

Chapter 51: Aspects of Life in the Early 1950s

Music

Mum continued with music lessons until February 1950 and she remained involved in the chapel choir during this period. Occasionally, she noted items the choir practiced, e.g. All in the April Evening¹, in March 1950. She still sometimes played the piano for Sunday School. At the end of 1950, and into the following year, she attended dancing lessons at Palais de Dance² with Margaret Bostock. She also attended some musical performances including the Messiah at the Festival Hall³ on multiple occasions. Performances in 1951 and 1952 were reported in the local press. These reports noted that attendance was well down in 1952 compared to the more than 700⁴ who attended the performance the previous year.

FEbruary 2nd, 1951.

Over 700 People Hear "Messiah" at Kirkby

EXCLAMATIONS such as "One could hear a pin drop in between singing," "it was an education to see the conductor," "The final appearance was quite terrific," were unanimous praise for the performances of Handel's "Messiah" in the Festival Hall, East Kirkby, on Saturday evening.

Fine Interpretation

This well-known oratorio has been presented on numerous occasions in Kirkby and district, but the majority of the audience of over 700 in the Festival Hall on Saturday were of the opinion that they have never before heard it interpreted so excellently. Praise for the effect is due to some grand teamwork, but the initial move was made by members of the Market and Entertainment Sub-Committee of the Kirkby Urban Council. Councillor A. H. Briggs (chairman), J. W. Andrew, R. Andrew, J. W. Ashby, J. C. Booley, J. W. Bend, C. L. Sergeant and Mrs. Wright, the organisers, with the aid of local musicians and choirmasters, including Messrs. L. Abbott, R. Allin, A. Amott, C. B. Carter, R. Holden, A. Corden, B. Cress, W. Hollingshead, R. H. Purvisson and J. W. Maittey and Messengers E. Parker and L. Tyler, made all arrangements after the Council had decided

In sponsor the effect. Mr. L. Nuttley, musical adviser to the Notts. Education Committee, was also an enthusiastic supporter of the show and gave invaluable assistance.

The decision to invite Herbert Bardgett, chorus master of the Halle, Huddersfield, Sheffield and Nottingham Choral Societies, to be conductor was a wise one, as he skilfully controlled and blended the singers, principals and musicians. His interpretation of the oratorio differed from local productions, and this probably was most obvious in the chorus, "All we like sheep."

From Local Choirs

On the platform appropriately draped with the United Nations flag, high above the audience, the local choirs, Mr. Bardgett conducted, sang and extricated every ounce of music from a choir he had not seen until five hours previously. For the choir of nearly 100—except for a few members of the Notts. Harmonic Choir, were all local singers connected with choirs in the parish—it was a memorable occasion.

The orchestra consisted of local musicians, assisted by members of the Nottingham Harmonic Society and Mansfield Technical College, and was led by Joyce Mountney, of Nottingham. Mrs. Lydia Tyler was the pianist.

Mr. Len Abbott, solo trumpeter, was the recipient of praise from the bass soloist, George Allen. The other principals, all of whom sang admirably, were Phyllis Mander (soprano), Patricia Jeffrey (contralto) and Cyril Hornby (tenor).

Exceeded Expectations

Albert Cordin was the chorus master, and it was he who at rehearsals had the difficult task of bringing the choir up to a standard sufficiently good for the conductor to take over on the final day.

The praise and appreciation of the oratorio which has been presented at the Council Offices this week is ample proof that the effort was a huge success. Mr. Bardgett said, "Everything exceeded his expectations. Many people remarked on the perfect acoustic properties of the hall, but the greatest praise came from a prominent personality in the county who said there was no hall in Nottingham as good as the Festival Hall for concert programmes, including the Albert Hall."

JANUARY, 12th, 1952.

Performance of "The Messiah" at Kirkby

ALTHOUGH the oratorio, sponsored by the entertainments committee of Kirkby Urban Council, was organised on the same lines as the effect a year ago, Saturday, the audience in the Festival Hall did not draw as large an audience; only 350 attended, compared with about 650 on the first occasion.

Whatever the cause of the lesser attendance, there was no reduction in the high standard of the singing and interpretation of the oratorio. An augmented choir of 100 voices, chiefly local choirmasters, with the assistance of the Nottingham Harmonic Choir—were conducted on the first occasion by Mr. Herbert Bardgett.

Local Musicians

The orchestra consisted of local musicians augmented by members of the Nottingham Harmonic Orchestra. Leonard Abbott, of Kirkby-in-Ashfield, was the solo trumpeter, and the pianist, Joyce Mountney, of Nottingham.

The principals were Phyllis Mander, soprano; Dora Capay, contralto; Eric Barnes, tenor; and John Ditchick, bass. Sydney Crofts was the pianist. Albert Cordin, of Amesbury Woodhouse, had been in charge of the choir and been responsible for the training prior to the actual performance. The conductor for the unvoiced committee was Mrs. Barker.

News cuttings related to performances of *The Messiah* at the Festival Hall in 1951 and 1952

Grandad continued to be interested in music. In January 1952, he started learning Uncle Frank's accordion which he had left at Christmas. That same month, he bought a piano accordion and a xylophone.⁵ However, a week later, he took both back and got a larger accordion with 120 bass and 41 treble keys.⁶ However, a couple of days later he took this back as he felt it was too big! In February, he went to Nottingham and got a smaller accordion⁷ from Nequest's.⁸ In February 1954, grandad

¹ See [Chapter 54](#).

² It seems there may have been places by this name in both Mansfield and Nottingham but I am assuming mum is referring to the one in Mansfield as it had a famous school of dancing.

³ See [Chapter 59](#).

⁴ Although the later news cutting said that the attendance the previous year had been "about 650".

⁵ Both mum and grandad spell this as "zylophone". Grandad noted that it was £8 for the piano accordion and £15 for the xylophone.

⁶ Apparently, the treble keys are the piano-style keys and the bass keys are the ones that look like buttons.

⁷ This one had 48 bass and 34 treble keys. It cost £16 and he was refunded £9 for the previous one.

