

Telephone conversation with Barry Hawkins Jan 1st 2014
N.B. Barry has written a detailed account for the Hankelow website which should be read as well.

Barry's paternal grandparents came from Stone and lived at Rose Cottage on Longhill Lane opposite the now converted chapel. Barry's father and mother lived there too for a while then moved to Gorsecroft Cottage, now derelict. Barry's father worked for Moseleys and after the war set up a painting, decorating and plumbing business with Maurice Meredith. This was in the Smithy (present fish and chip shop). Maurice was Gordon's brother and Gordon kept bees and was a popular source of honey for the villagers. The house in Monks lane is still called 'the Apiary'.

Where the present primary school is now was the Town football club ground.

Barry's mother came from Walgherton and he often visited his grandparents there. The Delves-Broughton's owned most of the land there.

Roy Pudney's brother worked for Ken Williamson. Roy lost a leg in WW1 but still managed to ride a cycle or motor cycle to do his insurance round which covered many miles.

Reg Booth was one of a large family who lived in a house with a tin roof at Bunsley bank, his father was a 'brickie' and his mother was a real country woman and always wore a hat. Reg went to work on the canal afterwards and lived at the lock keeper's cottage by the Shroppie Fly. Another of the Booth's was a railway guard.

Barry married Jim Wright's daughter. As well as being the manager of the Co-op, Jim was on all the committees, a founder member of the bowls club and ran a dance band. During the war he ran a 10 piece dance band which included soldiers this then

reduced to 6. He was the pianist. Mr Patterson the chemist played the saxophone and the two Bebbington brothers were in it. Jim came from Crewe but never went back.

Barry started at Nantwich Grammar School in 1943. The school children travelled on the Crosville bus. Which school you went to was divisive for the village. This same year his parents moved from Gorsecroft and were offered accommodation by Alan Dodd of Holly farm on Woodhouse lane. The buildings were well set out for horses (probably from the time of 'the Baron'). This was a long way out of the village and made it a long journey to school. He remembers Jack and Charlie Nield of The Ash as two quiet bachelors. He was very friendly with Fred and Tom Vernon at Woodhouse Farm. Miss Rutter was their house keeper.

On Saturdays he played football with the Lover boys who were living at Kynsal Lodge. If the weather was bad they still played football in one of the large rooms inside!

He remembers VE night celebrated in the village, everyone 'went bananas' dancing and singing. The fire station then was a wooden building closer to the road than the present building but still at the end of the now demolished row of houses and a shop. The fire engine was an ancient motor vehicle.

There were 2 policemen, Sgt Shone and Const Bradbury. There was little misbehaviour. His father was in the ambulance brigade and told him about the crashed plane at Yarwoods which they went to see. He also remembers the incendiary bombs which landed on 'Hines' Farm-(Woolfall). A Lysander managed to take off from The Crown field! .

When he was 11 there was an outbreak of polio and a boy from Longhill died.

Doris Edmonds taught his wife piano-he was taught by May Cliffe. He was in the church choir. Ryland Blakeman was the

organist and a postman. He never took a day off. Mrs Blakeman was the head teacher at the primary school. The first vicar he remembers was the Rev Hicks, then Mr Bellyse.

They married in Audlem Church and Jean Minshull was one of the bridesmaids. Canon Davies married them.

Although they moved away soon after marrying they have often re visited and kept in touch.