VP: 1970 - 73, Brynley Shackleton, (BD)

76 VP: 1970 - 73, George H. Wagland, (BD)

77 – 79 VP; unknown.

80 VP: 1964, Anthony Stadden; 1970, Paul Yeoman; 1973, Royston Wells (all BD)

81 VP: 1964, Timothy Organ; 1969. Piers Terence, son of Terence & Margaret Cooper, 81 VP, marine engineer, b. 31 May1969, bp 23 Nov.1969, HTKW; 1973; M.D. Cooper (Mrs Cooper?) (BD)

82 VP: 1964, Howard B. Wreford-Glanvil; 1973: Darrell Rudge (BD)

83 VP: 1970 - 73: Brian Mann (BD)

84 VP: 1970, Alan Hayes (BD)

85 VP: 1970, Gordon Futcher (BD)

86 VP: David Willis (BD)

87 – 88 VP: unknown.

89 VP: Charles Bowen. (see no. 41, 1901, no. 24 in 1911)

No 90, Victoria Park

1906. Gwendolen, daughter of Isaac & Clara Haskins, shoemaker, 90 Victoria Park, b. 12Aug.1906, bp.18 Dec.1906, at Zion.

1911. Isaac Haskins, 35, bootmaker, b. KW, Iris Clara, (nee Breadmore, mar. 1897), wife, 31, b. Lawrence Hill, children: Ivy, 11 & Gwendoline, 4.

Also at 90 VP, separate household: Ann Green, widow, 77, private means, born Swansea. (Ann was buried aged 78, at Whitfield Tabernacle in 1914.)

1915 -1950: Isaac Haskins (BD) 1918: Ivy Haskins, 19, corset maker of 90 VP, daughter of Isaac, boot operative married Stafford William Jones, 24, Engine Room Artificer, HMS Albemarle, Devonport, 15 June 1918 at HTKW. Pearl Ivy, daughter of Stafford Wm, boilermaker, and Ivy Clara Elizabeth Jones, 90 VP, born 12 Jan.1920, bp. 14 Mar.1920, at Zion. Their son Anthony, born 19 Dec.1929, bp. 19 Jan.1930, Zion.

1922. Auction of property of estate of Daniel Flook, deceased, three newly erected dwelling houses, known as 90, 91 & 92 Victoria Park, let to Messrs Haskins, Bull & Bourton. ⁷⁴ (*Newly erected in 1911?*)

1927. Cecil Ashman Baynton, 26, clerk, 39 Cross Street, son of Thomas, dec'd, married Gwendoline Haskins, 20, 90 VP, daughter of Isaac, boot operative, 9 Apr.1927, HTKW.

21 August 1932. Died "at 90 Victoria Park, Clara, beloved wife of Isaac Haskins, and mother of Ivy & Gwen. Peace after Pain." ⁷⁵

1947. "Cottage for sale in Kennard Road. Apply Jones, 90 Victoria Park, KW." ⁷⁶

February 1949. Mr Henry Iles, 82, Speedwell Boot works of St George retired and the factory effects were sold. Newspaper article: "Isaac Haskins, 73, of Kingswood, 60 years in the trade, the last twenty of them with Mr Iles, surveyed the works machinery at the sale, and recalled the time when there was a staff of 40. He said he intended to carry on working in the trade at somewhere else." ⁷⁷

1956 – 1973: Stafford Jones (BD)

No 91 Victoria Park.

1911: Henry John Bull, 42, boot finisher, born Paulton, Som,Alice Maud, (nee Shearn, mar. Clutton, 1896) wife, 38, b. Farrington Gurney, Winifred, 9, Daisy, 7, Lena, 5,

1915 – 1935: Henry John Bull (BD)

⁷⁴ WDP 1.4.1922

⁷⁵ WDP 29.8.1932

⁷⁶ Ibid 4.12.1947

⁷⁷ WDP 22.2.1949

19.4. 1930: Edward Bennett, 24, welder, Orchard Rd, KW, son of James, clicker married Lena Adelaide Bull, 24, chocolate worker, 91 VP, daughter of Henry John, boot finisher. HTKW.

1936 – 1938: Mrs Alice E. Bull (BD).

1947 - 1960: Walter Charles Brown (BD). He died aged 59, buried 7 Mar.1959, HTKW. (BD printed the previous year.)

1964 – 1973: Mrs C. Brown (BD)

No 92 Victoria Park.

1911: Arthur George Bourton, 45, shoemaker, born Paulton, Mary Jane, wife, 49, b. Bath, children: Arthur William, son, 22, shoe operative, b. Timsbury, Hilda Maud, 19, domestic servant, Frank Reginald, 15, shoemaker, Herbert Percy, 11, school.

In 1901, Arthur G. Bourton was a patient in a small hospital, only 12 patients, with a sister in charge and 1 nurse, at 1, Belvedere, Bath. Mary Jane and their children were then living at Timsbury.

Mary Jane Bourton died 1918, aged 56. I believe Herbert Percy (though he is inexplicably given as "Herbert E.") married Maud Violet Simons of no. 59, in 1924 and they had a daughter Madge Bourton, born in 1933. Being 4 years older, she never played with me, and appeared very grand, as she always wore a velour hat.)

Arthur G. Bourton married Phoebe Burroughs of 19 Victoria Park in 1919. He was living at no. 19, at the time of his death in 1930.

1915 – 1964: Arthur William Bourton, (son of A.G.)

1970: Cyril Whittle (BD)

Nos. 94 & 95 VP. unknown

Names without numbers, referring to Victoria Park:

1889. A lad, James Summerhill, aged 9, accused of the theft of a purse from his uncle, John Britton, a coalminer, of Victoria Park, Kingswood, parish of St. George. Sent to Clifton Wood Industrial School, until aged 16.⁷⁸

Birth, 26 May 1903, baptism 25 Jun.1903 at Zion, Alice daughter of John & Emily Smith, clicker, Victoria Park. (John Smith & Emily Brain were married in 1902. By 1911 they were living at Soundwell Road.)

Birth: Maud, dau of Henry & Rose Saunders, VP, bootmaker, b. 22 Jul.1902, bp 24 Aug.1902, Zion

⁷⁸ Ibid. 11/21.6.1889

Buried, 13 May 1906: Eliza Ann Britton, aged 31, of VP at Whitfield Tabernacle.

Buried, 18 May 1908. Ida Louisa Flook, aged 6 weeks, of VP buried Whitfield Tabernacle.

1914. Letter to newspaper from Mr E.F. George of Victoria Park, Kingswood re "Poultry in Back Yards. I have 5 Rhode Island Reds and 2 Ancones. Eggs, April, 166, eggs, May, 167. Total 333. Cost of corn, etc., 10s. Eggs sold at 1d each = £1.7s.7d. Profit 17s. 9d." ⁷⁹

1936. Maurice Voke of Victoria Park, Kingswood, a builder, fined £3.10s. plus £1.7s. costs for failing to pay National Insurance contributions. He was declared bankrupt. His men could not get their cards. ⁸⁰

1937. Mrs Hopes and Mrs Bryant, having attended a firework display, returned home to find their house in Victoria Park, Kingswood, on fire. Little damage and blaze soon brought under control. ⁸¹

SAUNDERS BROTHERS – Boot Factory, Alsop Road: Edwin Pearce SAUNDERS, born 1866 at Stoke Lane, Somerset, son of Thomas SAUNDERS, police constable, and his wife Ellen Ann BISHOP. He married Lydia POWELL in 1887 at Pontypool, Monmouthshire, and their children included Beatrice Ellen Saunders, 1887, Nelson Powell Saunders, 1894, Rosetta Saunders, 1895 and Phyllis Mildred Saunders, 1901. Edwin originally manufactured boots from a small building in Cross Street, Kingswood, but later moved to Alsop Road where he bought several



small cottages, had them demolished and erected his factory.

