

105, Villiers Road, Oxhey before moving to 49, Vivian Gardens, Oxhey Hall in 1937. He spent all his spare time working in his third of an acre garden where he grew fruit and vegetables. As a child I spent most Friday evenings there playing shove halfpenny.

The house name of No.49 was 'The Kraal' ('Homestead' in Afrikaans) and the neighbours included the Hills, Sanders, Farrows, Saunders, Pritchards, Madelys and Husks.

My Grandparents Emily and Horace Hawkins' 50th Wedding Party was at the Cop Hall Pinner Road.

Horace (always known as George) and Emily had four sons the second one Edward (always known as Jack) was my father who did an apprenticeship as a compositor at the West Herts Post newspaper and, apart from the six war years, worked in the print industry all his working life.

My maternal grandmother Edith Emily Dyer (née Merrigan) was born in 1884 in London.

She married Frederick William Dyer in March 1909. They had three daughters: Rose born 1909, Edna born 1910 and Grace Edith 1915.

The family moved into a cul-de-sac called 'Windsor View' at the end of 1914.

They then moved to Primrose Gardens and then to 20 Lower Paddock Road in 1926. Their neighbour used to run rhubarb through an old mangle by the backdoor for wine making.

Then, on Monday washday his wife put her washing through the same mangle!

Grandfather Frederick retired from the Met.



Marriage of Edward (Jack) Hawkins and Grace Edith Dyer. St Matthew's Church, Oxhey, May 1938.

Police in 1930.

My future parents, Edward (Jack) Hawkins married Grace Edith Dyer of 20 Lower Paddock Road, at St Matthews Church, Oxhey, in May 1938 and they moved into a new house, No 16 Vivian Close, Oxhey Hall.

My Mother and her sister Edna worked at Lott's Bricks in Vale Road, Bushey, for many years.

I was born in 1939 (in Kings St. Maternity Hospital Watford) and my sister Eileen was born in 1945.

I grew up at 16 Vivian Close, Oxhey Hall and

went to Wiggshall Nursery School, Oxhey Infants School, Watford Fields Primary School and Bushey Grammar School (now Queens School).

In my younger days my grand-mother (Edith) would sometimes take me to the pictures; Bambi, Snow White etc. Other times we would go and sit on the seats outside Lucketts pub under Bushey Arches; she would have a Guinness and I had lemonade and a packet of Smith's crisps.

Leaving school I undertook a 5 year apprenticeship with S.G. Browns, followed by 5 years

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