

## DOP/01/031

Mrs. Clark (born 1902)  
14 Eton Crescent  
Wolverton  
And her sister  
Miss Rose Mapeley (born 1903)  
69 Victoria Street,  
Wolverton.

007 Wolverton very friendly place. Everybody knew everybody. Taken to school – even at three – by children, by parents. Dr. Harvey had a pony and trap, then Beryl her daughter got a motorbike. He used to go out on rush jobs on motorbike when couldn't get pony and trap out.

030 Says there was no class structure – then says there were rich people – upper class – like Vicar, Doctor, and School-teacher. Says only a few foremen lived in Victoria Street, Yes they were a bit upper class. Little streets – for labourers, some were looked down on. But there was no snobbishness in Wolverton. But Bradwell? Yes I'm afraid we was at top of the hill and they were at the bottom of the hill land that was that. No real nastiness. Houses in Wolverton supposed to be better – Wolverton, more bought houses, Bradwell were rented. Friendliness together in Print. People had lunches brought into work or sent by boys. Would have boiled pudding in basin, heated it up in canteen.

075 Women didn't go out to work after marriage.

092 1913 town enjoyed the manoeuvres. Taken round camp by parents at night. Stacey Rec. was Mr. Norman's field. Outside three, Stacey Avenue was farm gate. Before and after manoeuvres the fields had cattle in them. They can't remember knowing much about the arrival of other troops. Bake house just outside their house, could always smell bread. Went out to watch them before going to school. Girl next door courted one of the soldiers corresponded with him. None of other soldiers were invited by their parents for tea. One soldier was a widower and brought his son with him. Mrs. Tompkins, who lived up the street had the boy in to play with her children.

159 Games played in playground – hopscotch, rounders, hoops, whips and tops, skipping. Always played in streets.

172 August 4<sup>th</sup> 1914. They were at Derby. On holiday. Came home next day. People were absolutely shocked. Didn't think it would come to that. Works holidays then – staying with Aunt. Mother's cousin was called up that day, in Territorials. Went to France and killed within a fortnight. Everybody thought it would be over in six months. It had been hovering for quite a while, but still a shock. Mother's brother was chauffeur for Rose of Roses' Lime Juice. He had family car turned into ambulance. Uncle Arthur was right up at the front line fetching the wounded. Went right through war and only had broken thumb. Reckons he had had his nine lives. Mother had regular letters from him.

223 Mrs. C.'s husband went. Was 18 in July 1918. They were courting then. He was a brass finisher in the Works. Husband in Army on Rhine for two years before he got demobbed. By

time he'd finished training the War was over. She was upset. Used to go down to station to see them off. Can remember in early part of war after rally in works Tremendous upset then, people crying. All went to station to see them off. Her husband was in the band then.

267 War quietened Wolverton down. Soldiers weren't billeted in Wolverton but were billeted around. Can't remember going short of food. They knitted socks and mittens and balaclava helmets for soldiers.

290 Wesleyan Methodists – weren't members of Sewing Circle – more their parents.

300 Think life went on as normal can't remember many upsets. Informed? Read papers – quite a few in Print lost boyfriends in France. After war during Armistice two minute silence had great trouble with girl who'd lost her only brother, silent for two minutes then. Some of the girls really got upset. Don't think they had much idea of what was happening. Read about trenches and thought it horrible but I don't think it hit Wolverton ever so. Can only remember meeting next door neighbours coming home on leave, but didn't hear anything from them.

346 Never went to cinema – parents didn't approve.

377 Armistice Day – can't remember much about it.

385 Remembers Ball in Works and Sports – describes. They never went to the Ball, Mr. Mason, works Manager, encouraged the fire Brigade.

In spare time did knitting and sewing – sewed a lot for bottom drawer. Made most of clothes. Went to Science and Arts to Evening classes – in sewing, needlework and fancy work. In evenings, also read. In winter played games – draughts, dominoes, snakes and ladders.

430 Monday night – Band of Hope – temperance society – magic lanterns, la=lectures – from 6 – 16 approx. weekly meeting. Recitals, hymns, solos etc.

460 Mrs. C's courting started at 16. Went to social evenings at Chapel and church institute – not dances. On Sunday – went to Sunday School 10.00a.m. – Chapel 11.00 a.m. – Sunday School 2.30 p.m. and Chapel at night. Just accepted it as a normal Sunday. Sung round piano – hymns only. Not allowed to read bad book e.g. a novel – just Pilgrims Progress or The Wide Wide World. No knitting or sewing.

530 No rebellion by teenagers. Every family was the same. Not just Wolverton – the same everywhere.

540 People who lived not far away never saw woman without husband's cap on and apron on – not the right thing to do. Had special clothes for Sunday – couldn't wear them in week – on Sunday wouldn't wear day clothes. only cooking was allowed to be done on Sunday. Always roast on Sunday. Range heated for it – cakes etc. made for week.

580 Dad never did housework – helped clear table and wash up, then did allotment and garden. I think that is what made all Wolverton people so healthy really because we had allotments. As children kept chickens in back garden. After work went gleaning in Mr.

Norman's fields for wheat etc. after harvest. Enjoyed it. Girls helped with housework. Mrs. C. Did scrubbing on Saturday. One cleaned forks, the other knives. Did brasses too. Can't remember going for holidays in war. Normally for holidays they boarded and took their own food and landlady cooked it for you.

650 Had certificates at school with stars for good attendance. War had effect afterwards? Lot of girls had lost boyfriends – quite a few never married.

687 No real division between Church and Chapel, but wouldn't attend other's services.

Side 2

No rivalry between Wesleyan and Primitive Methodists.

020 Food – no convenience foods. Rarely bought a cook. Made own jams and pickles. Preserved eggs, had home cured bacon and ham from grandmother – lasted for the year. killed one pig in last week of November, the other at Christmas.

060 Gas-lit houses at that time – but no gas upstairs. Gas-lighter – Mr. Burnham – lot street lamps you could have set your clocks by him. Had to rub goose grease on if had cold. Had to wear piece of red flannel on chest covered in goose grease. Had brimstone and treacle – spoonful every Friday night. When slippy put old woollen socks on top of shoes. Used a lot of camphorated oil – against coughs and colds used eucalyptus. Onion gruel against a bad cold. thermogene wadding on chest – pinky wadding impregnated with oils. Camphor lockets – worn round neck with tine holes in – worn round neck and tucked inside you good for chest. Epicepuana (?) wine – spots on a bit of sugar – thinks it was for colds. Didn't visit doctor much as had to pay. Watercress Jack came round when they were kids. Took a bowl out and got twopenny worth. Mr. Busby came round with shellfish – always Saturday afternoon.

144 Went to Viaduct for swimming lessons at school. Tied rope round them and teacher held one end. Changed in shed under viaduct. Housewifery lessons – cooking, how to clean silver and brass, how to make furniture polish, boys doing carpentry at this time.

176 They followed the War at School – had quizzes on it.

210 Husband's brother went to live with grandmother, made a fuss of stayed there for years - but went home when he felt like it. Family only lived one or two streets away. You hadn't got much in those days and what you'd got you'd share. That was the thing. There's not the sharing that there used to be.