He also demolished two cottages on Downend Road and converted them into Kilvie House (left). ⁸²

When his parents died, Edwin took his brothers Thomas, Charles and Harry into the

⁷⁹ Ibid. 10.6.1914

⁸⁰ Ibid. 25.9.1936

⁸¹ Ibid. 13.5.1937

⁸² Formerly a guest house, it is now a Local Authority Care Home.

business, trading as Saunders Brothers. They remained partners until 1910 when Edwin bought out his brothers, though they continued working for the firm as paid employees. Edwin's son Nelson came into the business and continued footwear manufacturing when his father retired in the 1930s. Edwin was a Lennards Ltd shareholder, the shoe shop in High Street. His wife Lydia died at Kingswood, Gloucestershire, in 1944 aged 76 and he died there in 1950 aged 83.

Nelson Powell Saunders: born 1894 at Kingswood, Gloucestershire, son of Edwin Pearce Saunders, boot manufacturer and his wife Lydia Powell married Effie Alice Watts in 1915 at Bath and they had sons Keith and Terry. Nelson built the house 'Myrtle Glydd' and lived there, almost opposite the Saunders Brothers factory in Kingswood. Keith and Terry Saunders were the last in the firm that ceased production in 1957.

1911 census, Kilvie House, Downend Road: Edwin Saunders, 45, boot manufr, employer, b. Stoke Lane, Somerset Lydia, wife, 42, b. Antenewydd, Mon, married 24 yrs, 5 children born, 4 living. Beatrice, 23, b. Abersychan, Nelson, 17, works in factory, Rosetta, 15, Phyllis, 10 all b. KW, Blanche Davis, 20, dom. servt, b. Hanham.

(Several more people in Victoria Park and surroundings came from Abersychan and I wonder if it was a bootmaking centre?)

1912. Rosetta (born 30 May 1895) & Phyllis Mildred, (born 31 Jan.1901) daughters of Edwin Pearce & Lydia Saunders of Kilvie House, Downend Road, bp 7 Mar.1912, HTKW

In 1914: William Thomas, 72, of Anstey's Lane, Hanham, walking along Hanham Rd, just passing a manure heap, was knocked down and severely injured when in collision with a motor cycle ridden by Mr Nelson Saunders. He was taken to Cossham Hospital but later died.⁸³ (No action seems to have been taken against Nelson.)

1934: Funeral of Mr Thomas Saunders, brother of Edwin, 25 years a worker at the boot factory, 50 years associated with Wesleyan Chapel as church worker, local preacher. Service at Wesleyan and interment in the adjacent graveyard. Family mourners John, Charles, Edwin & Harry Saunders, brothers, Nelson and Reginald Saunders, L. Hamblin and Reg. Auskog, nephews, Harold Cann & Stanley Kinver, stepsons.⁸⁴ As usual in KW, no women attended!

January 29th 1947: **"FACTORY IN FLAMES"**.

"One of the most serious fires in Kingswood for some years broke out soon after 6 o'clock last night when within a few minutes the boot factory of Messrs Saunders Bros. became an inferno. Houses at either side were threatened and the whole of the factory about 150 feet x 100 feet was destroyed. Thanks to the efforts of the National Fire Service the houses at either side were saved. N.F.S. units were summoned from Fishponds, Bridewell and Ashton

⁸³ WDP 27.10.1914

⁸⁴ WDP 6.9.1934

Drive and the firemen had great difficulty in getting their hoses to flow owing to the immense cold. The iron covers of two hydrants had to be smashed to get to the water and at the height of the blaze the N.F.S. used 8 hydrants through 4 pumps. Fire Engine Commander J.Y. Kirkup was in charge of operations.

“Police reinforcements came from Bristol to control the crowds which gathered and shuttle buses had to be run in either side of the Downend - Hanham route, passengers changing buses at Hopewell Hill and the Odeon Cinema.

“Mr Nelson Saunders, the Managing Director said everything was in order at 5.30 pm when he left the factory and he was having his tea at his house opposite the factory when someone rang the bell and he looked out to see the factory in flames. The fire spread so rapidly that little could be done to save anything, though the stock, in a passage way from the factory was saved. It is estimated that about 50 hands will be idle and damage runs into several thousands of pounds.

Mr E.P. Saunders who is 82 years old, the founder of the firm, steadfastly refused to leave his home and watched the fire sitting with his family around him.”⁸⁵

Colin, aged 3½ was in floods of tears, worried that our paper-man, Charlie, who worked there for his day job was trapped in the flames. Harry Drinkwater (35 VP) was also saved from the inferno.

FOOTBALL HOOLIGANISM, 1898 STYLE. In which several members of the Alsop Terrace/Victoria Park community played a part.

At Bristol Police Court David McHardy, 26, a professional footballer belonging to Warmley FC was charged with unlawfully wounding Dan Tom Davis* at Soundwell Road, St George on Saturday the 8th October 1898. Mr Seymour Williams, solicitor to the Warmley club appeared for the defence.

Davis, of 7 Unity Street, Kingswood had attended a match that day between Bristol City and Warmley, which the City won 4-2. The accused was playing for Warmley which may have had some bearing on what later took place. After the match, Dan Davis and his brother Grantley went to the Kingswood Hotel at about 9.30 pm. A man called Albert Gardner came in, shortly afterwards followed by McHardy. Grantley Davis said “You played a good game today, Mac.” McHardy replied in an offensive manner “I can’t play. I only came here today for pleasure to let a lot of ----- fools like you keep me.” He then said he could hold his own with any man in Kingswood, and Grantley allegedly said he didn’t want any fighting. With that, another footballer, called Hamilton, came in, and struck Grantley. A disturbance ensued which continued outside the pub. McHardy left and went to the King’s Head pub. Dan Davis also left and went to the Golden Hart. At about 11 o’clock, Dan Davis was walking

⁸⁵ Ibid. 30.1.1947

home with Charles Lewis towards Soundwell Road. There they saw McHardy and Hamilton standing in the footway. Dan said "I hope you are not in the same temper as you were just now!" McHardy replied "I am then, and struck Davis, who struck back. In the ensuing melee, Davis fell on his back with McHardy on top of him, striking him in the face, with the words "I'll murder you!" Davis felt something sharp and called out "I've been spiked!" He was bleeding profusely, and his coat and collar were covered in blood. He appeared in court with his head swathed in bandages. He said he had never had any disagreement with McHardy. His brother did not start the altercation in the pub and did not say he would like to punch him on the nose. He believed his brother had knocked him down at the Hotel. He did not kick McHardy in the back or try to bite him.

John Newman, surgeon, said when Davis had been brought to him he was in a weak state, with five wounds to his face and head, the most serious in the left cheek which started in the left eyebrow and ran down the side of the nose to the upper lip, the bone being exposed in one place. There were other wounds to the cheekbone, mouth and left ear. The wounds could not have been caused by fingernails or from falling down into stones. The only possibility was a knife. Further evidence was given by Charles Lewis and Robert Wiltshire, who alleged he heard someone say "He has a dagger in his hand! Are you going to let a stranger take another man's life and not interfere?" So he separated them with the assistance of a man called James Scull. Wiltshire tried to stop McHardy, who tripped him up and then ran off with two other men. James Scull of Unity Street who had helped break up the fight, corroborated the above, but said McHardy did not have time to dispose of a knife. When they held him, there was nothing in his hands and they looked in his pockets, but there was only a plug of tobacco (which would have needed a knife to cut it). McHardy said there was nothing in his pockets except two watches. Then he ran off.