⁸ Initially, I struggled to find this shop. This was partially because I thought the first letter was an "M". I found a listing for Peter Nequest, a music seller, in the 1941 Kelly's Directory. He had at least four branches in Nottingham at the time, at South Sherwood Street, the Central Market, Parliament Street and Mansfield Road. An example of one of their adverts is available [here](#).

bought a wooden recorder from Brentnall's⁹ in Nottingham and, in March 1954, he exchanged his piano accordion for a soprano saxophone.¹⁰ In November 1954, Ken Hodges brought grandad a tenor recorder from Nequest's in Nottingham.¹¹



Jack Brentnall

2, 6, and 6a GOLDSMITH STREET

Telephone 2055 and 43428

also at

296 RADFORD ROAD

625 MANSFIELD ROAD, SHERWOOD

89 OSMASTON ROAD, DERBY

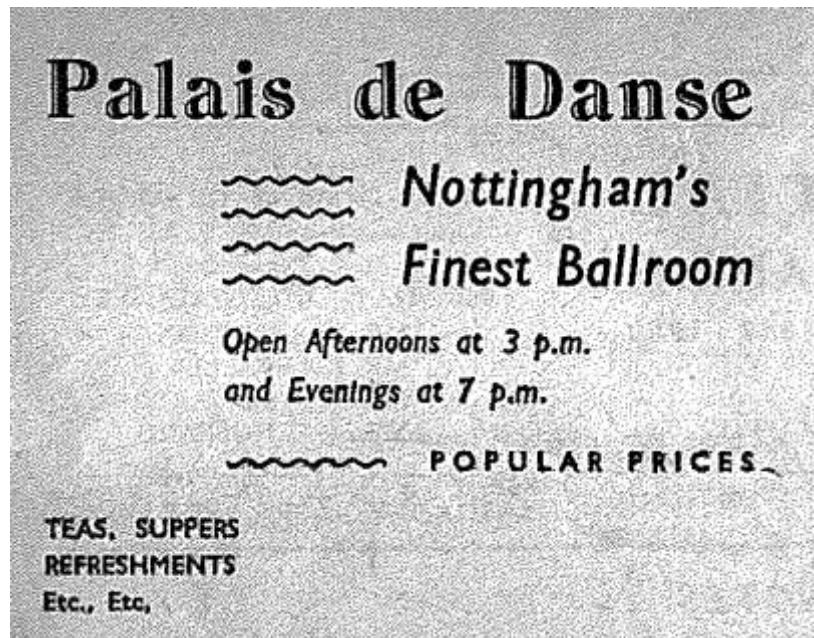
12 CHURCHGATE, LEICESTER

★ R·G·D THE ARISTOCRAT OF RADIO

Adverts in a Notts County programme in April 1950.

Left – advert for Jack Brentnall's music shop showing multiple locations

Below – advert for Palais de Danse in Nottingham



⁹ Initially, I thought this [shop](#) was in Market Street and was opened by local saxophonist Jack Brentnall. However, it seems that there were multiple branches of this shop in Nottingham, Derby and Leicester. In the late 40s/early 50s, they advertised regularly in Notts County's programmes. The recorder cost 15/3.

¹⁰ At Nequest's. He was allowed £10 on the accordion and, as the saxophone cost £6, he got £4 back.

¹¹ This cost £5 13 0.

Transport

During this period, both grandad and mum continued to use their bikes to get to places including visiting friends and family. Mum often cycled with and to friends' including Barbara Coupe, Dallas Wright and Irene Davy. In February 1951, mum had a new bike and grandad had her old one. Places that mum and grandad cycled to during this period included Bull Farm¹² and Mansfield. In August 1954, mum noted going on a bike ride with dad.

*Right – Mum's friend Barbara Coupe with her bike – July 1950
Below – Barbara and mum with their bikes*



I am not sure if grandad was struggling cycling but, in February 1950, he decided to buy a mini motor¹³ and fix that to his bike. As a result, he was able to travel quite widely including to Alfreton, Beeston,

¹² See [Chapter 54](#).

¹³ The [mini motor](#) was a clip-on engine that could be attached to a bike and which sat above the bike's rear wheel. It was based on a motor that could be used to drive a lathe and was produced by [Trojan](#) between 1949 and 1955. Grandad noted that the motor cost £21 (in [various adverts](#)) and he paid a further £1 for fixing and 8/6 for something which I cannot make out. Initially, I could not quite make out the details of the entry on 22 February, related to arranging to have the mini motor fitted. I think it says Hooleys. According to the 1941 Kelly's Directory, Hooley's were bicycle and motorcycle dealers on Derby Road (G Hooley is listed as a cycle dealer at 10a Derby Road and Hooley's Garage Limited is listed at Upper College Street and 47 Derby Road). I initially found these addresses difficult to pin down. [10a](#) took me to the A52 in Beeston, near Wollaton Park whereas [47](#) is nearer to the city centre on the A610 on the corner of Upper College Street which fits with the Kelly's Directory listing. It appears that this location was also a car dealership and that it [closed in around 2000](#) and was then demolished. Hooleys also seems to have had a [garage](#) on the Ropewalk and this could conceivably have been continuous with the Derby Road showroom.

Cauldwell, Crich Stand, Edwinstowe, Gunthorpe Bridge, Heanor, Hucknall, Ilkeston, Kilburn, Long Eaton, Mansfield, Moorgreen, Ollerton, Oxton, Redhill, Selston, Southwell and White Post.¹⁴ Some of his "rides" were quite a distance. For example, at the end of April 1950, he went a ride to Hucknall, Redhill and White Post and noted that this was 31½ miles. Not all grandad's rides were uneventful. In mid-May 1950, his back tyre burst and he and John¹⁵ had to fit a new tyre. In June 1950, grandad noted that mum had her first bike ride with him on the mini round Cauldwell. I don't know why but, in August 1950, after only having it for six months, he sold the mini motor.

1950	FEBRUARY	FEB.—MARCH	1950
19	Quadrupedine	Quadrupedine	26
Sun.	Sat in Lent.	Sun.	
20		27	Mon.
Mon.			
21		28	Tues.
Tues.			
22	Arch Wednesday Washington's Birthday, 1782 Regent's Walks	Went to see David's Dad. Rambler way.	MARCH 1
Wed.	Went up to see friend of mine who is my wife	Met thrilled with the running of motor. -2	
23	Went to see Regent	Speedometer mileage 220	
General election			
Thur.	Balance returned.		
Sent my bills by Queen to Holton for Mini Motor			
24	Motor 21-8-0	3	Fri.
25	Leisure 1-8-0		
26	Leisure 8-6	4	Sat.
Sat.			

