

## Chapter 59: External Events



On 23 February 1950, grandad noted that there had been a [general election](#) and that Labour were returned. It was the first election to be held after a full term of a Labour government. It was also the first election after the abolition of plural voting<sup>1</sup> and university constituencies.<sup>2</sup> Although Labour won an overall majority, this was dramatically reduced from 146 to 5. Turnout of 83.9% was the highest recorded under universal suffrage. In [Broxtowe](#), the Labour Party candidate and sitting MP, Seymour Cocks, was elected with a majority of more than 22,000.

*Left - Clement Attlee continued as Prime Minister after the election in 1950 but with a much-reduced majority*  
*Below - newspaper cutting of Kirkby carnival 1951 showing MP Seymour Cocks. He was re-elected in both 1950 and 1951*  
*Bottom - Winston Churchill returned as Prime Minister in 1951 following the Conservative victory in the general election*

A further [general election](#) was held on 25 October 1951 with Labour hoping to increase their majority. However, both mum and grandad noted that the Conservatives won an overall majority of 17 seats. This was despite Labour winning the popular vote and achieving its highest ever total vote. One factor was winning some seats unopposed in Northern Ireland. As a result of the Conservative victory, Winston Churchill returned as Prime Minister. [Locally](#), Seymour Cocks achieved a very similar result to 1950 with more than 35,000 votes, almost three quarters of the vote share (73%) and a majority of more than 22,000.



In September 1953, there was a [by-election](#) in Broxtowe following the death of Seymour Cocks. It was won by William Warbey for Labour with 74% of the vote and a majority of almost 18,000. The by-election is not mentioned in either diary.

In the period 1950 to 1952, mum attended a number of Young Conservatives' activities with Barbara Coupe. These events were largely social, e.g. scavenger hunt, beetle drive, dance, party and a tennis tournament.

<sup>1</sup> Which allowed people to vote both where they lived and where they had a university affiliation or where they owned property.

<sup>2</sup> Constituencies representing particular universities.

From 1949, the National Union of Mineworkers (NUM) held an [annual demonstration](#) at the end of June.<sup>3</sup> In 1953, grandad noted that this [took place in Kirkby](#) and that more than 20,000 people attended. This was the only time this event took place in Kirkby. The first four demonstrations (1949-1952) took place at Basford Miners Welfare, near to Babbington Colliery. From 1954 onwards, they took place at Berry Hill, [Mansfield](#).



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*Top – Kirkby Colliery section of the parade assembles accompanied by Kirkby Colliery Welfare Band  
Above – James Callaghan heading to rally at Berry Hill Park, late 1950s*

<sup>3</sup> This was also later referred to as a [gala](#).

In May 1951, both grandad and mum noted the opening of the [Festival of Britain](#). Grandad noted that it had been opened by the King. The festival was the initiative of the Labour minister, Herbert Morrison and celebrated the centenary of the Great Exhibition of 1851. However, it was not another World Fair but rather it focused solely on Britain and its achievements. There was a centrepiece in London but also events throughout the country. It led to a new contemporary style of arts, crafts and designs which espoused strong primary colours. Mum, grandma and grandad visited the Festival, as part of an organised trip from Kirkby, on 6 June 1951.<sup>4</sup> They were far from impressed! Mum noted “FB NB BP VG” which I take to mean that she considered the Festival of Britain “not bad” but she liked Battersea Park better!<sup>5</sup> According to grandad, he and grandma did not think it “came up to Wembley of 1924-25”.<sup>6</sup>



*Top right – flyer giving details of excursion to Festival of Britain Above middle left – mum’s commemorative Festival of Britain crown Above second row right – photo taken from trip to Festival of Britain June 1951 Above left – sewing kit commemorating the Festival of Britain Above third row right – model Festival of Britain van Above right – Festival of Britain bike brooch*

<sup>4</sup> See [Chapter 52](#).

<sup>5</sup> I am assuming she was distinguishing between the South Bank centrepiece and the Festival Pleasure Gardens in Battersea Park.

<sup>6</sup> Grandad was referring to the [British Empire Exhibition](#). This ran from April 1924 to October 1925. Grandad appears to have visited this up to three times between June and August 1924. He certainly went to Wembley twice during this period. Alan Cirket’s book *The Cirket Family of Elstow* notes that his mother and father visited the exhibition and a distant cousin came over from Australia for it.



The Festival of Britain was also commemorated in Kirkby. In September 1950, mum noted that the Old Market Hall in Kirkby had reopened as the Festival Hall.<sup>7</sup> During this period and subsequently, mum and her family and friends attended multiple events at the Festival Hall including remembrance services, carol services, musical concerts and dances.<sup>8</sup> In the early years, they sometimes lapsed back into its old name, Market Hall.<sup>9</sup> In 1951, the Kirkby carnival was linked to the Festival of Britain.<sup>10</sup> In July 1951, mum went to the Festival Hall to see the carnival queen (Bernice Wright) crowned. She went with her friend, Barbara Coupe, and with Barbara's mother. Two weeks later, grandma, grandad and mum went to an exhibition<sup>11</sup> at the Festival Hall. Grandad considered it very good. Mum commented that it was "better than London compared with the size of Kirkby".