The case continued on the 28th October. Charles Lewis was called and denied that he had said in the Chequers** that he had picked up a stone which had blood and hair on it. He had seen such a stone, but did not pick it up. The footpath was also covered in blood. Beatrice Davis said her husband had arrived home at about 1 am. , bloodied with his shirt saturated. He handed her his collar, but she did not examine it at that time and put it in a drawer. When she looked at it the following Wednesday, she saw it was cut through. (Strange: Plenty of time to tamper with evidence? Ed.)

Francis Brain, bootmaker of Hopewell Hill, said he had been in the King's Head at the top of Two Mile Hill at about 10.40 p.m. on 8th October. A man called Bown was there and also McHardy, with Hamilton and another man called Reid. McHardy started talking about the affair in the Kingswood Hotel and said he "did not care a ----- for Grant Davis. As he was talking about fighting, Brain said he thought Davis was a better man than him. McHardy said "I'll do for them yet." And pointing to his waistcoat pocket continued "I've got something here and if they taste that, they'll never want to taste anything again, for it'll poison the -----s." Brain and Bown walked up the road together where he heard Davis say "He's spiked

me.” William Bown, bootmaker, of 5 Alsop Terrace, corroborated the previous evidence and said he heard Davis say “Come out and fight fair.” It did not strike him that this meant that McHardy had previously been fighting unfairly.

Dan Tom Davis took the stand again and denied that he had been disappointed by the result of the match on 8th October. The altercation did not start with his brother Grantley saying he would like to give McHardy a good hiding. He did not hear his brother say to Andrew Hamilton, “Here is another of them,” (using an uncouth expletive). He did not see his brother first strike McHardy when he was on the ground. He did not hear his brother say “Don’t kick him, we’ll have him presently.” At no time did he see an instrument in McHardy’s hand, but he felt it penetrate his skin several times. Andrew Hamilton, one of the Warmley players denied hearing McHardy use threatening language. George Reid, another member of the Warmley team said Davis struck him as well as McHardy.

After deliberating just ten minutes, the jury found McHardy guilty with intent. Robert McDermid, the Captain of the Warmley team spoke of the prisoner’s good character and said as far as he knew, he was a peaceable person. The judge deferred sentencing until the next day.

In a companion piece and despite his brother’s remarks, Grantley Davis pleaded guilty to assaulting McHardy in the original affray at the Kingswood Hotel. He said when McHardy came in, he said he had played a good game that afternoon and after the exchange of words previously reported, McHardy said they went about like a lot of idiots, singing “Good old Warmley” and “Play up Warmley”. Davis said “That was a good speech,” and McHardy indicated he wanted to fight him. He was hit in the mouth by Hamilton and his lip was bleeding. He was fined ten shillings with £1.17s. 6d costs.

A weapon was never found, despite there being four gaslights fully in operation thereabouts which the defence maintained would have made any knife glint. Also a tram load of people arrived at Soundwell Road at the time and joined in the search, but no-one found the knife.

McHardy’s sentence was not reported. Whilst he seems to have been a “chip on shoulder” type Scot, there seems no doubt in my mind that Kingswood closed ranks against the outsiders, and that Dan Davis milked it for all he was worth – witness his dramatic appearance in court swathed in bandages.

*Dan Davis & his wife Beatrice (nee Harrington) lived in Victoria Park in 1891. In 1898 he was the father of 5 children. Warmley FC was founded in 1882 and reputedly played the first organised football match in the Bristol Region. In 1897-8 they were promoted to the 1st Division of the Southern League, playing as we have seen against Bristol City. Only seventeen matches were completed before they folded. I wonder if the McHardy-Davis affair played a part in this sad demise?

** we walked past the Chequers on Sunday, 3 November 2013. It was closed and boarded up.

Alsop Road/Alsop Terrace/York Terrace

There is confusion between "Alsop Terrace" and "Alsop Road" but eventually it merges into one and the same. On 22 Nov.1928 a newspaper notice states that "Alsop Road also called York Place is to be known as Alsop Road." On 15 May1937 & 21 Jul.1937 nos. 1,3,5,7 Alsop Road were among slum clearance orders for Kingswood streets, with an appeal lodged. On 25 Oct.1948 the inhabitants appealed to Kingswood UDC for more street lighting.

1 Alsop Terrace: 1889: in occupation of Mr Arthur Saunders, sold to Mr C. Iles, £144.⁸⁶

1901: 1 York Place, Walter Banfield, 20, boot fitter, b. KW, Sarah, 21, (nee Durston, mar. 1900) wife, b. Bristol, boot machinist. (They had moved to Malpas Road, Newport, Mon, by 1911)

1891: 1 York Terrace (aka Alsop Rd): Grantley Davis, 26, the son of Frederick Davis lived in 32 Victoria Park in 1891. In 1895 he married Edith Rawbone, probably a connection of the family in no. 2 & Eliza Mannings of 31 VP.)

1901: Grantley Davis, 36, boot and shoe maker, employer, b. KW, Edith, 25, wife.

1911: Grantley Davis, 45, boot & shoemaker, b. KW, Edith, wife, 35, married 15 years.

1937. Alsop Road Clearance Order. Nos. 1,3,5,7.

No 2 Alsop Terrace

Hedley Philpotts, 26, foreman, baker/confectioner b. Stroud, Amy, 25, (nee Stephens, married at Cardiff 1897) wife, place of birth illegible, Maud, dau, 2, b. Cardiff (By 1911 they had moved to Ross, Herefordshire.)

1911: Oliver Britton, widower, 40, bootmaker, born KW, Mary Ann, (nee Sheppard, mar. 1890) wife, (married 20 years, 6 children born, four living); Florence, 18, Ethel, 14, learner at Fry's cocoa factory, Ada, 11, Oliver, 9, plus Charlotte Lewis, 64, boarder.

No. 2 Alsop Road:

1911. John Bailey Taylor, 57, boot riveter, b. Bridgwater, Sarah Ann, (nee Rawbone, mar. 1890) wife, 59, married 21 years, with Frances Rawbone, step dau, 30, boot riveter, Tom Rawbone, step son, 25, boot packer, & Kenneth Hitchings, 1, foster child, all born KW. (Possibly related to Eliza Mannings, nee Rawbone, of 31 VP?)

⁸⁶ WSP 9.11.1889

In 1901 Taylor lived in London Street with Sarah Ann and her 4 "Rawbone" children. In 1911 they were at 2 Alsop Road and at no. 11 Alsop Road in 1928 when both John & Sarah died.

1922: Ernest Parker, general worker, Alsop Rd, stood for Kingswood Urban Council, Independent. Not elected.⁸⁷ He lived at 44 Victoria Park.

1929: Irene Florence Parker, 20, of 2 Alsop Road, daughter of Ernest, gardener married Clifford Watts, of Soundwell Road at HTKW.

No 3. Alsop Terrace/Alsop Road

1901: Malachi Durston, 42, bootmaker, born Walton, Som, Jane, wife, (nee Lewis, mar. 1876) 44, b. Bristol, ch: Jane, 23, boot machinist, Frank, 11, Lewis, 9, Wallace, 4, b. KW. They moved to Newport, Mon, by 1911.

1911. 3 Alsop Terrace: Samuel Clements, 32, motor car cleaner for Bristol Tramway Co, b. St George, Mary, (nee Fry, mar. 1900) wife, 31, married 10 years, no children, b. St George.

By 1916, Dorothy Victoria Yeoman, 21, boot machinist, was of 3 Alsop Terrace, (daughter of James, shoemaker, dec'd) when married to Thomas Henry Willmott, 23, house decorator of 3 Hill Street, son of Thomas, shoemaker, by licence, 8th February 1916. (A marriage "by licence" indicates speed was required, and possibly Thomas had been conscripted? Previously in 1911, Dorothy was aged 16, a boot machinist, living with her widowed mother, Letitia and 3 brothers at 75 Soundwell Road.)

