Celebrations and Jubilations



I remember when the VJ night was. My father made some frames up with VJ on them, and hung paste pots on the wooden framework with candles in, and they were put on the lynches above the football field there. I remember these little jam jars - Shippams paste pots which father used to sell in the shop down there. Then they had a big bonfire - everyone was so relieved the war had finished.
Des Dear



Upper Woodford, Home Market

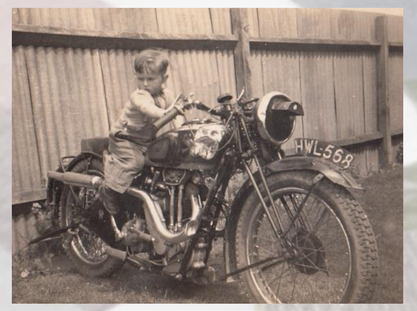


Reginald Dear

Where we live at The Haven, we've got The Willows - the council houses next to us, they weren't called The Willows then of course, they were known as the Council Houses in Middle Woodford. The Osgoods lived at Number 2. I remember three of the older boys Reg, Fred and Harold. Harold was in the Navy, Fred was in the RAF and Reg was in the Army. They all went to war and they all came back fortunately, not everybody had that sort of luck of course. I'll always remember VE Day; May 1945 and Mrs Osgood leaning out of the bedroom window up the top and putting up a huge Union Jack; she was able to lean out of both casements and stretch this flag straight across down below the window sills. I remember we had VE celebrations in the recreation ground; it was always known as the football field, when I was a boy. I'll always remember there was a bonfire up along the top fence; they'd taken the fence down and built this bonfire up around the thorn bush. Even at that early age, I wasn't five till the August, I had a fascination with fire and I was quite excited they were going to light this bonfire. And I got all excited because Mr Dear was round the back and shone a torch through and I thought he'd lit it.
Mike Penny



Mike Penny, ages 3. 1942



Mike Penny on Uncle Joe's motorbike

It was 1935 - Mary and George V's Silver Jubilee and I was here with my grandmother. I was sat up in my bedroom window and I watched them build it – the Jubilee Clock above the Home Market. And a young chap was up there putting the tiles on the roof and he said to me. "What is your name?" and I said. "Barbara." And so he starting writing it in the cement. My grandmother was very upset about it, she told me to get down out of the window and go downstairs. I think she was afraid I was going to jump on the roof with him. Perhaps I'd given him the glad eye, I don't know because we were sort of right opposite one another. It was only across the road, it wasn't very far for a handshake. He was a nice young man too. A pity the old girl put her oar in. I was only sixteen, old enough for anything - not everything, but anything.



Barbara Portnall in crinoline dress. 1935

My future mother-in-law, she made me a crinoline dress for the fancy dress they had at Woodford for the Silver Jubilee; it was green and pale yellow crepe paper and she done the bonnet and parasol. Cyril was in pinstriped trousers so he was the middle aged man and I was a middle aged woman. We didn't get anything. The woman who got it, she went as half a man and half a women - one half was a dress and the other half was trousers. She got first prize. I think I done alright in the racing. A chap called Charlie who lived at Lower Woodford seen me standing there and he said. "Come on Barb, I want a partner for the three legged race." So I said. "Alright then." He carried me along – we came in first and I think we had about five bob each. It was a good afternoon like.
Barbara Portnall



Silver Jubilee. 1935
Woodford School Managers

HON. L. GREVILLE. MRS. E. BEAUCHAMP. MR. J. GRAY.
REV. M. I. HOLME R. D. MRS. WALKER. MR. R. EDWARDS.