*Grandad thought that the Festival of Britain in London in 1951 had not been up to the standard of the British Empire Exhibition in 1924 which he also attended – from that exhibition Top left – front cover of official guide Top right – envelope containing 24 photographic postcards Above right – sample postcard showing the boating lake Left – Kirkby Festival Hall in 1963: This photo is from a postcard by Kirkby and District Conservation Society which was kindly provided by Trevor Lee. It also appears in Gerald Lee's book "Kirkby-in-Ashfield: Yesterday Remembered" (p62) and in Mark Ashfield's book "Ferrets, a Tin Whistle and Haircuts at Home" (p20)*

<sup>7</sup> The re-opening ceremony was on 30 September 1950 and I have a copy of the souvenir programme, provided to me by Trevor Lee. In addition to the programme, it provides some historical notes. The hall was turned into a [leisure centre](#) although it retains the Festival Hall name. There are currently major [plans](#) to re-develop the site and build a new leisure centre. This is expected to [open in August 2022](#). There is a photograph of the building in the book "Kirkby & District: A Second Selection" by Frank Ashley, Sylvia Sinfield and Gerald Lee (p97). Mark Ashfield devotes a chapter to this in his book "Christmas Pigs and a Summer Donkey". The chapter is called "More than Just a Market" (pp36-42).

<sup>8</sup> See, for example, Chapters [51](#), [52](#), [54](#), [56](#) and [57](#).

<sup>9</sup> On Christmas Eve 1950, both mum and grandad referred to a carol service held here. Interestingly, grandad used the new name and mum the old.

<sup>10</sup> See [Chapter 52](#).

<sup>11</sup> There are photos of this in the book "Kirkby & District in Old Photographs" by Frank Ashley, Sylvia Sinfield and Gerald Lee (p16). There is also a photo of a street party to coincide with the Festival of Britain on p25 and the front cover. There is a related photo in their second book "Kirkby & District: A Second Selection" (p117).



URBAN DISTRICT OF  
KIRKBY-IN-ASHFIELD

# RE-OPENING OF FESTIVAL HALL

SATURDAY  
the  
30th  
day  
of  
September  
1950  
at  
6.15 p.m.

ADMISSION BY THIS SOUVENIR PROGRAMME

PRICE 1/6d.  
INCLUDING REFRESHMENTS

*Copy of the front cover of the souvenir programme for the re-opening of the Festival Hall in September 1950. This was kindly given to me by Trevor Lee.*

★ ★ ★ ENTERTAINMENT PROGRAMME ★ ★ ★

NATIONAL ANTHEM.

- I. KIRKBY OLD BAND. *Music Director—H. Lowe.*  
 1. *Bonds of Friendship—Spanish March.*  
 2. *Swallows Serenade—Cornet Duet—L. Abbott and E. Parker.*  
 3. *Three Brass Band Studies.*  
 4. *The Joywheel—Trombone Solo—A. Buckberry.*

- II. RAMON WILSON *Accordianist.*  
 DORIS WILKINSON *Soprano.*  
 J. E. COOK *Whistler.*

III. KIRKBY CO-OPERATIVE THEATRE—Present  
 "PLAYGOERS"

*A One Act Comedy by Arthur Pinero.*  
 PRODUCER: MRS. D. CHAPPELL.  
 Scene—Morning Room of a London House.

*Cast:*  
*The Master* Norman Wood.  
*The Mistress* Betty Chalkley.  
*Parlour Maid* Janet Pent.  
*Cook* Betty Smith.  
*Odd Man* Keith Smith.  
*Useful Maid* Marjorie Armes.  
*House Maid* Rose Harpham.  
*Kitchen Maid* Audrey Richardson.

INTERVAL — 30 Minutes

In order that refreshments may be supplied quickly, Patrons are requested to keep their seats until all have been served.

- IV. CHARLES WILLIAMS *Pianoforte interlude.*  
 JANET BOND, BERYL WAIN  
 and M. L. STUBBS *Speciality.*  
 MIRA LEIBRECK *Soprano.*  
 GRAHAM WILLCOCK *Elocutionist.*

V. THE EDNA FOSTER SCHOOL OF DANCING.

PRINCIPAL: EDNA FOSTER, M.B.B.O.A.D.V., M.A.A.T.D.

1. *Fairyland Ballet* Troup.
2. *Acrobatics* Pamela Allcock.
3. *Operatic Duet* Sandra Green and John Hosker.
4. *Tap and Song* Janet Salmon and Colleen Capps.
5. *Couple of Swells* Gillian Pugh and Sheila Page.
6. *Out of Bondage* Colleen Capps.
7. *Easter Parade* Pat Sturman, Doreen Walker, Gillian Pugh and Sheila Page.
8. *Operatic Solo.*
9. *Troup.*
10. *Tap Trio* Pat Brooks, Vera Halfpenny.
11. *Butterfly Ballet* Troup.

- VI. ARTHUR CHARLESWORTH *Tenor.*  
 JANET CHAPPELL *Songs.*  
 DAVID TAYLOR *Conjuror.*

VII. THE BENTINCK PLAYERS—Present

"THE GRAND CHAM'S DIAMOND"

*A One Act Comedy by Alan Monkhouse.*

PRODUCER: MARGERY BALDWIN.

*Cast in order of appearance—*

*Mrs. Perkins* Clare Goulder.  
*Mr. Perkins* George Baldwin.  
*Miss Perkins* Christina Derrick.  
*A Man in Black* Ken Goulder.  
*Albert Watkins* Ron Sparkes.

*Furniture by the local Chamber of Trade.*

Programme for the re-opening of the Festival Hall in September 1950. This was kindly given to me by Trevor Lee.

MEMORANDA  
ROYAL FAMILY.

George VI - King. Albert, Frederick, Arthur, George. Born. December 14<sup>th</sup> 1895.

Princess Elizabeth. Alexandra Mary. Born April 21<sup>st</sup> 1926.

Princess Margaret Rose. Born August 1930.

Queen Elizabeth. Born August 4 1900.