In 1924, Leslie James, son of Ambrose & Ethel Hudd, bootmaker, 3 Alsop Terrace, born 18 Aug.1924, was bp. 31 Aug.1924, Zion. (Ethel, nee Paget, was Ambrose Hudd's 2nd wife, married 1918, see no. 9 Alsop Road.)

1911. 3 Alsop Road. Joseph Davis, 50, bootmaker, b. Bristol, Ellen, wife, 44, married 25 years, born Staffordshire, occupation: "nothing" (I'll bet!) plus Daniel Davis, 30, single, bootmaker, b. Staffs & Gertrude Davis, 16, b. Bristol, occupation: also "nothing" b. Bristol,

No. 4 Alsop Terrace/4 Alsop Road

George Rogers, 53, coalminer, b. Bitton, Martha, 45, wife, b. Shepston, Som; ch: Thomas, 15, shoemaker, Ernest 11, Elise, 9.

1911 census: Henry Mullins, 31, club caretaker/part time boot & shoemaker, b. Staple Hill, Florence Maud, wife, 25, married 4 years, no children, b. KW

1960. Dorothy Maud Pearce, aged 65, 4 Alsop Rd, buried 19 Nov.1960, HTKW

No. 5 Alsop Terrace/Alsop Road

⁸⁷ WDP 17.3.1922

1901: William J. Bown, 29, bootmaker, b. Street, Somerset (see above Grantley Davis and football hooliganism, 1898 style), Hester, 30, (nee Garland mar. 1893), wife, b Mangotsfield, dau: Elsie, 6.

1911. William James Bown, 39, bootmaker, born Street, Hester, wife, 46, born Soundwell, Children: Elsie May, 16, corset maker, Wilfred, 15, bag maker, Mabel Clarice, 11.

(In 1948 they lived in no. 6. See below.)

1911. 5 Alsop Road. Henry James Hayward, 22, single, Midland Railway Co, labourer, b. St Michael's, Sarah Ann Hayward, 48, mother, widow, married 27 years, 6 children born, 5 living; Mabel Gertrude, 20, sister, boot machinist, George Herbert, 18, Ellen Mary, 15, boot machinist. (Sarah, nee Turner, was widow of James Hayward)

1933: Frances Lovelace, 69, of 5 Alsop Rd, buried 18 Dec.1933, HTKW (William Lovelace married Frances Rockett, 1900. Living London Street in 1911)

No. 6 Alsop Terrace

1889. in occupation of Mr H. Lockwood .⁸⁸

1901. Albert E. Honor, 30, grocer's asst, b. Aylesbury, Bucks, Alice, wife, b. Knaresboro', Yorks, son Walter, 2, b. St George (see 53 Victoria Park)

1911, 6 Alsop Road. Grantley Palmer, 38, boot maker, b. Soundwell, Florrie, wife, 39, (nee Ellen Florence Olds, mar. Bath 1891), married 19 years, children: Fred, 18, warehouseman, boot trade, Nellie, 19, stay & corset maker.

1913: Nellie Palmer married a collier, Edward Gleed, son of Edwin, (see 19 Alsop Road).

Moved from 5 Alsop Tce: William John & Hester Bown of 6 Alsop Road , parents of Corporal Wilfred Bown, 25290, Gloucestershire Regt, aged 22, died 2 Apr. 1918 aged 22. Buried at Caix British Cemetery, Caix, Somme. Wilfred is also remembered on the gravestone of his grandparents, George and Eliza Bown, "died of wounds, Marcel Cave, Flanders", at the derelict graveyard at Wesleyan Chapel, Kingswood.)

1941. Hester Ann Bown, 70, 6 Alsop Rd, died 18 Dec.1941, bur 23 Dec.1941 and in 1948. William James Bown, 76, 6 Alsop Rd, buried 9.3.1948, both at HTKW. (I can remember Mr Bown, silver hair, always wore a black overcoat, well built, had a limp and walked with a stick, often went for a constitutional round the Patch.)

No. 7 Alsop Terrace/Alsop Road.

1889: 7 Alsop Terrace: in occupation of Mr A. Demery,⁸⁹ Sold to Mr S. Bryant, £146.

⁸⁸ Auction advt, WDP 6.11.1889)

1901. Albert Demery, 41, bootmaker, b. KW, Emily, wife, (nee Britton, mar. 1885), 41, Albert J, son, 14, bootmaker.

1911 census, 7 Alsop Tce (in census after Wallace Davis, Little Lane/Rd.)

In 1911, 7 Alsop Tce. James Hudd, 74, gardener, labourer, b. Warmley, Mary, wife, 70, married 20 years, 15 children born, 12 living, b. Warmley; Sidney, 40, gardener, Ernest, 27, Walter, 26, sons, b. St George. (After this entry in 1911 census comes "Little Lane")

1911. 7 Alsop Road; Albert Demmery, 51, bootmaker, b. St George, Emily, wife, 50, married 26 years, 1 child Abel Joseph, son, 24, bootmaker, b. St George.

No. 8 Alsop Terrace/Alsop Road

1889: 8 Alsop Terrace: in occupation of Mr E. Davis.⁹⁰ Sold to Mr George Jefferies, £146.

1901. 8 Alsop Terrace. George Palmer, 37, mason's lab, b. KW (moved to Alsop Tce from 15 Albert Buildings), Lizzy, wife, 35, ch: Gilbert, 18, boot maker, Minnie, 15, boot machinist, Percy, 14, Annie, 11, Rose, 8, Gladys, 6, scholars, Bertie, 3, Bessie, 5 mths. Ann Demmery, visitor, widow, 70, b. KW.

1903. Multiple christening of Annie, 1890, Rose, 1892, Gladys, 1895, daughters of George, shoemaker, & Elizabeth Palmer, Alsop Tce, 15 Jul.1903, HTKW.

1911. 8 Alsop Tce. George Palmer, 46, dock labourer, b. Bristol, Elizabeth, wife, married 29 years, 10 ch, 8 living: Gilbert, 28, shoemaker, Minnie, 25, machinist, Percy, 23, boot packer, Annie, 21, Rose, 19, tailorist, (sic) Gladys, 15, corset maker, Bessie, 10 & Flossie, 5, scholars; Ann Demmery, 83, mother in law, born Reading.

1916. Robert Inkerman, son of Walter, bootmaker, & Alice Cissie Woodcock, Allsop Tce, b.1 Feb.1915, bp 9 Apr.1916, HTKW. Walter Woodcock presumably died before 1920 when Alice Cissie Woodcock married John Monks. She is the Cissie Monks who died in 1944, see below. They were presumably lodgers at 9 Alsop Tce in 1916. I cannot explain why Bob Woodcock's parents chose to give him the name Inkerman, a battle which took place in the Crimea in 1854!

21 Feb. 1920. Bessie Palmer, 19, acetylene welder, 8 Alsop Tce, daughter of George, docker, married Hanley Wolfestone Venn, 29, engineer, Hanham Road, HTKW.

1934. Flossie Palmer: see Florrie Phipps, 49 VP

8.2. 1941. Ellen Davis aged 79 of 8 Alsop Rd, died; buried 12 Feb.1941, HTKW

26.12.1944. Cissie Monks, aged 58, 8 Alsop Rd, died; buried 3 Jan.1945, HTKW

⁸⁹ WDP 6./9.11.1889

⁹⁰ ibid

1946. Bryan, son of Robert Inkerman & Emily Woodcock, (nee Priddy, mar. 1945), 8 Alsop Rd, body builder, b. 7 Aug. 1946, bp 17 Nov.1946, HTKW with godparents: G.G. Priddy, Ernest Lewis & Irene Priddy.

