

ALC/R20

25<sup>th</sup> August 1976

Dear Mrs Broadhurst,

I am over 70 and left Wolverton in 1939 to get married and live in Sherington.

I heard a good deal of Wolverton history from my parents. My father having been born there and afterwards moved to Crewe with his family. When the locomotive works moved, my mother was in Wolverton from the age 3 months. 'Till she died age 86, my mother and I attended the school in Moon Street, (afterwards elevated to a Grammar school status) at the time of E.J.Boyces' headmastership.

I remember going to the works mess for the pea soup which we collected in a large jug. Having had dancing lessons from the age of three. I accompanied my parents to the Whitsuntide Ball in the works. I also remember the sports meetings in the Park, on one of the bank holidays each year.

The Science and Art Institute holds memories too, I attended evening classes there when Mr Milner was the Principle. I also remember going once a month to pay the Building Society dues in the same Institute and in the Church Institute Sunday School where I was first a pupil and then a teacher.

I started school at 3 in the Aylesbury Street School under Miss Ainge one of my teachers was Miss Gee who is now resident in Newport Pagnell, she is over 100 yrs old and I have visited her there, She was looking after herself in her house in Wolverton until last Christmas.

If it is not too much trouble for one of your group, I would welcome a visit from you , to fill in any details you may wish to ask me.

Yours Sincerely,

V.H.Chappill (Mrs)

Dear Mrs Broadhurst,

I have thought up a few more details, hope they will prove useful.

Shall be glad to see you any time, Perhaps you will drop me a line when you are coming, as I lead an active life, I wouldn't like to be out when you call, I might only be out exercising the dog, I do a bit of baby sitting for friends, which takes me at home during the week, besides the social life of the village, which I take an interest in

Yours Sincerely

Nora H Chappill

With the Railway men's, privilege tickets, there was a great exodus of Wolverton people on Saturdays to Northampton where they did their shopping, and got their entertainment, to a large extent, to the detriment of the Wolverton retailers, (they came back in the evening, passed Barleys in Radcliffe Street, having bought even more oranges and other fruit on their excursion)

There were 2 tennis courts, 2 bowls clubs and at the cricket ground regular matches, including the inter- shop (Railway Works) competition, which still goes on We spent our Saturdays thus. The bowl club had fixtures, my father was a member of both clubs, and he my brother and I accompanied them when they played out of town,(afterwards I did the same with my husband who was a member of the Town bowl club) My father as a county player, and the team did tours of seaside towns, my mother went with him on these expeditions and with her lady friends, made a holiday of them.

Foreign holidays were almost unknown; I do remember however, that Mr H Meacham (Manager of McCorquodales) went to Madeira for his health at one time. We were very friendly with the Meachams whilst his first wife was alive. At that time they lived in Woburn Avenue, (right opposite the cemetery afterwards moved to London Road Stony Stratford, the house was then taken over by the then headmaster of the Grammar school,(Mr.Morgan)

Social life in Wolverton in my young days. Dances at Stratford in a hall owned by Franklins the builders. (I went with a girl friend) Invitation dances run once a month by McCorquodales office staff.

Tennis club dances (also invitation) W.A. (old pupils of Moon Street School) dances a socials, where we met up with old friends. Old (Wolvertonians Association) Church whist drives at Old Woverton.

I divided my time between St Georges, Holy Trinity. At one time a MR. Thomas was vicar of H.T. and he happened to be the principle of my sister-in laws teacher training college. (Home and Colonial London.) He came to Old Wolverton for his wife's health, unfortunately his wife died there, his daughter kept house for him afterwards, and got married at Old Wolverton church. The church was a lovely one during his incumbency. And he was very popular. Attracted crowds to the Church. Once a month (being very musical himself) he had a hymn service- conducting the singing himself from the pulpit and giving us the history of each hymn and their writers.

He had 2 sons beside the daughter I have mentioned. One was a Professor of oriental languages and the other in holy orders like himself. The

latter occasionally came and preached to us. Mr Thomas senior was a powerful preacher.

There were three cinemas in the immediate district. The Palace, Scala (Stratford) both owned by a MR Moss and the Empire in Church Street Wolverton