1950	MARCH	MARCH	1950
5	2nd in Lent. In the morning had a ride on Mini Motor after dinner had another in car after.	Went on Mini	3rd in Lent. 12
Sun.	after dinner had another in car after.	Wrote to see Olive	Sun.
6		She said she was not very well.	13
Mon.			Mon.
7		14	Tues.
Tues.			
8	In the afternoon went Wed. on Mini Motor afternoons - afternoons.	Went down to Dicks the man to buy a buck for my gas	15
			Wed.
9			16
Thur.			Thur.
10		17	Fri.
Fri.			
11		18	
Sat.		Came for the weekend	



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MINI-MOTOR (GT. BRITAIN) LTD.,
Treas. Way, Croydon, Surrey.

Left – grandad's diary entries from 19 February to 18 March 1950 showing purchase and use of mini motor. Initially, he was not thrilled with the running of the motor but, the next week, he felt it was running better.
Top right – Hooley's car showroom in Derby Road in 2002 prior to demolition. I think this is where grandad had the mini motor fitted.
Above right – Mini motor advert from 1951. The price cited, of £21, is the price grandad paid.

¹⁴ Presumably the [pub](#) in Farnsfield.

¹⁵ Presumably Olive's husband



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Following the sale of the mini motor, grandad resorted to his usual bike. At the end of October 1950, he rode to 7 Mile House (on the A60) to see the new railway being built to Calverton.¹⁶ He rode to other places on his bike including Alfreton, [Codnor Castle](#), Codnor Park Memorial¹⁷, Gunthorpe Bridge, Jacksdale, Langley Mill¹⁸, Linby, Mansfield, Papplewick, Riddings, Selston, Stanton Hill, Sutton and White Post.



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*Top – Calverton colliery in 1989
Above right – ruins of Codnor Castle
Above – Codnor Park Monument
Right – Langley Mill*

¹⁶ This was opened in 1952 and served the colliery. The line was built as double track but then operated as single track. The colliery closed at the end of the 1990s. The route of the railway is largely [walkable](#). The bridge under the A60, where grandad would have looked at the railway being built, is reached at 9.40. Grandad visited there again in March 1951 to see the new bridge and he took John Attwood there in September 1951.

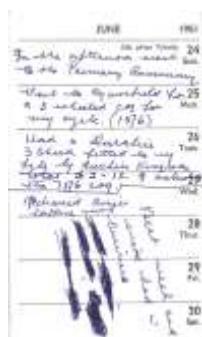
¹⁷ I suspect grandad was referring to the [Codnor Park \(or Jessop\) Monument](#). This was erected in 1854 in memory of William Jessop Jnr.

¹⁸ Langley Mill was an industrial village. It is at the junction of three canals, the Erewash, the Cromford and the Nottingham.

These trips were sometimes quite long given grandad's relative poor health and that he had felt the need for a mini motor! For example, both trips to Jacksdale and Riddings and to Codnor Park, Codnor Castle and Langley Mill were recorded as 19 miles. His ride to Linby and White Post was 25 miles. In September 1951, grandad noted that his cyclometer had reached 1,000 miles.¹⁹ Once the family had moved to Welbeck Street, grandad usually²⁰ cycled to work in Station Street. Until Welbeck Street was opened to traffic²¹, this meant cycling round via Clumber Street.



*Above – Welbeck Street as it was in the early fifties
Below left – grandad's diary entries for June 1951*



As he was using his bike more in 1951, he had some modifications made to it. In June 1951, he went to Mansfield for a three-wheeled cog²² for his bike. It cost 15/6. The next day, grandad had a "Duralice"²³ three speed fitted to his bike by Austin of Kingsway. This cost £2 13 9 including the 15/6 for the cog.

Mum also sometimes went for walks with friends, including Joan Storer, Barbara Coupe, Betty Longden and Hazel Munns, and family, including grandad. The quarries remained a favourite place to walk. Often, she would go for a walk with friends after Sunday School and chapel. From around February 1953, these walks sometimes involved boys including dad and John Overfield.

Throughout this period, the Parkins did not own a car although grandad did order a Morris²⁴ Minor from W J Cresswell in October 1954.²⁵ However, some of their family and friends did own cars. When visiting Bedford in April 1950, mum and grandma visited grandma's first cousin Frank²⁶ and his wife Elsie. Frank took them back to where they were staying in his car. A couple of days later, when mum and grandma were leaving Bedford, mum noted that her cousin Kenneth took them to the station in the car.²⁷ Presumably, this car belonged to Ray, Kenneth's father and grandma's brother. That same month, mum had been due to go to Freda's wedding in Doncaster but had not been able to go because Ray's car had broken down. Other people mum got lifts with included Cliff Green, Barbara Coupe's family and Ken Roome's family. In August 1950, Arthur Evans²⁸, grandad's brother-in-law, was fined £10 and had his driving licence suspended for 12 months for driving when drunk.²⁹

¹⁹ However, he noted this again in August 1952. Could this be different bikes/cyclometers? Or perhaps he reset it after the first one thousand? For more details of cyclometers, see [Chapter 95](#).

²⁰ When the weather was bad he walked. Sometimes, he misjudged the weather. For example, in December 1952, he noted that "bike slipped going to the shop, very slippery". He walked home that day. The following day things had improved and he "biked home for dinner". For a whole week, in February 1953, grandad noted that he did not go to the shop on his bike because of snow and frost. The following Monday dinner-time, he resumed going to the shop on his bike.

²¹ See [Chapter 46](#).

²² Presumably to add gears to his bike.

²³ I don't know what this is referring to. I assumed it was a brand name but can't find anything. I guess it could be a misspelling of derailleur but I am not convinced.

²⁴ [British car maker](#) formed in 1919 with the name remaining in use until 1984.

²⁵ See [Chapter 63](#).

²⁶ Frank's father, William, and grandma's father, Charles, were brothers.

²⁷ Mum noted that Kenneth was a very good driver.

²⁸ Grandad's diary simply refers to Arthur so initially I was not sure if it was Arthur Evans or another Arthur. However, I found a [news report](#) of the court case which confirmed it was Arthur Evans. He claimed that the van had been stationary, and he was standing next to it, when the bus swung round the corner and collided with the van. However, the police officers who attended pointed out that the road was straight, there was no corner, and that where he was standing was a bus stop! He was found guilty and fined £7 10 plus £2 9 costs. The article's headline was "Straight road had corner, he said."