Queen Mary - Victoria Mary, Augusta Louise Olga Pauline Claudine Agnes. Born May 20<sup>th</sup> 1867.

Duke of Edinburgh.

Prince Charles.

Mum had a keen interest in the royal family. At the back of her 1950 diary were some handwritten, biographical details of various royal figures. In July 1950, mum noted that the queen “came to Mansfield”.<sup>12</sup> On 6 February 1952, both mum and grandad noted that King George VI had died. Grandad wrote, “King George VI dies in his sleep early hours of the morning”. Mum wrote, “THE KING DIED IN HIS SLEEP DURING THE NIGHT. Coronary thrombosis, a clot of blood preventing blood from entering heart”. Although the king had suffered from illness, including lung cancer, his sudden death [shocked the nation](#). At the time of his death, the future Queen Elizabeth, was on a commonwealth tour in Kenya.



Top – notes on the royal family in mum’s diary in 1950  
Above – news cutting showing Princess Elizabeth on tour in Kenya when she received news of her father’s death  
Right – souvenir timetable for the funeral of King George VI

<sup>12</sup> This was our current queen’s mother. She [formally opened Portland College](#).

On 8 February 1952, both mum and grandad noted that Princess Elizabeth had been proclaimed as Queen Elizabeth II. On the 15<sup>th</sup>, they both noted watching the king's funeral on TV.<sup>13</sup> Mum noted that Ken and Pearl Hodges came to watch it at their house.

In March 1953, grandad noted that Queen Mary, the queen's grandmother, had died and that she had been [buried](#) at Windsor. Of course, the biggest royal event during this period was the coronation on 2 June 1953 and it was the first British coronation to be fully televised.<sup>14</sup> Grandad's diary for the year was specially labelled to reflect that 1953 was the coronation year.



*Above - grandad's diary for 1953 noting that it was the year of the coronation.*

*Left - Cadbury's commemorative tin for the coronation*

*Below - crowds outside Buckingham Palace ahead of the coronation*

Somewhat surprisingly, mum does not mention the coronation explicitly at all on the day.<sup>15</sup> She did note that some of her friends came for the day, including dad, Margaret Varnam, Ken Roome, Betty Longden and Joan Storer. However, although they watched TV all morning and afternoon, they went to the cinema in the evening to see Fernando Lamas in "[The Merry Widow](#)". Mum had been involved in various activities in the run up to the Coronation. On Saturday 30 May, mum was part of a group who went on a Fordham and Burton trip to London.<sup>16</sup> They joined the crowds outside Buckingham Palace that day. There were also special church services related to the coronation.<sup>17</sup>



<sup>13</sup> See [Chapter 53](#). There were also a number of religious services in Kirkby to commemorate King George VI's funeral (see [Chapter 54](#)).

<sup>14</sup> See [Chapter 53](#).

<sup>15</sup> Among her papers, there were two newspapers commemorating the coronation, the Daily Telegraph from 2 June 1953 and the Daily Mirror from 3 June 1953.

<sup>16</sup> See [Chapter 52](#).

<sup>17</sup> See [Chapter 54](#).



Left – collection of coins mum had from 1953 presumably related to the coronation. These include five crowns in presentation boxes. A crown was worth five shillings which would be 25p today not taking into account inflation. As far as I recall, crowns were not in common usage although half crowns were. In addition, there is a set of coins including a farthing ( $\frac{1}{4}d$ ), a halfpenny ( $\frac{1}{2}d$ ), a penny (1d), a threepenny piece (3d), a sixpence (6d), an English shilling (with three lions) (1/-), a Scottish shilling (with one lion) (1/-), two shillings or a florin (2/-) and half a crown (2/6). Farthings were withdrawn in 1960, the year I was born.

Below – children celebrating the coronation in Kirkby from [Annesley OC Heritage Extra Facebook page](#)

## Kirkby youngsters celebrate the Coronation of 1953



FLAG-waving young ladies were pictured marking the Coronation of HM The Queen Elizabeth in June 1953. The location was Chapel Street school at Kirkby and the girls seen here would have been of 1948/49 vintage. Linda

Woodhouse turned up the photo and luckily we have five of the girls' names to add. The order is not certain but of the eight or so girls are included Jayne Brooks, Sheila Kearney, Evelyn Taylor, Maureen Gilbert and Linda Taylor.

On other royal matters, in May 1954, mum noted that the queen had returned home from a Commonwealth tour. The [tour](#) had lasted six months and covered 13 countries.



Mum also noted some sporting events, for example, in April [1951](#), she noted that Cambridge won the boat race and she noted Oxford narrowly winning “by 1 canvas (4-5 ft)” in March [1952](#).

In her 1950 diary, mum noted [Notts County's](#)<sup>18</sup> fixtures and results. It appears that she wrote all the fixtures in first and then added results later. This may explain why there are some fixtures with no apparent score, presumably where these were rescheduled. At Easter in 1950, it appears that they [played three times](#) in four days!<sup>19</sup> During that [season](#), Notts County finished first in [Division III South](#)<sup>20</sup> and Nottingham Forest finished fourth.<sup>21</sup> In April 1951, mum noted that the [FA Cup Final](#) was on TV and that Newcastle United beat Blackpool 2-0.

