

A Wartime Romance (cont'd)

Turpin also son Leslie – poor Mr Turpin was killed crossing Pinner Road, by the old Co-op (now Hair Tech). then Mrs Barker and her Family- Kath, her daughter still lives in Pinner Road, further down. Mr & Mrs Robinson lived next door to Harry and the other side a dear gentleman, Mr Beasley, who was cared for by the Phipps family. He adored classical music and had a huge collection of records and loved you to spend an evening with him just sitting listening. Newly married Ted and I were invited and Mr Beasley would sit entranced while the music played on a big wind-up gramophone, you daren't cough or talk. Auntie Pip used to pop in with her lovely home made cakes and buns during the interval.

There wasn't the heavy traffic in those days and we had lots of lovely shops. Mr & Mrs Smith had the newsagents in Villiers Road (now News Bit), with Mr & Mrs Crawley's hardware shop opposite. Ted was always popping in there, their stock was amazing but if they hadn't got what you wanted they would order it for you. You could bring home two or three wallpaper books and ponder over them before ordering. Next door was Dewhurst's the butchers where a friend Gertie was the cashier for many years. Where Friends is now there was a shoe repairers, and next door Hockers Provisions. We were well provided for also by many shops further down and also in Capel Road and Ye Corner, you didn't have to go to

Local History Sheet No. 30

Watford at all. George Bennett, late proprietor of the old Haydon Arms and his sister Phyl, were family friends, we took him and Mrs Abbott on a trip to Bourton-on-the-Water, George was quite a character.

I also remember Mary Bromet's house on the corner of Heath Road. Ted's Mother attended garden parties there before the War. The big picture window of her Studio faced Bucks Avenue. I also remember the 302 bus passing by when the Driver would stop if he saw you walking down Bucks Avenue and wait for you to board.

Lovely memories.... I felt I was meant to come to Oxhey – a place I had previously never even heard