

# MEMORY LANE

BS10

WINNER  
Best Regular Column  
Bristol Community  
Newsletter Awards  
2007



This picture is of a family called Mernon who lived in Knighton Road, having a relaxing time in the fields that were to become Greystoke Avenue. The photograph was taken in the 1930s.

## Enjoying Working for Wills

ON leaving Fonthill Road School in July 1944 at the age of 14 years, I was looking forward to the big adventure of starting work at Wills Tobacco Factory at Ashton Gate. Living at Pen Park Road in Southmead meant a long journey to work, starting at 7.30am, leaving the house at 6.15am, sometimes on very dark cold mornings, running all the way down Pen Park Road to where the bus started in those days; on the bus to

Old Market and change to the Ashton Bus, 4d return on each, meeting up with many more of the Wills' young employees, having a laugh and joke.

I think, most of the time it was a fun thing, rather than moaning about going to work, and getting paid at the end of the week - £1.7s 6d (£1.37p), we were rich.

No regrets. Happy Days.

**J Chandler (née Norris)**



The Street Party in Ashburton Road to celebrate the Queen's Coronation in 1953. Some members of the families still live in Southmead.

The Homers, Lanes, Chlebko and Daly etc. Do you recognise anyone?

*Photo supplied by Mrs G Homer.*

## The beginnings of Southmead Baptist Church

ALMOST 75 years ago, in 1933, a Sunday School was started in Fonthill School. This became Southmead Baptist Church, Charfield Road and more recently Bethany, Greystoke Avenue.

As part of our celebrations next year, we are hoping to produce a book of memories of the church over the years.

In the good old days, Charfield Road was lined with charabancs for the Sunday School outing – do you

remember that?

Or perhaps you were involved in the Youth Club. Many Southmead people were in some way connected with the church. We would love to hear your memories of bygone days.

We would also love to hear from people who have more recent memories of the church right up to the present day. We need your help. Please contact Irene on 0117 969 5672.



Beat Thorpe, Mrs Lane, Doll Green and myself with the cake made for the Coronation street party in Ashburton Road.

# MEADERS' LETTERS

Send your letters to The Mead Editorial Team, c/o Tracy Edwards-Brown, Southmead House, 256 Greystoke Avenue, Southmead BS10 6BQ.

A name and address must be supplied with all letters.

We will only withhold a letter-writer's name and address if there is a compelling reason to do so.

We reserve the right to edit any correspondence.

Dear Mead

I had a letter today with The Mead Paper, sent by my sister which she found on a bus.

I felt I had to write and say, it took me back so many years. I left Bristol in 1979. To read of Southmead Hospital, I worked there for some years, and the Street Party of Ringwood Crescent, I lived in Cranmore Crescent, the next street.

Your story from Rodney (re Postman) in which he says he wondered how many people have never left Southmead, have been born on the Estate.

My sister and I, if we talk of home, it's not where we live now, it is Southmead. I wonder how many people I would know now.

Thanks for all the good work you do for Southmead.

Yours

**Pat Allen, London**

Dear Mead

After attending Southmead's Festival in July I was pleased to see a plastics re-cycling bin at Greenway. I didn't know it was there but will now start to use it each week. When school starts again I can drop my son off at Badocks Wood and get rid of my plastic bottles as well.

I hope it will be well used by Southmead residents, especially those who have a car or live near Doncaster Road. No need to fill up your bin at home or dump plastic bottles any more. There are also bins for glass bottles there as well.

**M M Clark.**

Dear Mead

Once again the Fonthill Road School Reunion evening at SCC on 7th July 2007 and organised by Marion Garland was a great success, meeting old school friends, going back 65 years or more. It was quite magical, we had a lovely evening with 40s music and good food, also a very good free raffle!

Marion said it would be the last one organised by her, which is a great pity. All I can say is "Watch this space..."

A very big thank you to Marion Garland for all she has done over the last few years to bring us all together.

**Jean Chandler (née Norris)**

Dear Mead,

To all the people who live on the junction of Trowbridge, Westleigh and Ashburton Roads, my heartfelt sympathy.

I live near there too and I am getting totally fed up with the totally mindless behaviour of some of the young people who live in Southmead. 12-13 year old girls getting drunk on alcopops, then throwing the bottles in the air, just so they can watch them smash outside people's gates. Boys aged 14-17 shouting and swearing at each other, even though they are all in the same group, running into people's gardens, throwing stones at people's windows and doors, urinating in gateways, climbing over fences and hedges, frightening elderly people, especially those who live alone. Mopeds, scooters going round and round, revving needlessly.

Perhaps if all this happened at 8 or 9 pm it wouldn't be so bad, but it is not, it is all going on at 2 or 3 in the morning.

What parent in their right mind allows their 12 year old daughter out at that time of night, to run wild with groups of up to eight youths? Don't they know or care, or is it a way of getting some peace for themselves? People I've spoken to are getting very angry, especially some of the older men with families of their own.

To those of you who don't live in this neighbourhood, just think what you're missing, but count yourself lucky.

I know it doesn't happen every night, but it happens too often to be ignored any longer.

**DO YOU KNOW WHERE YOUR CHILDREN ARE AT NIGHT?**

**Disgruntled Resident**