<sup>18</sup> I think people in Kirkby and the surrounding area generally supported Notts County. In March 1914, several family members went to see Notts County play Hull (see [Chapter 2](#)) but, on Christmas Day 1923, grandad appears to have attended a Nottingham Forest game (see [Chapter 28](#)). Despite being recognised as the world’s oldest football club, founded in 1862 and one of the 12 founder members of the football league in 1888, Notts County were relegated from the football league at the end of 2018-19. At the time of writing, they had just failed to fulfil an FA Cup fixture with Kings Lynn because of COVID-19 in their squad. The other 11 founding members of the football league were Accrington, Aston Villa, Blackburn Rovers, Bolton Wanderers, Burnley, Derby County, Everton, Preston North End, Stoke, West Bromwich Albion and Wolverhampton Wanderers

<sup>19</sup> They played away at Port Vale on Good Friday (and won 3-1) before playing Torquay at home the next day (a game they drew 1-1). Their third game was on Easter Monday and was the return fixture against Port Vale (which they lost 3-1).

<sup>20</sup> A regional league that operated from 1921 to 1958. There was also a Division III North. Notts County played in Division III South in 1930/31 and from 1935 to 1950. They were relegated from the Second Division in 1958 but by then there was a [unified Division III](#).

<sup>21</sup> Perhaps of interest that year is that Portsmouth were league champions and Manchester City were relegated from Division 1. Tottenham were champions of Division 2 and were promoted with Sheffield Wednesday. In Division 3 South, Northampton Town and Southend United finished second and third respectively. The teams that Notts County played over Easter, Torquay and Port Vale, finished fifth and 13<sup>th</sup> respectively. Norwich City were in Division III South that year and finished 11<sup>th</sup>.



Programmes for two of Notts County's home games in 1950.

*Left* – on Easter Saturday, 8 April 1950, they played Torquay United and drew 1-1. This game was sandwiched between games with Port Vale home and away on Good Friday and Easter Monday.

*Below right* – two weeks later, on 22 April 1950, Notts County played Nottingham Forest and won 2-0.

*Below left* – league table for Division 3 South as of the Forest game. At that point, Notts County had four games left to play.

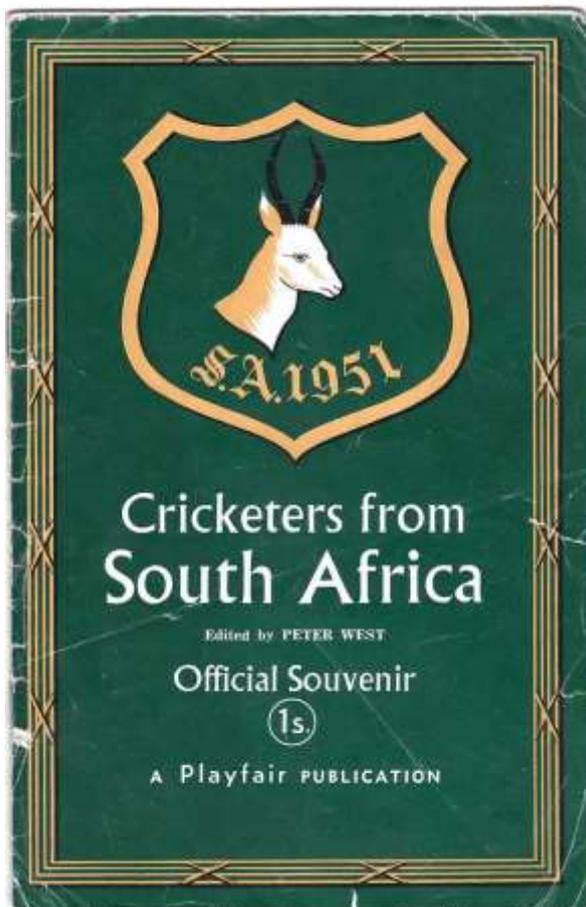
LEAGUE CHAMPIONSHIP -- DIVISION 3 (S)

	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
<b>NOTTS. COUNTY</b>	38	23	7	8	88	43	53
Southend United	38	19	10	9	62	45	48
Torquay United	40	19	10	11	64	56	48
<b>NOTTM. FOREST</b>	43	19	8	12	65	37	47
Northampton Town	38	16	10	10	65	46	46
Crystal Palace	40	15	13	12	58	51	43
Port Vale	39	15	11	13	46	37	41
Watford	39	15	11	13	42	34	41
Reading	39	17	7	15	60	59	41
Norwich City	39	16	9	14	64	59	41
Brighton and H.	40	15	11	14	56	60	41
Swindon Town	39	13	10	14	70	57	39
Bournemouth	39	15	9	15	52	52	39
Bristol City	38	14	8	16	55	55	36
Bristol Rovers	37	15	4	18	79	42	34
Exeter City	38	1	10	17	52	71	32
Newport County	38	12	7	19	62	9	32
Ipswich Town	39	10	11	18	52	79	31
Lexton Orient	39	11	9	19	49	82	31
Walsall	39	8	14	17	56	69	30
Milwall	37	13	3	21	49	66	29
Aldershot	39	11	7	21	41	59	29





In June 1951, mum noted watching the test match on TV.<sup>22</sup> This was the [first test](#) between England and South Africa at Trent Bridge which South Africa won by 71 runs. Mum noted this in her diary entry for 12<sup>th</sup> June. Later that month, mum also watched the second test at Lord's. On the 23<sup>rd</sup>, she noted that England had won by 10 wickets. She resumed her interest in August 1951 for the fifth test at the Oval.<sup>23</sup> England won the game by four wickets and hence the series. Mum noted, "*we (England) won test match (rubber) against South Africa*". She also watched some local cricket, including on the park with Barbara Coupe in July 1951. She also watched dad play cricket for the Norwich Union in July 1954 and she watched some chapel teams playing at Annesley Welfare<sup>24</sup> in August 1954.



