

# OXHEY VILLAGE ENVIRONMENT GROUP

September 2000

History Sheet No.21

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## RECOLLECTIONS OF LIFE IN VILLIERS ROAD

*Transcript of a recording of Mrs. Florence Clewlow and her sister Mrs. Grace Bishop  
made on Wednesday 24 November 1993.*

**Grace:** "I was born at 90 Villiers Road, over the shop in 1909. This was a baker's shop, my dad was the baker. There were Arthur my brother born in 1906, myself born in 1909, and Florrie born in 1918. Our mother came there as a bride in 1905, and my father was there just a few months before. My father was a very good baker, and people talked for years after about his bread-such a lovely crust. It was all handmade. Just flour, yeast, salt and water - as bread should be. No additives whatsoever, and baked in a brick-bottom oven (coal-fired). His other specials were scones and doughnuts and what we called 'Tottenham cake'. This was plain, with icing on the top - made in a tray, and then cut into slices."

**Florrie:** "Our father's name was Hunsdon and my mother came to No. 90 as a bride in June 1905. So the business was H. E. Hunsdon and later on Son was added. This covers the years 1905 to 1944. Mother worked in the shop, as well as bringing up us three children, and they used to work very long hours. There was a Mr. Windsor, dad told me about who lived across the road, who would watch for my father to put the light out at twelve midnight on Saturday night, and then he came for his bread. This was just after the 1914-18 war. Father made the dough the night before, and then baked it in the morning. Our father died in May 1944 and we sold the business in September 1945."



*Master bakers' outing circa 1920*

**Grace:** "I went to school in London Road until I was 14, and then was apprenticed to a milliner, Andrew Forbes, in Watford for two years. He took people as apprentices at 5/- a week, then as soon as they had done their two years, and wanted a bit more, he sacked them, and got