(Bob Woodcock was a small unassuming man, hence my wry smile when I saw his occupation “body builder” – someone less like Arnold Schwarzenegger it is hard to imagine. Of course it means “car bodies” or something of the sort. He had a formidable Welsh wife, think of the film “Sailor Beware” starring Peggy Mount, or a Donald McGill postcard. Sample: Mum and I were at their house one day when Mrs W. was trying on a new skirt. Bob came in from work and was exhorted to give an opinion. “It looks lovely round the back,” he offered diffidently. “What’s the matter with the bloody front then?” the outraged Mrs W. retorted. The poor man made a swift retreat. Mum said “I went hot. I didn’t know where to put myself.” Terrifying. Bryan was their only child. They were often visited by relatives from Tonypany called Davey. I was friendly for a while with Merle Davey and have a photo of her from a day out in WSM about 1950.

As Bob was at Pontypridd in 1945, I wonder whether he was a “Bevin Boy”? Merle Davey was Emily’s niece, born 1939, daughter of Albert Davey & Mary S. Priddy. There was also a “Mrs Priddy” who must be Irene, the godparent named above, who also visited Kingswood, a rather delicate looking blonde, in appearance quite different from the rest who were dark and robust. I think she was the wife of Emily’s brother. She was much more “Mum’s type”. She had a little boy, but I can’t remember his name. Welsh women, of whom there were many in Kingswood [“a Bristol Man: the son of an Irish thief and a Welsh whore” – non PC definition from The Dictionary of Historical Slang], used to carry their babies in heavy woven tweed shawls which they wound round themselves as a sling, securing their infant in a tight swaddle, an operation every bit as intricate as the winding of a sari and equally fascinating. Great numbers of the Bristol Welsh took part in the Eisteddfod held annually at Zion.

Emily died in 1976 aged 62 and Bob in 1982 aged 67.

No. 9. Alsop Terrace/Road

1889: house and shop in occupation of Mr Arthur Saunders⁹¹ sold to Mr George Jefferies, £146.

1901. 9 Alsop Tce. Isaac Sweet, 43, bootmaker, b. KW, Susan, 43, wife, (nee Palmer, mar.1884), b. Milton, WSM, Isaac, son, 16, cleaner at GWR shed, Blanch, 14, staymaker, Ada, 13, learner, cocoa factory, Susan, 11, sch. (In 1901, the next house listed on the schedule is 32 Victoria Park)

⁹¹ WDP 6.9.11.1889

1911. 9 Alsop Road. Ambrose Hudd, 35, bootmaker, b. Footshill, Eva, 34, (nee Meek, mar. 1898) wife, married 21 years, 6 children born, 5 still living: Florence, 12, Rosey, 8, Winnie, 6, Rhoda 3, Mary Hannah, 5 mths.

Eva Hudd died 1917 aged 40, Ambrose remarried and moved to no. 3 Alsop Road.

1934: Grantley Davis of 9 Alsop Rd, aged 68, buried 31 Jan.1934, HTKW

26 Dec.1939: Royston Albert Long, 24, motor driver, 15 Hilltop, Soundwell married Pearl Mary Pippen, 21, domestic, 9 Alsop Rd, daughter of Reginald Arthur, fitter's mate, dec'd. (Reginald Pippen = Minnie Boyce, Bristol, 1909. He died aged 39 in 1923.)

1 Dec.1942. Harry James Pippen, 21, signaller, 9 Alsop Rd, son of Reginald, dec'd, married Rhoda Riley, 22, A.T.S., 9 South Lane, Elland, Yorks. HTKW.

9 Feb. 1944. Frederick Clark, 42, engine driver, 96 New Cheltenham Rd, son of Harry, fireman, married Jessie Emily Pippen, 28, aircraft worker, 9 Alsop Rd, dau of Reg. Arthur, railway cleaner, dec'd, HTKW. Their daughter Jean Winifred b. 5 Feb.1945, bp 28 Feb.1945, HTKW

Chapman's general shop was on the corner of Alsop Road facing towards Downend Road. During the war years the brick communal Air Raid Shelter stood just on front of it, on the Patch, the waste ground where we played. The flats, now grandly known as "maisonettes, Maple Court", were not built thereon until the 1950s or early 60s. I never knew a Mr Chapman and never heard Mrs C.'s first name, though either one seems to have begun with an "H". Mrs C. used to allow "tick" of which we occasionally took advantage. She had a daughter who lived at New Cheltenham, who was divorced, which was at the time considered scandalous and remarked on in hushed tones.

1946. Newspaper notice: "For sale. Elastic braces, hairnets, perfumes, kinds of other goods in stock. H. Chapman, 9 Alsop Road & Austin 7 & trailer for sale, needs little attention, also 6 volt batteries, seen after 6 o'clock, Chapman, 9 Alsop Rd."⁹²

1948. "All wool rugs, beautiful close weave, will show to any address within 60 miles of Bristol. H. Chapman, 9 Alsop Rd."⁹³

1969. Sarah Alison, dau. of Raymond & Margaret Bennett, 9 Alsop Road, auto electrician, bp 2.11.1969, HTKW. (It must have been this bloke who turned the shop into a private house and managed, illegally, to expand his garden to reach up to the alley at our back. Much to Dad's fury, Kingswood UDC refused to take any action. The whole frontage of the house, including the door, now faces the car park of Maple Court (ahem) instead of being on the corner. It is painted white and looks utterly weird.

⁹² WDP 16.7.1946

⁹³ Ibid 5.5.1948

No. 10 Alsop Road.

No information until 5 Jun.1943 when Kenneth Albert Demmery, 21, airman, 10 Alsop Rd, son of Albert, dec'd, bootmaker, married Laura Winifred Hensher (or Hensler?), clerk, HTKW.

1947. Roger Ian, son of Wilfred George & Edith Vera Demmery, born 11 Jun.1947, bp. 13 Jul..1947, at Zion. (No wonder Eddie White always spoke of "The Demmery Clan" I never knew there were so many of 'em.)

1948: Wilfred George Demmery of 10 Alsop Rd, corset cutter, witness to the will of Sam Britton, of no.34 VP.

No. 11 Alsop Road/Terrace.

No information until 27 Feb. 1922 when Sarah Ann Taylor aged 70, 11 Alsop Tce, buried HTKW.

1928: "John Taylor, 72, found dead at rear of his house in Alsop Road, just before he was due to take up his duty as night watchman at the British Schoolroom where Thornbury Division Labour Party Bazaar was being held. He was many years an active member of the Boot & Shoe Operatives' Union and probably its oldest member. The Dr. had been in attendance and an inquest is unlikely.⁹⁴ John Bailey Taylor, aged 74, Alsop Tce, was buried 18 Dec.1928, HTKW.

1929. Joan, dau of John Welchman Thomas Davis, boot finisher, and his wife Edith, 11 Alsop Road, b. 1 Jul.1929, bp 23 Jul.1929, HTKW.

1930: Jean Ellen Lilian Harvey, 20, paper box maker, 11 Alsop Rd, dau of George Harvey, bus driver married Royston V. Butt, 23, Bedminster, 16 Sep.1930 HTKW.

1936: Elizabeth Davis, 71, 11 Alsop Rd, buried 16 Mar.1936, HTKW

1954. Gerald Arthur George, son of Leonard & Sylvia Harvey, 11 AR, RASC, b. 21 Feb.1954, bp 11 Jul.1954. (Len Harvey was evidently doing his National Service at this time. He played with Larry Honour, our cousin, and Harold Baldwin during the War years, 1940s.)

No. 12 Alsop Road.

No information until: 1946. Susan Mary daughter of Edward & Mary Catlow, recorder, of 12 Alsop Road, born 22 Apr.1946, bp. Zion 14 Jul.1946

No. 13 Alsop Road.