²⁹ Also, in September 1951, grandad commented that "John Unwin had a crash into Butlers Bus on Victoria Rd he was on a motor bike". He did not note if he had been injured. In February 1952, grandad noted that there had been an accident at "4 roads end" and a man had been knocked off his bike.

For longer journeys, the Parkins often used trains. In mum's 1950 diary, at the back, there was a list of rail tunnels between Nottingham and Bedford. Other journeys mum made by train were to visit Jim and Renie on Christmas Day 1950³⁰, to London for the Festival of Britain in 1951³¹, to Truro³² and to Skegness and Bridlington for the day with dad.³³ When the Lofthouses came to attend Olive's funeral in September 1952³⁴, they came by train and, in April 1954, when grandma went to visit the Lofthouses, she went by train.



Sometimes, the family also travelled by bus, including to Nottingham, South Normanton and other local places, including to visit family and friends. In May 1953, when mum and grandma went to London, they went by bus. In September 1954, when mum and dad went to visit Dorothy Lofthouse in Stokesley, they went by Hall Brothers'³⁵ bus from Mansfield to Darlington. Youth club and chapel trips also often involved bus journeys. For example, in May 1952, mum noted that she went to [Wicksteed Park](#)³⁶ with the Junior Youth Club and they went in two Butlers' buses.³⁷ Also, sometimes when the Rainbow Follies group gave a concert, e.g. in Annesley in January 1953, they went there by bus. In October 1953, a group of friends went to a dance at Henry Mellish³⁸, dad's old school. Those who went included mum, dad, Margaret Varnam, Ken Roome, John Overfield, Hazel Munns, Harold Boolsler, Joy Munns and Ken and Pearl Hodges. They had a double decker bus to bring them home.



³⁰ I was interested that [trains had been running on Christmas Day](#) and apparently that was common until the mid-60s in England and later in Scotland.

³¹ See [Chapter 52](#).

³² See [Chapter 54](#).

³³ For the Bridlington trip. Ken Roome and Margaret Varnam also went.

³⁴ See [Chapter 47](#).

³⁵ This was a [South Shields bus company](#) that ran a bus service from Coventry to South Shields from the 1930s. They were acquired by [Barton Transport](#) in 1967.

³⁶ In Kettering – 75-80 miles from Kirkby.

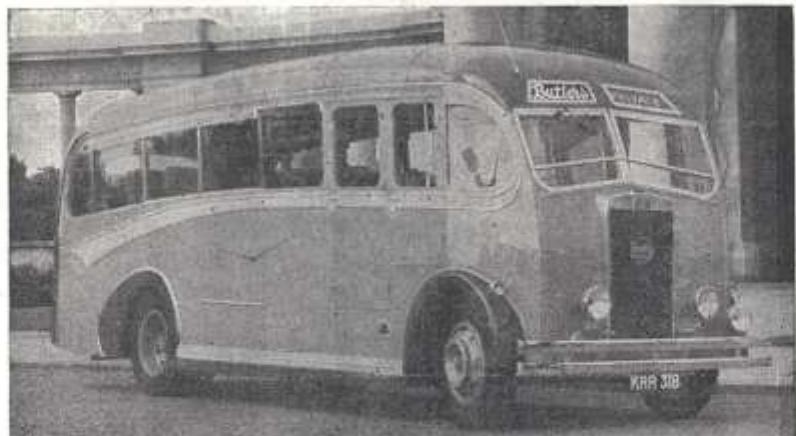
³⁷ This [bus company](#), based in [Vernon Road](#), Kirkby, is [still operating](#).

³⁸ [Henry Mellish](#) worked in Nottinghamshire County government and served as a magistrate. The school was founded as a grammar school in 1929. The school closed in June 2009 when it merged with River Leen school to form The Bulwell Academy.

MEMORANDA

Tunnels	From Nottm to Bed.
via - Melton Mowbray, Oakham, Kett.	
Plum Tree -	1330 yds. Widmerpool
Old Dalby	1305 yds.
	100 yds. Grimston
	536 yds.
	419 yds. M. Melton
Oakham	746 yds. Mantor
	352 yds.

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Previous page

Top right - list of rail tunnels between Nottingham and Bedford - in mum's 1950 diary

Middle left - 1960s leaflet for Hall Brothers bus from South Shields to Coventry

Bottom left - trip to Wicksteed Park - May 1952 showing the Butlers' buses they travelled in

Bottom right - postcard from Wicksteed Park circa early fifties

Top - advert for Butlers' buses from the 1953 Carnival programme

Above left - advert for Butlers buses from 1950 official guide.

Above right - advert for Butlers' buses from the 1969 Kirkby Directory

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Telephone Kirkby-in-Ashfield 3260

In May 1951, grandad and mum went to see an air display in Hucknall. In July 1953, mum and Joan Storer had two weeks' holiday in Guernsey. They flew from [Northolt airport](#). Between 1946 and 1954, RAF Northolt was used for civil aviation during the construction of Heathrow Airport. In 1952, Northolt was the busiest airport in Europe.



Flying programme commences 2.30 pm

1 Lancaster	R.A.F. Waddington	Flypast FA. G.3
2 'Spit & Hurricane'	R.A.F. Coltishall	Dual Salute (FA. G.3)
3 Ziles	Player's Gold Leaf	Synchro-Pair
4 Chipmunk	Hector Taylor	'L'
5 Varsity	R.A.F. Stradishall	Flypast Wk. 1st
6 Lightning	R.A.F. Cotham	Aerobatics Wk. 1st
7 Height-judging Competition	See opposite page	
8 Hercules	R.A.F. Lynam	Flypast
9 Hunter	R.A.F. Valley	Aerobatics FA. 1st
10 Chipmunks	East Midlands U.A.S.	Formation Changes
11 'Any Two'	Charles Boddington & Co.	Streamer Cutting FA. 1st
12 Beagle Pop	Truman Aviation Ltd	Demonstration
13 'Any Three'	Charles Boddington & Co.	Flour Bombing
14 Olympus 2b	R. Willett	Soar Gliderbatics
15 Vulcan	R.A.F. Waddington	Flypast
16 Jet Provost	R.A.F. Cranwell	Aerobatics
17 Whirlwind	R.A.F. Ternhill	Demonstration
18 Spitfire	Rolls Royce Ltd.	Aerobatics
19 'Any Six'	Charles Boddington & Co.	Carlsberg Lager Trophy Demonstration Race
20 Dominie	R.A.F. Stradishall	Flypast
21 The 'Black Knights'	7th Parachute Regt., R.H.A.	Free-Fall Parachute Display
22 The 'Red Arrows'	R.A.F. Kemble	Formation Aerobatics

These shows will be made to minimise the impact and noise of the Flying Programme. For any details in connection therewith, or for general information, or for a copy of the Flying Programme, please apply to the R.A.F. at Hucknall.

