

The following email was received from David Bennet who was born at the Mount Alvernia Hospital (Charlottesville) in 1945. His parents lived in Leas Road until 1948 when they moved to 17 Addison Road a few doors down from David's Grandmother who had lived at number 37 since just before the First World War. David lived at No. 17 for 23 years when he married Wendy and they moved to Cheselden Road.



From: 'David Bennett'
Sent: 07 October 2013 15:14
To: 'Gina Redpath'
Subject: From David Bennett

This is me at the Harvey Road end of Addison Road in my best office suit setting off for work at the old Hambledon Rural District Council Offices in Bury Fields in the spring of 1968. By then I had lived in the road for twenty years and would do so for another three. The house in the corner has long since been demolished, replaced by flats, and the little post box set into the wall on the opposite side is no longer there. There are no yellow lines and far fewer cars. This had been a regular route for me during my school years at Holy Trinity when it was at the bottom of Pewley Hill. How things have changed in the forty five years since this picture was taken (by my future wife, Wendy, by the way). Charlottetown had only just lost its own church, St Luke's, where Addison Court now stands and many of the traditional much loved convenience stores were still in business in Addison Road, Cline Road and Cooper Road. Needless to say the pub (the Foresters) was still thriving. It had been serving its customers for nearly one hundred years when this picture was taken. There was a thriving community spirit in the immediate post war years borne out of the privations of the 1930's and the Second World War. Times change but I believe that much of that spirit has been revived over the last ten-twenty years, helped in no small measure by the opening of The Spike, and Charlottetown has become an attractive and desirable place to live.

In the wider historical context of Guildford, 1968 was the year when the town suffered its worst floods for sixty years. The University was in its infancy, the infamous gyratory system had yet to be built, the town bridge was open to traffic. The Yvonne Arnaud Theatre had only been open for three years, children flocked to swim at the old Castle Street Baths, the cattle market was still operating from Woodbridge Road and there were many more town pubs. Some of the shops then open in the High Street were Woolworths (now While Lion Walk), C and H Fabrics (now in Tunsgate Square), Importers Coffee Shop at the top of Jeffries Passage, Tesco (later moved to Friary Street), now Nationwide, the Corona Cafe, loved by many (now Whistles, fashion), Jefferys Sports Shop (now Jigsaw, Fashion) and Thorpe's Bookshop, now sadly empty. How about another bookshop there or an independent cinema – just a thought...