⁹⁴ WDP 17.12.1928

No information until 1944. Gilbert Ernest Lewis, 21, AC1, RAF, 13 Alsop Rd, son of Wm. Albert, lab, married Iris K. Morton, 18, aircraft worker, 47 Alma Road. 8 Apr.1944, HTKW

1945. Wm. Albert Samuel Lewis, 24, bootmaker, 13 Alsop Rd, son of Wm Albert, docker, married Doris Eva Feltham, 20, box machinist, Barton Hill, 19 May.1945, HTKW

No. 14 Alsop Road.

No information until: 1925, Ellen May, b. 7 May 1925 & Florence May, b.8 May 1922, daus of Ernest & Ellen Hudd, 14 Alsop Rd, bp 6 Jul.1925, HTKW (Ernest Hudd married Ellen Alford, 1920)

1927. Newspaper article: "Plucky rescue from Avon by Mr Alec Britton of 14 Alsop Terrace, Kingswood" when a sixteen year old boy fell out of a rowing boat into the river. Mr Britton dived in fully clothed and brought the boy to land. He was unconscious but came round after First Aid.⁹⁵

Was this brave rescue a reminder of the frailty of life and led to the following mass christening on June 29, 1927?

Marjorie, b. 1919, Donald b. 1922 & Eileen Florence b. 1926, children of Alec, bootmaker, & Florence Britton, nee Hudd , bp 29 Jun.1927, HTKW. Another son, Kenneth was b. 16 Jun.1928, bp 21 Aug.1928, HTKW.

No. 15 Alsop Road.

No information until: 1926. Marion, dau of Albert & Emily Garland, (nee Furber, mar. 1895) b. 8 Jun.1914, bp 1 Mar.1926, HTKW.

No. 16 Alsop Road No information

No. 17 Alsop Road.

The Williams family moved from 35 Victoria Park where they were living in 1911. 1928: Hilda Williams, 26, 17 Alsop Road, corset maker, daughter of Frederick Charles, bootmaker married Bert Henry Wotton of Soundwell Road, 22 Dec.1928, KTKW.

1940. Annie Williams, 73, 17 Alsop Rd, died 15 May 1940, bur 20 May 1940, HTKW.

1946. Ella Williams, 47, 17 Alsop Rd, d. 6 Jul.1946, bur 10 Jul.1946, HTKW.

1954. Herbert James Hope, 71, widower, mechanical engineer, 26 Kimberley Street, son of William, gas worker married Kate Williams, 60, 17 Alsop Road, spinster, chocolate worker, dau of Fredk Williams, bootmaker, 12 Jun.1954, HTKW.

⁹⁵ Ibid 16.6.1927

1962. Tracie May, daughter of Michael & Mavis Walker, 17 Alsop Road, roof tiler, b. 6.1.1962, bp 4 Mar.1962, HTKW. (A "B(rian?) Pillinger" was one of the godparents.)

No. 18 Alsop Road: No information

No. 19 Alsop Road.

1939. Nellie Gleed, Grantley Palmer & Ernest Gleed.

1934. Obituary: "suddenly at Alsop Rd, Downend Road, Ellen Florence, wife of Grantley Palmer & eldest daughter of the late William James & Sarah Olds. Missed by her sisters."⁹⁶

(A strangely worded announcement considering Grantley was still alive!) Ellen Florence Palmer, 65, of 19 Alsop Rd, was buried 3 Mar.1934 at HTKW (In 1911 they were living at no. 6.)

1942. Grantley Palmer, 65, of 19 Alsop Road, died 1 Aug.1942, buried 5 Aug.1942 at HTKW.

1944. Nellie Elizabeth Gleed, 19 Alsop Rd, aged 52, died 6 Dec.1944, buried 9 Dec.1944, KTKW.

1944: Ernest Gleed, 28, corporal, RAF, 19 AR, mechanical engineer, son of Edward, dec'd, lab married Patricia Eileen Pearson, 21, machinist. 30.12.1944, HTKW

1952. George Edward Wall, 20, labourer, Easton, married Annie Gleed, 22, machinist, 19 AR, dau of Edward, dec'd, bricklayer, 12 Jul.1952, HTKW.

Maple Court, Alsop Road. The flats were built on the "Patch". "Cat" and "swinging" come to mind.

MISC. VP, BL, AR, etc.

1899. Ernest Summerill, 6 weeks, of Victoria Bldgs, buried Whitfield Tabernacle, 29 Oct..1899

1903. Reuben Clifford Iles, 22 mths, VP KW, bur Whitfield Tabernacle, 9 Aug.1903

1904. Dorothy May Sealey, 22 mths, VP KW, buried Whitfield Tabernacle, 3 Apr.1904. (birth reg'd at Bridgwater, Somerset)

1906. "James Seymour, born Radstock died Alsop Rd, KW, 1906", info. on-line, at Rootsweb. In 1901 he was a shoemaker, b. 1875, living at Crown Rd, KW, wife Ellen and children.

1906. Elizabeth Ann Britton, aged 31, VP, KW, buried Whitefield Tabernacle, 13 May 1906

1907. Emily dau of Fredk & Ellen Clark, VP KW bp 11 Aug.1907, HTKW

⁹⁶ WDP 27.2.1934

1912. Percy & Violet Jones, twins, aged 12 days of "2 Bath Buildings, Victoria Park, KW", buried 10 Jan.1912 Whitfield Tabernacle.

1916. Nellie May, dau of Albert Warren & Nellie Ellens, 4 Bath Buildings, Victoria Park, engineer, b. 15 Jan.1911, bp 9 Apr.1916, HTKW

1916. Olive Alice Elsie Norah, dau of William Charles & Dorothy Apprilla Wilkins, Alsop Rd, warehouseman, b. 10 Dec. & bp 23 Dec.1916. HTKW

1928. Robert Tony David son of James Albert & Joy May Stone, (nee Lane) b. 17 Sep. & bp 24 Oct.1928, HTKW

1934. Albert Baber of Alsop Rd, see Florrie Phipps, 49 VP.

1941: Newspaper article: "Francis Peane, of Alsop Road, a deserter from the Royal Marines, pleaded guilty to the theft of a motor bike from Holly Hill Road, drove it to a field when he dismantled it. He took the wheels and exhaust home, intending to collect the rest later. Fined £3, and remanded to await a military escort."⁹⁷

1940s: Edith Garland, b. 1904, dau of Albert, bootmaker & Emily, living Kennington Avenue, Downend Rd in 1911. She had a brother Wilfred who was father of Paul, the deputy Lord Mayor of Bristol and a maverick, notorious as "the Communist Boy-Scout". I knew him well. Edith married Reginald Webb, 1933. They lived in Alsop Rd, but I don't know the number, Edith was a friend of Mum & Dad..

Victoria Park in 1891- heads of house only, age, occupation and place of birth; "Civil Parish: Mangotsfield; Urban Sanitary District: Kingswood; Parliamentary Boro': Thornbury; Ecclesiastical Parish: Holy Trinity.

This refers to the "Bottom end" of what we know as Victoria Park nowadays, and incorporates what would become Cross Street. "Boot" stands for the boot & shoe trade in all its manifestations, overwhelmingly the most common occupation. Most were young families. I presume this was a new street, but it is impossible to work out the layout. Where possible, I have shown where they lived in 1901.