Above – programme from later air display at Hucknall in 1969
Left – front cover
Right – details of flying programme

Left and below – plane from London to Guernsey in 1953 – left shows plane landing in Guernsey before mum and Joan Storer headed back to London



Pets

During this period, the Parkins did not have any pets but, in April 1950, when mum went to stay at Auntie Dolly's³⁹ in Bedford, she commented that she saw very tiny rabbits. From the same trip, there are pictures of Auntie Dolly with her cat, Pim, and also of mum holding Pim.



Auntie Dolly (left) and mum (right) holding Pim – April 1950

In April 1954, when grandma came back from visiting the Lofthouses, mum noted that she brought Archie, the tortoise, with her. Over Christmas 1954, grandad noted that he had to go twice a day to feed Pearl's cat.

Items purchased

During this period, both mum and grandad recorded items that they bought. I am not sure if mum was particularly buying clothes at this time⁴⁰ or just that she tended to record what she bought. Whatever the reason, quite a lot of mum's entries related to clothes purchases. In January 1950, mum noted buying a new underskirt and knickers for 10/11. She noted that grandma gave her two shillings and grandad gave her four shillings towards this. Also that month, she noted having a new skirt and knickers. In March 1950, mum bought a new costume⁴¹ and was measured for a new anniversary dress.⁴² That same month, grandma and grandad went into Nottingham. Grandad bought a raincoat for £4 10 0 and a trilby for £1 9 6. In April 1950, mum bought a blouse for her costume⁴¹ and, in May,



Public domain clipart from PomPrint

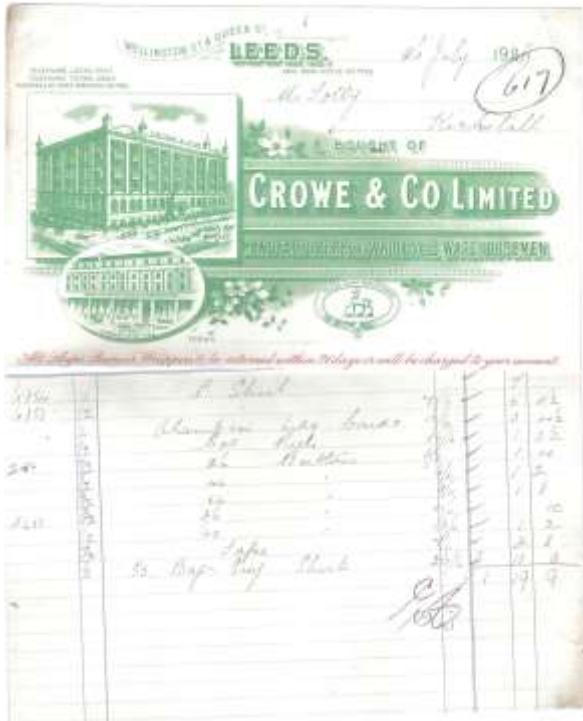
Example of a trilby

³⁹ Auntie Dolly's mother and grandma's father were siblings, so they were first cousins. This means she was mum's first cousin once removed and my first cousin twice removed. As a child, I always referred to her as "auntie" as was the norm then for a child talking to any female adult. I have referred to her as Auntie Dolly throughout these notes for that reason and because I still would find it odd just to refer to her as Dolly although I have referred to other "aunties" from my childhood just by their first name, e.g. Amy and Renie and I recognise that this is inconsistent! Another reason is that grandad's nephew Len Smith's wife was also called Dolly.

⁴⁰ During this period, mum was between 15 and 20 years old and she was building a relationship with dad which culminated in them getting engaged. So, it would perhaps make sense if she was interested in clothes. It also tallies with what I knew of her in that she always liked having nice clothes.

⁴¹ I don't know what this was for but also see [Chapter 37](#).

⁴² Apparently, it was common/usual for girls to have new dresses for the anniversary which they then wore for the Whit walk. This point was noted by Edith Pearson in her book(let) "*I Remember*". She notes (p40), "*I would say all girls and probably boys too had new clothes for the great occasion [of the Sunday School Anniversary]. As the Whit-walk took place three weeks after, the new clothes would be reserved for that special day. As with few exceptions, most young people went to Sunday School. This meant that generally speaking, they would all get new clothes each spring, as well as any they might get during the year*".



Billhead and receipt from Crowe and Company in Leeds from the 1920s. The billhead shows their premises in Leeds and in Newcastle-on-Tyne

she bought a new blazer. That same month, mum bought grandma some stockings for her birthday and grandma bought mum some nylons. In August 1950, mum went to Mansfield twice for shoes for grandad⁴³. On the second occasion, she went in a lorry with Barbara Coupe. That same month, mum got a new coat and frock from Griffins.⁴⁴ In September 1950, she got a pair of fur-backed gloves which she noted that she bought herself. That same month, grandma and grandad went to Nottingham and he bought a new suit from Burtons for £12 5 0. Although, he was told it would be delivered in December he got it in November but grandma had to take it back as he noted that the back was not long enough.

In February 1951, mum went with grandma and grandad into Nottingham. They bought her a new bike and also a coat and material for a dress. Grandad noted that the bike cost £18 3 6 and that he would have mum's⁴⁵ as it was heavy. In March 1951, grandma bought mum a hat and jumper and, that same month, grandad went to Nottingham to buy a new suit. In May 1951, grandma bought some wool for a twinset.⁴⁶ In June 1951, mum bought some white sandals. In July 1951, mum went with grandma to Crowe's⁴⁷ in Leeds. She got a new green hooded coat and grey skirt and they also bought new carpets and curtains for the house in Welbeck Street.⁴⁸

In January 1952, mum bought wool for a green twinset. In March 1952, mum bought a costume and a blouse. In August 1952, mum bought material for an evening dress for the concert party. In September 1952, mum again went to Crowe's in Leeds for the day. She bought a coat, two dresses, a skirt, gloves and shoes. Grandma bought a coat and a dress. In November 1952, mum went to Mansfield and bought material for a new skirt.