**LEADING FIXTURES ON THE TOUR**  
(Test matches of five days' duration, † Two days).

Date	Opponents	Venue	Date	Opponents	Venue
Wed., May 2	Worcester	Worcester	Wed., July 11	Scotland†	Glasgow
Sat., May 5	Yorkshire	Bradford	Fri., July 12	England†	Belfast
Wed., May 9	Cambridge U.	Cambridge	Mon., July 16	Ireland†	Dublin
Sat., May 12	Gloucester	Cardiff	Wed., July 18	Derby	Derby
Wed., May 16	Gloucester	Bristol	Fri., July 21	Leicester	Leicester
Sat., May 19	M.C.C.	Lord's	Thu., July 26	5th TEST	Leeds
Wed., May 23	Oxford U.	Oxford	Wed., Aug. 1	Sussex	Tonbridge
Sat., May 26	Nottingham	Nottingham	Sat., Aug. 4	Gloucester	Swansea
Wed., May 30	Essex	Bford	Wed., Aug. 7	Warwick	Birmingham
Sat., June 2	Sussex	Oval	Sat., Aug. 11	Sussex	Beech
Thu., June 7	1st TEST	Nottingham	Thu., Aug. 16	5th TEST	Oval
Wed., June 13	Northants	Northampton	Wed., Aug. 22	Hampshire	Southampton
Sat., June 16	Lanes.	Manchester	Sat., Aug. 25	Middlesex	Lord's
Thu., June 21	2nd TEST	Lord's	Wed., Aug. 29	Kent	Canterbury
Wed., June 27	Coast Serv.	Portsmouth	Sat., Sept. 1	An England XI	Harrogate
Sat., June 30	Yorkshire	Sheffield	Wed., Sept. 5	Minor Counties	Norwich
Thu., July 5	3rd TEST	Manchester	Sat., Sept. 8	F.N.P.'s XI	Scarborough

**CAREER RECORDS OF THE PRESENT TEAM**

Player	Inns	Runs	Ct	BATTING				BOWLING			
				100	50	Wkts	5Wkts	10Wkts	100		
Chamberlain, J. E.	100	1000	10	1	1	10	1	1	1	1	1
Chubb, G. W. A.	100	1000	10	1	1	10	1	1	1	1	1
Edwards, W. B.	100	1000	10	1	1	10	1	1	1	1	1
Fallick, G. M.	100	1000	10	1	1	10	1	1	1	1	1
Maas, H. H. F.	100	1000	10	1	1	10	1	1	1	1	1
McCarty, G. H.	100	1000	10	1	1	10	1	1	1	1	1
McGraw, D. J.	100	1000	10	1	1	10	1	1	1	1	1
McLean, R. A.	100	1000	10	1	1	10	1	1	1	1	1
Mellor, M. G.	100	1000	10	1	1	10	1	1	1	1	1
Neenan, A. D.	100	1000	10	1	1	10	1	1	1	1	1
Roosa, A. M. H.	100	1000	10	1	1	10	1	1	1	1	1
Roosa, E. A. D.	100	1000	10	1	1	10	1	1	1	1	1
van Zuydam, G. B.	100	1000	10	1	1	10	1	1	1	1	1
Wade, J. H. B.	100	1000	10	1	1	10	1	1	1	1	1

*Extracts from the souvenir programme of the South African cricket tour of 1951*  
*Left – front cover*  
*Top – details of tour fixtures*  
*Above – players' career records*  
*Below – Annesley Welfare prior to demolition in 2019. I am grateful to Trevor Lee for these photos*



<sup>22</sup> I don't know why mum was particularly interested in this series. Maybe some of her friends were interested or perhaps the level of TV coverage was novel. Or perhaps the first Test being in Nottingham caught her attention.  
<sup>23</sup> With England having won the third at Old Trafford and drawn the fourth at Headingley.  
<sup>24</sup> This miners' institute operated as a [charity](#) and was a [central part of community life](#). It [closed](#) in 2009 and it was badly damaged by [fire](#) in 2016. As of [2019](#), it was due to be replaced with 44 houses. I understand from Trevor Lee that it was demolished in 2019.

On 16 August 1951, mum noted that “18 people swam channel. Egyptian won”. It appears that this was a [race](#) organised by the Daily Mail to coincide with the Festival of Britain. The name of the Egyptian who won it was [Mareeh Hassan Hamad](#) and he posted a time of 12 hours 12 minutes. She watched some other swimming on TV in February 1952.<sup>25</sup>



THE VICTORIOUS EGYPTIAN: Mareeh Hassan Hamad, winner of the Festival race, struggling painfully ashore at Shakespeare Cliff, Dover, when he learnt that in a photo finish he was the winner of the race by one minute, beating the Frenchman Roger Le Morvan, who was also the runner-up in 1950. Another Egyptian, Hassan Abd El Behim, who was last year's winner, was third on this occasion.



THE RUNNER-UP COLLAPSES ON THE BEACH IN ST. MARGARET'S BAY, DOVER: The Frenchman being applauded by the crowd as he just managed to gain the shore. Knowing that it was a matter of seconds, Le Morvan sought out a storming finish, and was only just beaten. For the second year Le Morvan had been second to an Egyptian, and he declared after the race: "I shall not try again."

*News cutting from the 1951 cross-Channel swimming race*

In January 1954, mum went to an ice hockey match in Nottingham<sup>26</sup> with dad, Ken Roome and Margaret Varnam. She noted that Nottingham Panthers beat the Brighton Tigers 9-6. Presumably, this was still the 1953/54 season when the Panthers played in and won the English League title. The [next year](#), the English and Scottish leagues merged to form a British League which operated until 1960 when the league and the Panthers disbanded. The team only then re-formed in 1980.