286. Arthur Perry, 24, grocer's asst, London (shop in High Street, 1901)

287. Henry Norman, 28. Rough stuff cutter, Mangotsfield, (lived at 34 Victoria Park in 1901)

288. James Williams, 32, boot, Monmouth (lived at 41 Victoria Park in 1901)

289. Samuel Bryant, 39, cm, Dudley, Staffs (lived St Martins Place, Two Mile Hill, 1901)

290. George Alexander, 25, boot, Pontypool (at Fairview Tce, next Hopewell Hill, 1901)

291. John Scott, 41, boot, Tewkesbury (lamplighter, London Street, 1901)

292. Arthur Britton, 45, cm, Bitton

293. Henry Sweet, 39, boot, Street, Som, (in Leicester, 1901)

294. Peter Hewitt, 31, boot, Street, (living Wiltshire Place, Downend in 1901)

295. Edwin Gay, 40, boot, Bristol, (living Unity Street, KW, 1901)

⁹⁷ WDP 19.12.1941

296. Isaac Fudge, 32, boot, KW, (living London Street, KW, 1901)
297. Joseph W. Davis, 28, boot, Bedminster. (living at 40 Victoria Park in 1901)
298. Frank Fry, 23, boot, Bitton. (living at 15 Victoria Park, in 1901 & no. 21 in 1911)
299. William Bane, 24, boot, Pucklechurch (2 Primrose Tce, KW, 1901, shoemaker & lay preacher)
- 300 Henry Millard, 24, boot, Stapleton
301. George Woodington, 53, boot, St George (living 66 Victoria Park in 1901)
302. Joseph Upton, 27, boot, St George (living 1 Cross Street, 1901)
303. Elizabeth Garland, 60, widow, Florist, Bristol (living Cross St in 1901)
304. John Crew, 37, cm, Mangotsfield (died before 1901, widow Louisa living 7 Seymour Place, KW, nr Soundwell Rd)
- (email from Doug Crew douglas.crew@talktalk.net descendant of John Crew::
 "My Great Grandfather John Crew was resident in Victoria Park as detailed on the 1891 Census. With him his wife Louisa (nee Britton) and Children, Alice 16, Samuel 14, Rose 10, Martha 8 and 2 year old Henry, my Grandfather.
 John was a coalminer & Louisa worked in the boot trade (not surprising for residents of Kingswood at that time)
 By 1901 Louisa was widowed and can be found with her family at 7 Seymour Place.")
305. Thomas Crew, 33, cm, Mangotsfield
306. James Palmer, 21, boot, Mangotsfield
307. Joseph Iles, 21, boot, Bitton, (Woodland Tce, Hanham Rd, in 1901)
308. Albert Hendy, 27, boot, Bitton. (living at no. 47 Victoria Park in 1901)
309. Harriet Kibbey, 42, shoe forewoman, blind (!) Somerset
310. Robert Cole, 38, cm, Bitton, (Hill Street, KW in 1901)
311. James Hendy, 56, invalid, Bitton (at St James' Place, Warmley, 1901)
312. Sidney Demmery, 28, boot, KW (at May Street, Two Mile Hill in 1901)
313. George Bryant, 42, cm, St George
314. William Bawn, 30, boot, Bitton (Hanham Rd in 1901)
315. Wm. P. Massey, 36, boot, Bristol (Counterpool Rd, 1901)
316. William Fry, 28, boot, Bitton
317. Joseph Baber, 43, brickyard labourer, Mangotsfield
318. William Bright, 54, cm, Bitton (living 37 Victoria Park in 1901)
319. Edmond Brain, 49, boot, St George, living 36 Victoria Park in 1901)
320. Daniel Davis, 19, boot, Mangotsfield (Unity Street, 1901)
321. George Tanner, 43, cm, Glos, (Soundwell, 1901)
322. Wm Roberts, 27, boot, Mangotsfield (Wood Lane, 1901)
323. George S. Smith, 25, boot, Mangotsfield
324. James Hendy, 41, painter, Mangotsfield.
325. John Taylor, 37, boot, Bridgwater (2 Alsop Rd in 1911)
326. Fredk Davis, 53, boot, Bitton, (living 32 Victoria Park in 1901)
327. Chas Jefferies, 40, leather cutter, Baltonsboro', Som
328. Tom Davis, 40, boot, KW (living at "Little Lane" [Boulton's] 1901
329. Edward Davis, 39, boot, Bitton (living at South Street, KW, 1901)
330. Hester Haskins, 61, boot, KW
331. Samuel Saunders, 55, boot, Wootton-under-Edge (at Charlton Rd, KW in 1901)
332. Evan Davis, 60, boot, St George, father in law of)
- Clifford Fewes, 27, boot, Wick & Abson, (still living together, 1901, London St.)
333. Albert Demmery, 31, boot, St George, (7 Alsop Tce, 1901)
334. Samuel Cole, 27, boot, Bitton
335. Thomas Bright, 28, boot, Bitton (Lorne Tce in 1901)
336. George Rogers, 42, cm, Warmley (4 Alsop Tce in 1901)
337. Arthur Saunders, 24, boot, Pontypool, (Richmond Rd, St George in 1901)

338. Henry Mitchell, 26, boot, Abersychan (at South Street, KW, 1901, chapel caretaker)
339. Mary Iles, 75, Independent, Mangotsfield
340. Mary Palmer, 60, gardener, Bitton (living Downend Rd in 1901)
341. Albert Palmer, 40, boot, Mangotsfield
342. George Bown, 42, groom, Middlezoy (living at 2 Boulton's Lane in 1901)
343. Herbert Alvis, 26, groom, Bitton (living Downend Rd in 1901)
344. Daniel Haskins, 29, shoe manufr, employer, Warmley
345. Clara Smart, 35, wife (husband a traveller in boot trade) Weston-Super-Mare
346. Aaron Williams, 35, boot, Clutton (living at no. 33 Victoria Park in 1901)
347. James Plenty, 34, boot, KW
348. William Davis, 34, boot, Warmley, (Gordon Tce, KW in 1901)
349. Samuel Bryant, 34, gardener, Mangotsfield (at Little Lane [Boulton's] KW in 1901)
350. Thos Fitzmaurice, 38, pawnbroker, North Shields (Had moved to Bristol by 1901)
351. Benjamin Lavis, boot, KW
352. Henry Garland, 64, soap house labourer, KW (2 Cross Street in 1901)
353. George Sage, 40, cm, Bitton
354. William Pearse, 43, coal haulier, KW, (Downend Rd in 1901)
355. Henry Jarrett, 30, boot, St George
356. Wm Wiltshire, 33, boot, KW (London Street, in 1901)
- William Williams, 27, mason, Yate
357. George Jarrett, 50, boot, St George.

A Field Trip to Victoria Park on 25 June 2013:

I wrote to Colin: "Let's face it, it is a dump. It gives the impression of being thrown up, all anyhow, especially since the additions, like the hideous flats on "the Patch" called "Maple Court" and the "new" houses which are completely out of place. Why anyone would nowadays want to buy a house there is beyond me. It is strangely pathetic that some current tenants have attempted to prettify or gentrify the old red brick houses in "the rank" with pebble dash, adding porches, and worst of all, narrow bay windows, complete with chintzy curtains. Ugh, ugh and yea, triple ugh. Our house, no. 33, from the front at least, is unaltered, and is the only one in our little corner which retains the perpendicular sash windows, but it can only be a matter of time. No. 34, once "Mary's, next door", has one of the offending horizontal windows. Even now it is easy to see why Anne Garland and I were able to use the quadrangle as a make-shift tennis court, the pavements acting as tramlines,

and the net in our imagination.



The alley next to “our house” (left) is completely blocked with detritus, a wheelie bin fallen lengthwise that has been there so long that brambles are growing through it, with the usual array of street debris, discarded takeaway boxes, soft drinks & beer cans, a small glass bottle which once contained the vodka of a secret drinker. The path which leads past the backs of Darke’s and Harold Baldwin’s, no. 42, down towards Cross Street is similarly blocked. There is no chance of beating a way through to the end house. Dad and Cliff Haskins used to clear our parts of the alley, and Mrs Darke, used to patrol the back path to catch anybody depositing as much as a spoonful of soot or a couple of leaves at the edge of “The Patch”. She once caught Pem (our aunt) “up to no good” and with no excuse either, depositing a few potato peelings at the edge of the waste ground. “You filthy woman,” cried Mrs D., running down her back path, guns ablazing, grey plaits bristling. She must now be turning in her grave. So much for Cameron’s Big Society in action – not. A disgrace to all the current occupants. Presumably in order to keep their inner kingdoms safe all the long back gardens have now been boxed in, so you cannot see what atrocities have been committed inside.



