

Ernie called round one day when he was in the area and after a long and fascinating chat with Gina, she asked if he would email some of his memories about his time in the Road.

From: Preston Ernie
Sent: 11 November 2016 12:32
To: gina
Subject: Ernest and Nan Preston

Gina,

Hope you find this interesting.

My grandparents on my father's side (Ernest and Eliza Preston) came from the Sheffield area. My grandmother was born Eliza Fleetwood but was always known throughout her life as Nan. My grandfather, who was a draughtsman, worked for a firm called Newton Chambers who manufactured coke ovens and retorts for making gas. During the war they turned to the manufacture of Churchill tanks.

For whatever reason, in or about 1943 my grandparents moved to Guildford where my grandfather worked for the Woodall-Duckham Vertical Retort and Oven Construction Company which had its headquarters in Guildford.

They lived in 45 Addison Road and some of my earliest memories are of that house. I remember some of it very well despite the fact that I was only 4 years old when they moved back up north after my grandfather became ill in 1950. He died a couple of years later but my grandmother lived to a ripe old age and always spoke very fondly of her days in Guildford.

She was a staunch member of the church and I remember very well "helping" her polish the brass work in St Luke's (I forgot that it was known as the tin tabernacle until you told me!) It was only a short walk up the path on to Pewley Down where we went quite frequently. I seem to recall that there was some kind of rustic shelter near the top of the path but perhaps I am mistaken.

One of the photos (taken in 1948) shows me, my grandmother and Mick (my father's dog) taken, I believe, near the top of the path on the edge of the down.



The photo of my parents' wedding was taken on 29 July 1944. My grandfather Ernest is front row left and Nan is third from the left in the (straw?) hat. One of

the bridesmaids stands between them. My parents were frequent visitors to No 45. In addition to the church I recall Dowling's garage.

Of the house I remember that the back garden was at a higher level than the house. There was a lawn and an enormous victoria plum tree. There was also a wooden garden shed which ended up in my parent's garden at Pontefract when my grandparents moved back up north. The retaining wall was seemingly always covered with a mass of trailing nasturtiums cascading over the edge. A great place for a youngster to find caterpillars! I recall open coal fires, a cellar, an outside coal house and washing being done in a large galvanised washtub. The downstairs bay window next to the front door was never locked. My grandparents from time to time used to pretend they were locked out and I was then put through the window to open the front door from the inside! It served to amuse.



The third photo was taken on the annual family holiday. Despite being ill my grandfather was not to be parted from his Players Cork Tipped which was probably one reason for his early demise! He was also a paid up member of the Cork Club. I will try and get a photo of his engraved Ronson lighter give to him when he left the Foresters pub for the last time. I also have the clock given to him on his retirement from Woodall - Duckham.

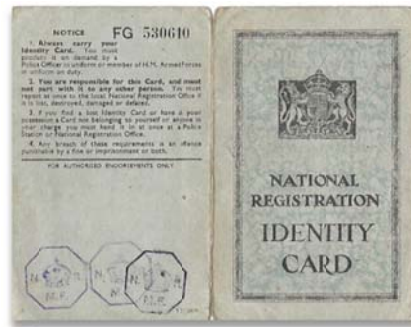


The ID card is fairly self-explanatory. It would seem that my grandparents lived at No 45 from 1943 to 1950. One of the highlights of my grandmother's life (from the fact that she never stopped telling of it!) was the night she fell asleep on the train coming back from London to Guildford during the wartime blackout. She awoke only after the train had been shunted in to the carriage sheds at

Guildford and she had to be escorted off the premises, stepping over the live rails in the pitch dark.

NUMBER	204. 2.	SURNAME	PRESTON
CHRISTIAN NAMES (Print with in full)	Eliza		
CLASS CODE	A		
FULL POSTAL ADDRESS	45 Addison Road Guildford Surrey		
HOLDER'S SIGNATURE	E. Preston		
CHANGES OF ADDRESS. No entry except by National Registration Office. No return required, must be notified.			
REMOVED TO (Full Postal Address)	BURRIDGE HOUSE BANKS MOUNT. CONTRAVAL KOS.		
REMOVED TO (Full Postal Address)			
REMOVED TO (Full Postal Address)			
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Regards.

Ernie Preston