#### My recollections

I have not been to many ice hockey matches but I did go to see both [Durham Wasps](#)<sup>27</sup> and [Whitley Bay Warriors](#) when we lived in the North East in the late eighties. I also recall once going to see ice hockey in Bern<sup>28</sup> on a visit to Switzerland.

In October 1952, both mum and grandad recorded the [railway accident](#) that happened at Harrow and Wealdstone<sup>29</sup> station on the 8<sup>th</sup>.<sup>30</sup> Mum noted that the station was “near Euston” and that the accident involved three trains and killed 105 people. Grandad noted that over 100 people had been killed. According to official reports, the total number killed was 112 and the number injured was 340, making it the [worst peacetime rail crash](#)<sup>31</sup> in the United Kingdom. The crash occurred when an overnight express train from Perth crashed into the back of a local passenger train that was standing at the station. The wreckage blocked adjacent lines and was hit by a northbound express train. It appears that the express train from Perth passed through a caution and two danger signals but the reason for this was not established as both the driver and fireman of the train were killed. The accident led to a number of safety changes.

<sup>25</sup> See [Chapter 53](#).

<sup>26</sup> For some details of the ice stadium see [Chapter 52](#).

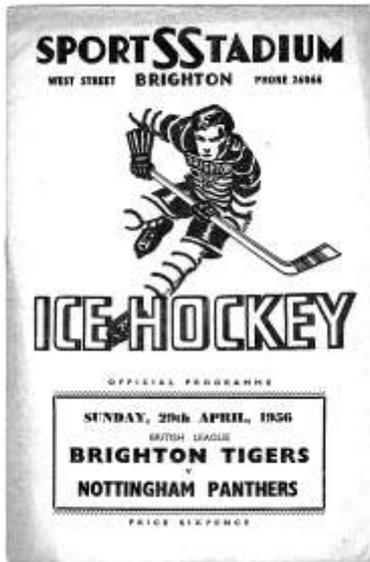
<sup>27</sup> They operated from 1947 to 1996 and they were most popular from 1982 to 1992.

<sup>28</sup> And from what I recall there was a [huge crowd](#).

<sup>29</sup> Grandad spelled this Wheeldon

<sup>30</sup> Grandad noted this as occurring on Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> but Wednesday was the 8<sup>th</sup> that year.

<sup>31</sup> The [worst ever rail accident in the UK](#) occurred at Quintinshill in 1915.



**BRIGHTON TIGERS' RECORDS**

**British League Fixtures**

HOME						AWAY					
Date	Time	Opp.	W	D	L	Date	Time	Opp.	W	D	L
15	8	Worcester	1	1	0	15	8	Worcester	1	1	0
16	8	Nottingham	1	1	0	16	8	Nottingham	1	1	0
22	8	Worcester	1	1	0	22	8	Worcester	1	1	0
29	8	Worcester	1	1	0	29	8	Worcester	1	1	0
5	8	Worcester	1	1	0	5	8	Worcester	1	1	0
12	8	Worcester	1	1	0	12	8	Worcester	1	1	0
19	8	Worcester	1	1	0	19	8	Worcester	1	1	0
26	8	Worcester	1	1	0	26	8	Worcester	1	1	0
3	8	Worcester	1	1	0	3	8	Worcester	1	1	0
10	8	Worcester	1	1	0	10	8	Worcester	1	1	0
17	8	Worcester	1	1	0	17	8	Worcester	1	1	0
24	8	Worcester	1	1	0	24	8	Worcester	1	1	0
31	8	Worcester	1	1	0	31	8	Worcester	1	1	0
7	8	Worcester	1	1	0	7	8	Worcester	1	1	0
14	8	Worcester	1	1	0	14	8	Worcester	1	1	0
21	8	Worcester	1	1	0	21	8	Worcester	1	1	0
28	8	Worcester	1	1	0	28	8	Worcester	1	1	0
5	8	Worcester	1	1	0	5	8	Worcester	1	1	0
12	8	Worcester	1	1	0	12	8	Worcester	1	1	0
19	8	Worcester	1	1	0	19	8	Worcester	1	1	0
26	8	Worcester	1	1	0	26	8	Worcester	1	1	0
3	8	Worcester	1	1	0	3	8	Worcester	1	1	0
10	8	Worcester	1	1	0	10	8	Worcester	1	1	0
17	8	Worcester	1	1	0	17	8	Worcester	1	1	0
24	8	Worcester	1	1	0	24	8	Worcester	1	1	0
31	8	Worcester	1	1	0	31	8	Worcester	1	1	0

**British League Standing** (City to end including 29th April, 1956.)

Team	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts
NOTTINGHAM	11	1	0	108	104	23
BRIGHTON	11	1	0	108	104	23
WOLVERHAMPTON	11	1	0	108	104	23
WOLVERHAMPTON	11	1	0	108	104	23

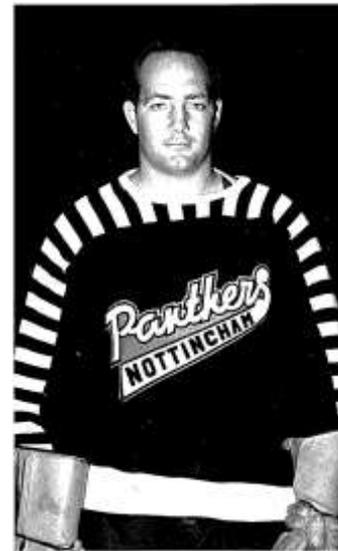
**Tigers' Scoring** (City to end including 29th April, 1956.)

