

Random Jottings by Joan Bardsley (nee Baker)

November 1937. E.G.R. Baker bought the Bakery & married in December on Boxing Day and was joined by his wife in the business.

They both worked very hard. Mr. Baker was up in the early hours to make the bread which he delivered to many villages Kingston, Bishopbourne, Kettlebourne, Bekebourne Patrixbourne Lower Hardres Pettbottom Mrs Baker served in the shop keeping the Bridge folk happy.

In 1939 their first child was born. A daughter born on 3rd September. Just two hours before war was declared. She was taken "on the round" in a bassinet so the customers could see her.

During the war Mr. Baker made huge "billy" cans of soup for the school children who brought sandwiches for their lunch to give them warm nourishment. He used the bones left from the meat pies he made and vegetables from his garden.

At Harvest Festival Mr Baker made a special loaf either a sheaf of corn or a large twist for all the local churches whichever denomination they were. A generous gift.

His hobby was his garden which he tended after a days work. He used to show his produce in the Flower Show

which was held in Daddy Taggs fields. (now Green Court Western Avenue etc). The fair used to come too. Peyfolds Fair, great excitement. Pettigroves were the grandchildren and they came to school with us.

Mr. Baker made special pies for the Hop Pickers who came down from London annually. He took them up to where they stayed in huts and sold them surplus vegetables too. The hoppers huts were up a track on the right hand side of Hint Cottages through Bourne Park. A very accomadation for a family who often increased each year.

My unclarified memory of Bridge School was when Mr Godden's (headmaster at the time) baby daughters pram (large coach built) fell through a hole outside back of house in playground. It was instantly out of bounds to us. Rev Gregory the vicar at that time went down the hole by ladder and found all sorts then PLEASE who else remembers it. Am I dreaming it!!

During the war we had dugouts in our garden I can remember standing at the back door watching the doodle bugs. My father stood on top of bins with a tin hat on. A baker friend of ours used to walk out from Canterbury with their belongings on a cart to sleep in The dug out with us.
... at a Post!!

The Junior Church used to put on Concerts in the reading room. Our leader, organiser producer was Marie Carstairs who's father was the piano tuner (see shop plan).

At Harvest Festival we used to "undress" the church on a Monday evening and take the produce through to Banard's Home in Bishopscourne. Mr Taylor the coalman took us in his lorry.

"Mary from the dairy" used to deliver milk with a hand cart churns and jugs etc. The dairy was where the flats and house on the corner of Patricxbourne Road are. The dairy faced the main street. The coal man was two doors up and the yard was at the back.

Sue. Dawn Crowe is older than me she may have more memories than I. She's married to Gilbert his sister is Poppy Devason who lives in Kingston. Dawn will know of any other "Bridgeites" who still live locally. I think Iris (Swan) ? still does also. Audrey (Stevens) ?

Dawn's telephone number 01227 830 779

ALLEYWAY TO

COTTAGE

DADDY FAGGS
FARM
NOW WESTERN AVENUE
GREEN COURT ETC.

PURSOBDS
BUTCHERS

COTTAGES.

ROGERS
GARAGE.

CARSTAIRS
PIANO
TUNER

COTTAGES

READING
ROOM

PRICKET
GROCEP
ETC.

HORSE

WHITE

(NOW GREEN GROCEP)

BACK

HUBBARDS
GROCEP

PURSOBDS
YARD.

BARBER
SHOP

HOUSES.

EGR Baker
Bridge
Bakery

Down's
CYCLE
SHOP

STOCKWELL
CHEMIST

YARD
LIZZY

PLOUGH
&
HARROW
PUB

HOBEN
SHOE
SHOP
(SNOB)

H & P.
HAWKINS
DRAPERS

HAWKINS
PAPER
SHOP

RIVER
UNDER WHAT
NOW IS
BUS SHELTER

SWEET
SHOP
LATER
TV
SHOP

FIVE COTTAGES
SECOND ONE
BEADLES
LAUNDRY

NINNIE-KENNET (NOW-TAMSIIT)

HIGH STREET

RED M
PUBLIC
Hous

RED
MOW
CAR
PARK

PRICES
GROCER

GARAGE
ACUMU
LATOR
SHOP

ANNES
PAINTRY

LARGE
HOUSE

COTTAGES

WEST
RICHES

TRACE TO
PARK & BUILDINGS

CAR PARK
WHITE
HORSE
INN

Cupboard baby is just pre-war

MRS E BAKER, of Brewery Lane, Bridge, then lived at The Bakery in High Street, Bridge and it was there that she had her first baby, a daughter, in the early hours of September 3, 1939.

She said: "My husband had gone through the blackout the night before to Birchington to fetch the nurse and he was stopped on the way and asked where he was going.

"Later, on Sunday, war was declared and the air raid wardens came round with their gas attack warning rattles and called through the window: 'Put that baby in a cupboard for safety.'

We did and I thought then: 'What a time to bring a baby into the world!'"

Perhaps Baby Baker was Kent's last pre-war baby?