A less congested part of the alley, but still “No through Road”



This was once an open lane, now impassable – our house is on the right.



Our back gate, except it isn't. Iron Gate gone!

The rusted fulcrum which once held our back gate remains, no gate there of course, but the stone gateposts hold up the high wood fence, albeit overgrown with brambles (above) - luckily, for I was able to feast on the black and juicy succulent fruits, which persisted bravely amid the dereliction, though are obviously disdained by the locals who probably think they are poisonous. .

I retraced my steps along the backs of our rank and turned right, walking down to the end of the Park, going through the three concrete posts into Cross Street. The chap who once lived in the left adjacent house used to hang up an old pair of pink corsets on his workshop as a bird scarer and come out and chase the kids who dapped their balls against the wall. A man I met at the Kingswood Heritage Museum's recent "do" told me that Cross Street was once part of Victoria Park, (which I had already suspected from this research) and that a square builder's sign could be seen high in the wall on the end house, where Jack Coles and his ghastly daughter Betty once lived. How could I have not known that? This of course solves the mystery of the missing Victoria Park numbers. In fact there is not one stone sign in Cross Street, but two, the first, above no. 43, states "Victoria Park, 1888" with the rank continuing in odd numbers to 29 where it is interrupted by the entrance to Victoria Park proper. It then resumes in the direction of Soundwell Road, descending numbers 27-11 where there is another "Victoria Park" sign on number eleven.



The posh end. Three concrete posts, bottom of Victoria Park. Cross Street, once also part of Victoria Park is beyond at the end of the lane.

I was clicking with my camera all the while, and the only person to show any interest in my nosiness was a chap shovelling stuff into a skip in the tiny front garden of no. 13. He looked up quizzically. "Nothing sinister," I explained, "only a bit of historical research," to which he replied dismissively, "'s'not my house anyhow," and carried on with his work. I then went back through the concrete posts and spotted yet another "Victoria Park" sign in the Albert Bateman rank. I gave a cheery "Good morning" to an old bloke who was coming out of no. 47, wearing a trilby, straight out of the 1950s, but he ignored me. I returned to our enclave, front view, for another look and saw "Mr Barker's" dog grooming van outside the former Haskins' ménage, no. 32, and took a photo. I then proceeded to the top of the street, and saw there another "Victoria Park" sign let into the top house, no. 15, next to the Boulton's Lane aperture. I crossed over into Cherry Hodge's rank, nos. 7-14, and (you've guessed it), saw yet another sign. The bulk of Zion looms at the end, and I almost fell into an enormous pot hole. It came to me that nobody "owns" the Kingswood alleys, so they are left to their own devices. Unbelievable. Then I walked along Boulton's Lane to the three houses, numbered 1-3, the top one the residence of Dad's drinking mate Wilf, a youngish chap then,

surname unknown, and no 3, where previously lived David Hill, a thin bedraggled kid of Colin's age.



Boulton's Lane – the end house was David Hill's. 'Wilf' lived in the nearest one

After the three houses is the Kingswood car park and beyond that the small rank nearing Downend Road where Arnold Worlock once dwelt: round tortoiseshell NHS specs, dark brown, curly bonce, "lovely 'ead of 'air", people would say, regrettably not an attribute shared by me and Colin, short trousers, always accompanied by his Mum. Arnold was the baby of many, so that was probably the reason why she kept him so close and protected him so fiercely. Opposite Worlock's, the boarded-in back of the houses in Regent Street, where David Guest lived with his father, Perce. "'Ere's another five 'undred on 'em", Perce, perpetually sweeping the yard, would holler, at any tiny child brave enough to call for his offspring. Also backing Boulton's Lane was Alderwick's the undertakers, proprietors Boulton, Griffin, Alderwick, in succession, as this research has revealed. Colin and Eddie White often played football there, and the ball would inevitably disappear through the open door and land up among the coffins. I applied to look at their burial records, as an accommodating member of the family had allowed me to do a few years ago when I was researching "The Victorian Girl". I was given the big "E" this time.

Apart from those already mentioned, there was not another soul about during my tour, but

did I say I felt a bit vulnerable wandering about in the alleys? Yes I did. I kept my eyes skinned for anyone lurking, though as I can't run for toffee these days, a fat lot of good this would have been. Norman was not happy. This is a sample of a 2010 mugging, reported in the Evening Post.⁹⁸

A man had his bag snatched as he walked to a bank. Police said the victim was in an alleyway connecting Bolton's Lane and Two Mile Hill at about 10.50am yesterday when he was pushed from behind by a man. A second man grabbed the black holdall he was carrying, which contained money, and both muggers ran off towards Downend Road. Police said the suspects were two black men. Witnesses should call Staple Hill CID on 0845 456 7000.

Here is a bit of excitement from 2011⁹⁹:

The Nolan family in Alsop Road had a rude awakening when they heard the balloon basket crash into their roof on Friday morning, after hitting two others in a nearby street.

The balloon was part of the first mass ascent of the day, when more than 60 balloons took off from the International Balloon Fiesta at Ashton Court. It was being piloted by Martin Read, a balloon enthusiast who has been coming to the event every year for 20 years. He took off in the Fleur de Lis at around 7.40am, later than the normal 6am start due to the poor weather. Mr. Read had been in the basket with his stepson Terry Wetter's for about an hour when they swapped over the gas cylinders that power the burner. Their balloon lost height as they performed the switchover, colliding first with a chimney pot on a terraced house in Victoria Park.

Homeowner Leanne Scott said: "I was in bed at the time and it woke me up." It sounded like a bomb raid. I went out the back and saw a balloon running off but I didn't think about it until a neighbour said our tiles had come off."

The basket then hit the house next door, damaging another chimney, before heading to the Nolans' home in Alsop Street. (sic) Paul Nolan said: "The bang woke me up and then I saw the flamethrower outside of the window before it flew off into the distance."

His mum Bernadine said: "I heard a noise and saw it hitting the telephone lines and then the roof.

"I thought it was going to go through the bedroom window at one point.

"I went into the back garden but couldn't see the extent of the damage. A man at the garage took a picture for us and it turns out 30 tiles came off the roof."

Mr Read landed at nearby Goose Green and then headed back to see the damage with a member of the Balloon Fiesta flying committee, Ian Martin. No-one was hurt in the accident.

⁹⁸ EP 26.10.10

⁹⁹ EP 13.8.2011

The story of Victoria Park is incomplete.

The parish registers of Kingswood's parish church, Holy Trinity are at Bristol Archives. They also have limited records of the Kingswood Non-Conformist Chapels, which include a few dismal survivors from Wesleyan, ditto Bourne Chapel and Whitfield Tabernacle. Zion, on the other hand has a fine run of records. The baptisms have been copied on to microfiche and can be seen at BA. They yielded a good haul of Victoria Park people. The marriages and burials however, have not been deposited and are still at the church. Having seen all these original registers at Zion Chapel 30-odd years ago when looking for members of my Pillinger family I thought it would be simple matter to go to the church and copy the rest.

WRONG.

I sent a polite letter saying I was working on the social history of our street, and requesting a look at the registers. I added the carrot that the famous Professor Pillinger of Beagle 2 fame was christened there. This did not work the usual magic. Cut no ice at all, in fact. Apparently the minister is looking into whether anyone is allowed to see the registers other than herself or the churchwarden, who said he might be able to look up a name or two for me. It's taken me two months to get this far so basically I've told them to shove it, in honeyed tones.

AARRGGHH. How do they think anyone writes history? Shall I bang my head against the wall or will you do it for me? MERRY XMAS!"