In March 1953, mum went to Nottingham and bought a new coat and gloves. In April 1953, she went into Mansfield and bought a new white hat. In May 1953, she bought new gloves again in Mansfield. In July 1953, in Guernsey⁴⁹, mum bought a new skirt. In September 1953, mum bought a new red mac. In November 1953, mum went to Nottingham and bought a new frock.

⁴³ I don't know for sure but my sense is that this involved shoes for grandad's work rather than for him personally.

⁴⁴ presumably Griffin and Spalding, see [Chapter 52](#).

⁴⁵ Presumably the old one.

⁴⁶ See [Chapter 49](#).

⁴⁷ Crowe's was a wholesale drapery, haberdashery and boot manufacturers based in Apsley House (formerly Concourse House), Wellington Street, Leeds. The firm was established by George Francis Crowe in 1857. Apparently, they employed over 300 people and had branches in Bradford, Newcastle-upon-Tyne and Sheffield.

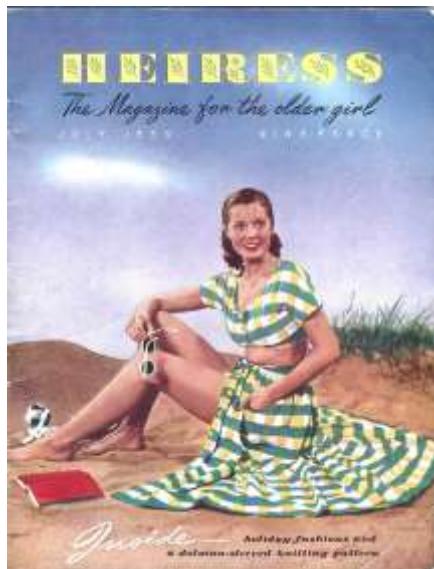
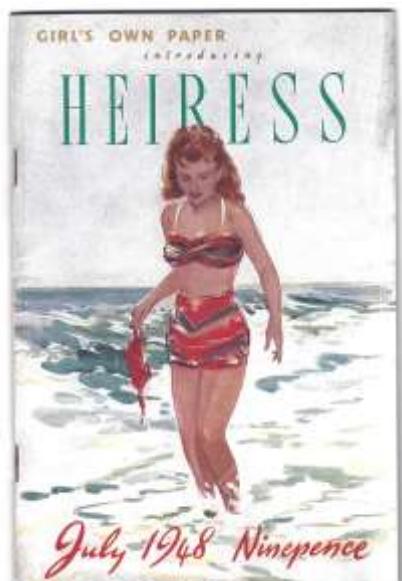
⁴⁸ They moved there in September 1951 – see [Chapter 46](#).

⁴⁹ See [Chapter 52](#).

In April 1954, mum went to Nottingham and bought a short coat, dress and gloves. She also bought two lots of material and grandma bought a new coat. In June 1954, she bought a new pac-a-mac which grandad got for her. In September 1954, mum and dad bought her engagement ring from Gibbs in Nottingham.⁵⁰ They also bought material for an evening dress which was a present from grandad. In October 1954, mum bought a new blue coat, red dress, navy hat and navy gloves. In December 1954, grandad bought a suit and raincoat from Burtons in Hockley.⁵¹ The suit was £12 and the raincoat was £8 15 0.

I have noted mum's love of bags previously⁵² and she bought several during this period. In February 1951, she bought herself a new bag which she described as "*a scotch one*".⁵³ In February 1952, she bought a blue leather bag, in September 1952, a black bag and, in March 1954, she went to Mansfield and bought a new shoulder bag. Mum also bought other things for herself during this period. In May 1952, she went into Mansfield with grandma and bought a necklace. In April 1953, mum went into Sutton with Betty and Joan and she bought a new table tennis bat.

During this period, neither mum nor grandad recorded buying a lot of books or other reading material. One exception was, in July 1950, when mum recorded buying "*1st Heiress*" from Drabble's.⁵⁴ Initially, I thought this was a book and was looking for one called "*The First Heiress*" but without success! I then found that, according to Wikipedia, from 1951 to 1956, the magazine that had been "*The Girl's Own Paper*" was produced as "*Heiress*" having, from 1947 to 1951 been "*The Girls' Own Paper and Heiress*". I wonder if this is what mum was referring to. If so, I presume "*first*" was referring to the first time mum had bought it. It appears to slightly precede the final name change but looking online, it appears that the magazine was known simply as "*Heiress*" in 1950 and before that, that name was also more prominent in the title. The fact that Drabble's was a newsagent is probably also in favour of this being a magazine rather than a book.⁵⁵



Examples of "Heiress" magazines. The one from 1948 (left) still has the name "Girl's Own Paper" although the "Heiress" name is more visible. The one from 1950 (right) is only called "Heiress".

⁵⁰ See [Chapter 57](#).

⁵¹ I am not entirely sure where this branch was but, in the 1941 Kelly's Directory, there were at least seven branches in Nottingham, in St Peter's Square, Beastmarket Hill, Friar Lane, Clumber Street, Goore Gate, Parliament Street and Carrington Street. Perhaps the most likely is the one in Goore Gate, which I presume should be Goose Gate, and which is in Hockley.

⁵² See [Chapter 37](#).