Player	C	A	Pts	Team	C	A	Pts
Hill	17	10	27	Worcester	3	9	12
Muller	14	11	25	Worcester	2	8	10
Stuart	14	11	25	Worcester	2	8	10
Sum	8	11	19	Worcester	1	8	9
O'Brien	11	5	16	Worcester	1	8	9

**Tigers' Teasers . . .**

The Management of the Sports Stadium, in conjunction with the Ice Hockey Association, present each week some questions or to receive, players in a particular match, Ice Hockey, at 7 Great Queen's Street, London, W.C.1. The answer with names and line numbers to a Brighton home match.

- One of these men never a Tiger: Mike Gallagher, Jimmy Taylor, Bill Gallagher, Harry Pearson, Robert.
- Name the British club for which the odd man out did play.
- Name the one oldest goalkeeper to appear in British senior hockey (10 years).



# Grosvenor

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AND BOXES OF 50

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**BRIGHTON TIGERS**  
Colours: Gold and Black

No.	Player	Position	Goals	Assists	Penalties
1	Gordon DIBLEY	Goal			
2		Defence			
3	Johnny OXLEY	Defence			
4	Gar YASEY (Alt. Capt.)	Defence			
7	Red KURZ	Defence			
5	Roy HAMMOND	Forward			
6	Kenny GARDNER	Forward			
8	Lea HARDY	Forward			
9	Larry WINDER	Forward			
10	Lorne TROTTER	Forward			
11	Bill RINGER (Capt.)	Forward			
12	Mike O'BRIEN	Forward			

Team Manager: SAM COWAN    Player-Coach: JOHNNY OXLEY    1st PERIOD: 1-0  
Hon. Medical Officer: Dr. H. NORMAN SHEPHEARD    2nd PERIOD:     
Referees: F. HEXIMER    W. PEARSON    RESULT:

**BRITISH LEAGUE**

Under the Rules of the BRITISH ICE HOCKEY ASSOCIATION

**NEXT WEEK'S MATCH**

★  
**BRIGHTON TIGERS**  
**WEMBLEY LIONS**  
★  
**SUNDAY 4th MAY**  
**at 7.0 p.m.**

**NOTTINGHAM PANTHERS**  
Colours: Black and White

No.	Player	Position	Goals	Assists	Penalties
1	Jack SIEMON	Goal			
2	Lorne SMITH	Defence			
3	Doug WILSON	Defence			
4	Ken WESTMAN	Defence			
5	Fred HALL	Defence			
6	Ernie DOUGHERTY	Forward			
7	Gerry WATSON	Forward			
8	Dave RUSNELL	Forward			
9	Jerry HUDSON	Forward			
10	Chick ZAMICK	Forward			
11	Jimmy SPENCE	Forward			
12	Dave RITCHIE	Forward			

Trainer: CHAS. CRAGG    Player-Coach: CHICK ZAMICK  
Time-keepers: R. BRIDGER    P. SCARFIELD

★ **GRAND BENEFIT MATCH** ★  
THURSDAY, MAY 3rd, FACE OFF AT 7.30 P.M.  
**BRIGHTON TIGERS v. ICE HOCKEY WORLD ALL STARS**  
Reserved Seats 9/6, 7/6, 6/6, 5/6, 4/-    Standing 2/6.    **BOOK NOW FOR THE MATCH OF THE YEAR**

Extracts from an ice hockey programme for one of the reverse fixtures between Nottingham Panthers and Brighton Tigers in 1956

Top left – front cover

Top centre – fixtures, standings and performance record for Brighton Tigers players. It is worth noting that there were only five teams in the league in 1956

Top right – Lorne Smith who played for Nottingham Panthers

Above – team line-ups for match in 1956

## THE PANTHER



FRIDAY, 22nd APRIL, 1955, AT 7-15 P.M.

**NOTTINGHAM v WEMBLEY**

OFFICIAL PROGRAMME - SIXPENCE



## The Panther



FRIDAY, 5th DECEMBER, 1958, at 7-15 p.m.

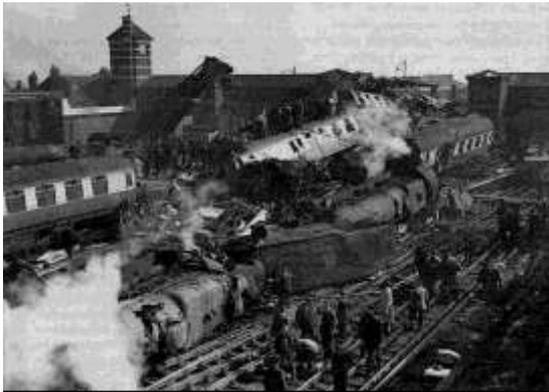
**NOTTINGHAM v. U.S.S.R.**

OFFICIAL PROGRAMME - SIXPENCE

*Above left* – programme for ice hockey match between Nottingham Panthers and Wembley in April 1955

*Above right* – lapel badge for Nottingham Panthers

*Right* – programme for ice hockey match between Nottingham Panthers and USSR in December 1958. I found a [news report](#) of this match which the Panthers won 4-3.



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The Harrow and Wealdstone rail disaster (left) occurred in October 1952 and is commemorated by a plaque (right) at the station

In March 1950, mum recorded two local bus crashes. On the 6<sup>th</sup>, there was a crash near Edwinstowe and 30 people were injured. The next day, there was a crash near Mansfield reservoir with one boy killed and two seriously injured. In February 1952, grandad noted that there had been an accident at four roads end<sup>32</sup> and a man had been knocked off his bike.

On 3 May 1950, mum noted that her friend Shirley Sadler had had a [chimney fire](#). In September 1950, mum noted that they had had to have supper by candlelight as the “lights failed”. In January 1951, they had a pipe burst at the back of the boiler and, the next day, a plumber came to fix it.

In March 1952, a man deliberately put his foot through grandad’s shop’s plate glass window. Both mum and grandad recorded this incident. Grandad noted that the man had done this to be arrested and that he had had to go to the police station to make a statement. In April, grandad had to attend court about this matter but he was not called as a witness. The man, John Turner, was initially remanded in custody for three weeks for a medical examination but he was later sent to prison for six months.



News cuttings concerning a man who broke the window at grandad’s shop in March 1952

In April 1950, mum noted that there had been a [lunar eclipse](#) saying that “moon was covered by shadow”. In August 1952, grandad noted that there had been “big floods at Lynmouth in Devon”.

<sup>32</sup> See [Chapter 73](#).

According to [reports](#) at the time, more than 9 inches of rain fell in 24 hours resulting in 34 deaths. These floods were overshadowed in January/February 1953 when there were terrible [storms](#) and [flooding](#) on the [East coast](#). Mum noted that “*all the East coast was flooded from Mablethorpe to Kent. Over 200 people drowned. 1/6<sup>th</sup> Holland flooded – over 2,000 people drowned. Cause was high tide and NE gale*”. Grandad noted, “*worst storm for centuries in the North Sea. Most of the sea front from Saltfleet to the Thames was flooded... In Holland, the floods were worse*”. Grandad also noted how family and friends had been affected, “*Cyril & Minnie had the water to front & back door. Mr Smith who left Elstow and went to Trusthorpe had to leave everything*”. There is a photo in one of mum’s albums labelled “*Floods at Chapel 1953*”. Initially, I thought this referred to flooding at Bourne chapel! But, clearly that is not the case from the photo. Presumably, this refers to Chapel St Leonards and to these [floods](#).



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*Left – there was serious flooding along the East coast in 1953  
Right – mum’s photo of flooding at Chapel St Leonards*

Grandad was interested in local developments. In October 1950, he cycled to 7 mile house to see the new [railway line](#) being built to [Calverton Colliery](#) and he went there again in March 1951. In May 1951, both mum and grandad went to see an [air display at Hucknall](#). In July 1951, grandad noted that “*workmen dug a trench for bike under the pavement at the front of the shops in Station St*”. In October 1951, mum noted that [Holme Moss](#) TV station [opened](#).



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*Above left – view of Calverton colliery in 1989 with token inset  
Above right – aerial view of the Holme Moss transmitter*

One development of particular interest was the opening up of Welbeck Street. In December 1950, grandad received a letter from Kirkby Urban District Council saying that this would happen. However,

it was not until March 1952 that grandad noted that “council men pulled up Mrs Walton’s edge the first step in opening the road”. The road was finally opened in June 1952. In January 1953, tarmac was applied.



*Photo of Welbeck Street showing the closed portion*

In August 1951, grandad was called, by the police, to go for an inquest on the 30<sup>th</sup> but, as he was busy with repairs, they got someone else. He did go as a juror for an inquest in September 1951. This was held at the council offices and related to the death of a young man from Sutton, aged 19, who had been killed at Summit colliery.<sup>33 34</sup> Based on the [list](#) of deaths at Summit colliery, it appears that the name of the young man killed was Terence Ellis.<sup>35</sup> He died when the roof fell in. An [article](#) about the inquest in the Nottingham Evening Post noted that the jury returned a verdict of accidental death. Terence Ellis had only been working at the colliery for six months when the accident happened on 14 September 1951. Harold Richardson, who had been working with Ellis to raise the roof, described what happened. During the morning, he had been working in the same spot and he thought the roof seemed safe. He was about seven feet from Ellis when the roof fell in. Richardson noted that there had been no warning. The news article noted that, in the previous two months, there had been three fatal and two serious accidents at Summit.

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<sup>33</sup> I am not sure if I was naive but I was shocked that there were more than 100 deaths at Summit colliery between 1896 and 1969. I think I was aware that major disasters could and had occurred and also of the long-term health consequences of mining but I was definitely not aware of the number of men killed singly in accidents.

<sup>34</sup> I got details of these deaths from two lists, one on the Healey Hero [website](#), which covers the period from 1924 to 1966, and one from [Kirkby Living Memory Facebook Group](#) which covers the earlier period. By far and away, the commonest cause of deaths was roof falls (63 of 113, 56%). The second major cause was being crushed by tubs or wagons which accounted for a further 25 deaths. Other causes of deaths included falls (4), septicaemia following an injury (4), caught in machinery (2), hit by a haulage rope (2), knocked down or kicked by horse (2), struck by winch handle (2), asphyxiation by fumes (1), caught in a coal cutter (1), crushed by cage (1), injured lifting tub (1), knocked down by a lorry (1), pneumonia following a chest injury (1), run over by a loco on the surface (1), shotfiring accident (1) and stomach cancer due to an accident (1).

<sup>35</sup> Terence Ellis lived at 37 Parliament Street, Sutton. From FreeBMD, it appears he may have been born in Q1 1932 in Mansfield with a mother’s maiden name of Smith. From the 1939 register, his family was living at 37 Parliament Street. His parents were Walter (b1903), a general labourer, and Clara (b1903). He appears to have had a brother or sister but their record is closed on the basis that they may still be living. Again, from FreeBMD, Walter Ellis married Clara Smith in Q1 1927. It seems likely that the closed record relates to an older brother called either Trevor or Kenneth.