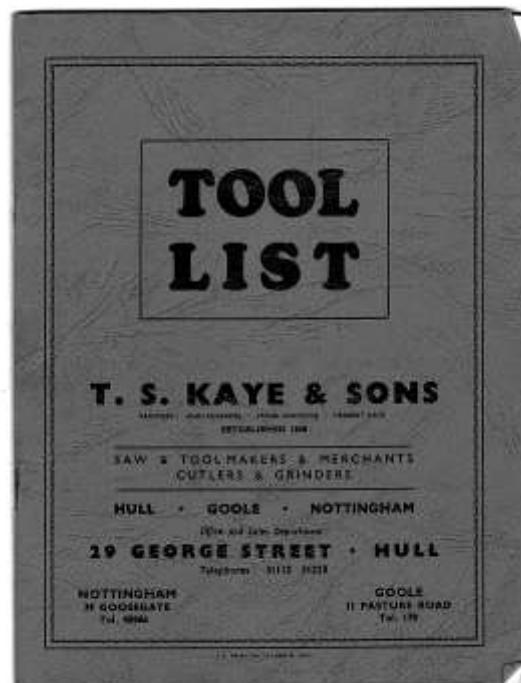
⁵³ I am not entirely sure what mum meant here. Initially, I thought she might have meant Scottish, so perhaps tartan of some kind. But I am not sure if by "scotch" she was referring to [a particular style of bag](#), [a particular type of leather](#) or a [specific bag](#). On balance, I still think the first explanation most likely but I am not sure.

⁵⁴ This was a newsagent run by [Walter Drabble](#) at 101 Lowmoor Road. There is a record for this in the 1941 Kelly's Directory.

⁵⁵ Mum used "Heiress" diaries in 1951 and 1952 – see Chapter 46.

Mum and grandad sometimes noted presents they bought or received. For example, in March 1950, mum bought grandma some fruit spoons for her 20th wedding anniversary and Mothering Sunday. In December 1951, mum bought grandad a tray purse for his birthday. In November 1953, grandma and grandad went to Nottingham to buy a high-low thermometer. It cost 15/6 and mum paid for it for grandad's birthday. In December 1953, grandma gave grandad an alarm clock for his cabin. The cost of this had been 22/6. In March 1954, mum bought grandma some tea knives for Mothering Sunday and, in May that year, mum went to Nottingham and she bought grandma some salad servers for her birthday. At the same time, she also bought dad a wallet.

During this period grandad bought various tools or items to improve the tools he already had. In January 1950, he improved the sander and made an overhead frame for his bench drill. In February 1950, he made a small bench for his drilling machine. In April 1950, he bought a 1HP E⁵⁶ motor for his saw from Stanton Hill for £8 10 0. But, he returned it in May as he felt there was no power in it. Two days after returning it, he ordered a new motor. In July 1950, he went to Nottingham to enquire about a wood lathe and, in August, grandma, grandad and mum went into Nottingham for a lathe but they did not buy one. A week later, he finally managed to buy a lathe in Nottingham for nine guineas. A week after that, he went into Nottingham for a small motor but did not buy one and, a further week after that, he bought a ½HP motor from Kayes⁵⁷ in Nottingham for £6 17 6. At the end of August 1950, grandad got a new pulley from the lathe makers. It cost eight shillings with the postage. In September 1950, he "*fixed bench drill for power drive*", he made the electric motor adjustable for driving the lathe and he made a full length rest for the lathe. In October 1950, he finished the disk sander and went to Nottingham about a chuck for the lathe but noted that he would have to go again with the lathe "*mandrill*".⁵⁸ In November 1950, grandad took his large mandrel to Carrs⁵⁹ in Nottingham to be fitted with a chuck. A week later, grandma went to Nottingham and brought back the chuck. The cost of fitting⁶⁰ this was 20 shillings.⁶¹ Also in November 1950, he made a countershaft for reducing the speed of the lathe and went, with grandma, into Nottingham and he bought a six inch Vee pulley for the lathe. In July 1951, he bought a 10" circular saw. In August 1951, grandma and grandad went to Nottingham and Carlton. Grandad bought a wheelbarrow from Hannams for 55 shillings. He also bought a piece of silver steel for a new saw spindle. In October 1951, he fixed the vice and anvil in his cabin and, a week later, fixed his lathe there too. He also "*fetched the*



Front page of Kaye's tool list. Although they were based in Hull, they had a branch in Goosegate in Nottingham

⁵⁶ I assume this is a one horse power electric motor.

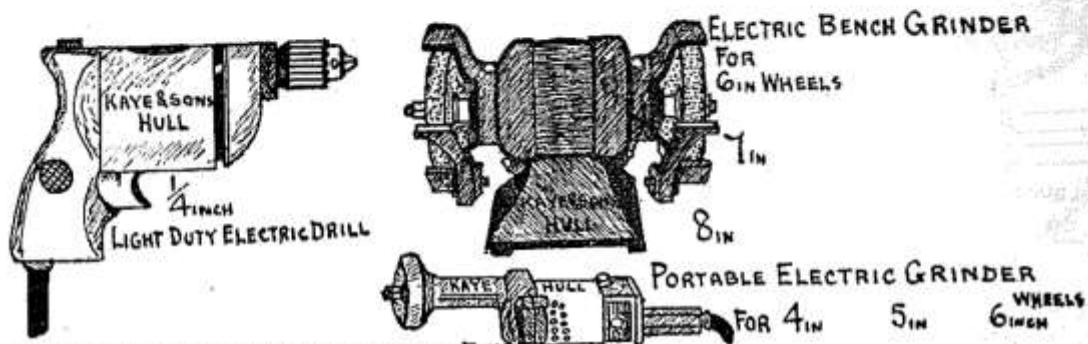
⁵⁷ In the 1941 Kelly's Directory, there is a tool dealers called William Kaye and Sons based at [29 Goose Gate](#). There are some details about the firm on this [website](#). It seems they were linked to [T S Kaye and Sons](#) from Hull and there are more details on this [website](#).

⁵⁸ I think he is referring to mandrel.

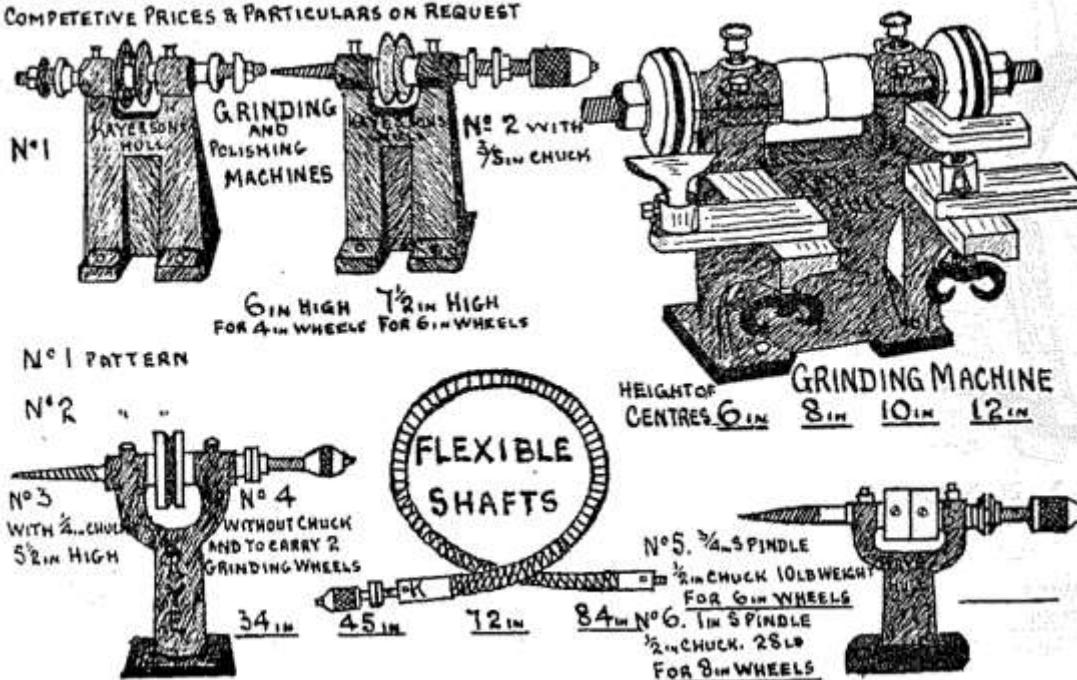
⁵⁹ I think this was the ironmongers Carr and Co who, according to the 1941 Kelly's Directory, were based in 6 Lower Parliament Street. There is an excellent [photo](#) of the shop on the lathes.co.uk website and the description explains that they occupied [6-8 Lower Parliament Street](#). According to Google, the premises were occupied by JJB Sports from at least 2008 to 2012 and by PerfectHome from at least 2015 to 2020. It appears that PerfectHome [closed](#) in March 2022 and that the property was recently available to lease.

⁶⁰ The reference appears to read "*filling a back plate*". I am pretty sure the word is fitting. But, I think it was the chuck that was fitted. Perhaps it should have read "*fitting and back plate*". I confess that this is all beyond my knowledge but it [seems](#) that a backplate can be used to mount a chuck on a lathe.

⁶¹ I don't know why it was recorded like this and not as £1.



WE STOCK ALL THE BEST MAKES OF ELECTRIC TOOLS
SANDERS, SAWS, SCREWDRIVERS, ETC
COMPETITIVE PRICES & PARTICULARS ON REQUEST



Sample page from Kaye's tool list. I could not find any details of any electric motors including the one grandad bought. The tool list is illustrated with beautiful pen and ink drawings which were done by William Henry Kaye in 1943 and 1944.

planing machine from Station St" and the saw and motor. He also installed electric light in the cabin. In August 1952, his nephew Len brought him three new V belt pulleys from Carrs of Nottingham so as to drive the saw with a v belt rather than a flat belt. The cost of these was 17 shillings. In September, he installed the new pullies and commented that they doubled the speed of the saw. In July 1953, grandma went to Mansfield and bought grandad what looks like a "selastic" gun⁶² for 52 shillings. The refills were three shillings each. In December 1953, grandad changed the pulleys on the saw motor giving him three speeds and he put an adjustment on the saw for adjusting the motor. In September 1954, he cut the planer down to fit on the top of the saw.

Grandma and grandad also bought various other household items particularly after they moved to Welbeck Street in 1951. In April 1951, they bought a drop leaf table from Pearsons for £12 10 0. In June 1951, they bought a writing bureau for £21 6 8. In August 1951, they got a new Belling electric cooker. They sold their old one⁶³ to D Webster in October 1951 for £9 10 0. Also, in August 1951, they got a new bath, basin and lavatory. They sold the old bath and taps for £6 in November 1951. In September 1951, they got a new suite for mum's bedroom from Hannam's. In January 1952, they bought a coffee boiler for the back kitchen for £9 15 0. In February 1952, grandad bought a portable radio ("wireless") from Meggitts and gave it to mum. In March 1952, grandma and grandad went into Nottingham and bought a pressure cooker and, in October 1952, they bought new locks and handles for the front doors. In November 1952, grandad bought mum an electric alarm clock for £3 9s 9d and he also bought 16 feet of copper sheeting for the cabin. That same month, he also bought an electric clock for the front room from Meggitts. The cost was £3 19s 4d less a two shilling discount. In December 1952, grandad bought door chimes from Reddish.⁶⁴ The total cost for the chimes, switches and wires was £4 16 6.⁶⁵ In February 1953, grandma and grandad went to Nottingham and bought a new grate for the front room fireplace for £5. In April 1953, they bought a bathroom mirror for 46 shillings. In January 1954, they sent their dining suite to Clarkes⁶⁶ of Sutton to be reupholstered. Mum and grandma had to go to Sutton to pick material for the suite and they got it back a few days later.

1952 NOV.—DECEMBER	
30	Advent Day St. Andrew's Day Sun.
1	DECEMBER Mon.
2	had metal that house was re-assured from 12/- to £15
3	had 3 had the coffee Wed. morning tiles of washhouse & coalhouse
4	had 5 Shells did that so it's now had a cold
5	Total for chimes switches wire etc £4-16. 6
6	Bells. 100 Chimes from Sof Reddish. 2. 12. 6. Jan 12/6 transfixing

Grandad's diary entries for the period 30 November to 6 December 1952 including a note about buying door chimes on 6 December

⁶² I suspect that this was some kind of sealant gun. Silastic was a brand name for Dow Corning and it seems there were guns for it.

⁶³ See Chapter 37. At least I assume it was the old one they sold.

⁶⁴ This may refer to S Reddish and Son who are/were electricians based at 37 Urban Road, Based on Google, the shop has been boarded up since 2008 but the shop name was in place until sometime between 2019 and 2020. According to Companies House, the company is still active.

⁶⁵ There is a broken down cost but this is not completely legible. It seems the chimes were £2 12 6 plus 21 shillings for wiring and 12/6 for what looks like "transfixing".

⁶⁶ There is a reference to Clarke's in the Kelly's Directory in 1941. They are described as house furnishers based at 109-118 Outram Street. I think this probably means they had shops on both sides of the road as Wallace's seem to have now although their address is given as 111 Outram Street.