

## Pam Barnett January 2024

Vicki Walker and Megan Timbrell talked to Pam on Monday 22nd January 2024 at her home No. 6, Aldergate Terrace, Aldergate Street, Stonehouse.

Pam was born Edith Pamela Thomas at 2 Far View Cottages, Aldergate Street, on June 8th 1927, to parents Arthur and Helen (Nellie) Thomas.

Pam's mother Nellie had inherited the house from her mother, Helen Ann, who used to run the Globe Inn in Stonehouse. Pam's father died in 1940 aged only 46.

Pam married Ivor Harry Barnett in 1950 and they lived with her mother at 2, Far View Cottages, while saving up for a house of their own.

In 1953, No. 6 Aldergate Terrace was for sale and Pam and Ivor bought it. They lived there for the rest of their lives. Ivor died in January 2006.

Pam's sister Dorothy died at Oldbury House Care Home in 2023 aged 97.

Shortly after this interview Pam's health declined and she moved into Regency Retirement Home. She died on May 2nd 2024 aged 96.



*Far View Cottages*

### **Pam's life story**

I was born on June 8th 1927 in the 2nd house from the top on the other side of the road. Far View Cottages. My granny lived there as well. Granny Ann – my mother's surname was Ann before she got married. I didn't know Grampy Ann but I knew Grampy Thomas who lodged next door with a Mr and Mrs Leach. He was over 80 when he died. I had one sister, Dorothy, who died last year. She was 14 months older than me and 97 when she died. I was the result of too much port at a wedding!



*Pam and Dorothy c1929*



*Pam, Dorothy and their neighbour Bryan Barr c1929*

My dad worked at MacFisheries in Stroud. He had a gammy hand and used to wear a leather glove on it. In those days picking up fish with that - it wouldn't be allowed today, I wouldn't think. Probably have to be plastic. My dad died young, when I was 13. He had a brother living at Eastington, one at Slad and another at Painswick.

I went to Stonehouse School starting in 1932. I can remember Miss Gleed and Mr Wright, the headmaster. When the evacuees came up from Essex in the war, a teacher called Mr Barton and his wife came with them and he took our class.



*Stonehouse Council School 1939.*

*Pam Thomas (later Barnett), aged 12, is pictured in the 2nd row from the front, second from left.*

The evacuees were billeted all round Stonehouse. One called Harold Cushing used to lodge on the Park Estate with Mr and Mrs Cave. Two brothers Colin and Gordon Stock used to lodge up Verney Road with Mr and Mrs Joyner. They used to chase us around when we were girls. We had ration books as far as I can remember. But later on we were lucky - because Ivor worked in the butcher's we always had enough. My mum used to cook dinners for us in our lunchtimes. I didn't have school dinners - I always came home. I can remember a place down past the Co-op where they used to cook dinners for people. (*The British Restaurant*)

My sister passed to go to the Central School (in Stroud) but I didn't. She used to catch the railcar to school. So I left school at 14 in 1941 and went to work in the Co-op, where I stayed for 42 years. Pam from the Co-op I'm known as usually!

My sister Dorothy was at the Girls Central School but when my father died she had to leave as my mother couldn't afford for her to stay. She had 10 shillings a week pension.

## Stonehouse Co-op

We had drapery, haberdashery, ladies clothes, men's underwear, men's socks, men's braces etc. Upstairs was all furniture, carpets, cots - everything, and shoes as well. I used to sell all those things. Some of our customers like Mrs Clark from the telephone exchange and Bernice Cox, her friend, used to come in looking for a new rig-out like for a wedding or something, and our manager Connie Parker would go to Bristol to find something for them. Connie would take an armful of dresses over to Mrs Clark for her to try on (like a personal shopper!) and she usually bought something. She was quite fussy!

We sold dress material and curtain material which I used to measure out on the counter. I remember the rolls of material. There was a brass measure fixed to the counter – I used to polish it with some Brasso. You measured out the length of material and then made a note of what was left. So when you took stock it was already on the ticket.

I can remember Mr Arrowsmith, who was on the committee, used to come round and check that you had done it all right. He was terrible - he used to count everything and it was only a spot check really. He used to smoke and I can see him now leaning on the counter smoking this fag and asking you to measure it all out even though you had already noted it on the ticket - he used to make you roll it all out and measure it again. Before that it was Charlie Hill (Bernice's grandfather). He used to come round and call out "men's hoose" instead of men's hose! Socks that was – they were up on the top shelf. But he never used to bother to ask you to open up the rolls. They used to close the shop for the spot check.

There was me, Connie and Heather Poulton working there. There were no male assistants in our department. My first week's wages was 13 shillings.



*Some of the staff at the Stonehouse Co-op in the late 1940s.  
Back l to r: Lewis Clutterbuck, Bill Adams, Dorothy Pearce, unknown, Violet Underwood,  
unknown, Cliff Harold, unknown  
Front l to r: Pam Barnett, Mary Partridge, Connie Parker, Jean White*



During the war my sister and I used to go to the Community Centre dances. We used to meet men from the Forces. They used to have a canteen place over at the dairy, up those steps at the top, for soldiers. Connie and I used to go up there sometimes and help out making the tea for the soldiers. They were based at Moreton Valence.

My husband, Ivor Barnett, was in the Forces during the war. He was a prisoner of war in Germany for three years before I knew him. When he came back he was a butcher's assistant at Cainscross Co-op.

He was sent to the Stonehouse butchery in the holidays so that's how we met. We went to the cinema. There were dances but Ivor didn't dance. Nor did my sister's husband - we both married men who didn't dance!

Ivor used to come down to our house in the evening. He'd bring something from the butcher's and mum used to cook it and then he'd stay 'til about 11 o'clock and miss the last bus home! We'd be having a snog in the kitchen! He had to walk home to Ebley. He lived up Foxmoor Lane in a house called Merryvale. It was owned by Savage at Ebley and Ivor's mother paid 7 shillings a week rent. After we got married we asked Savage if we could buy it but he wouldn't sell it to us.

We got married in 1950, at St Cyr's church with just the family there and Connie came. We had sandwiches afterwards at my Mum's house as there wasn't much money around then. We went to Southsea for a week for our honeymoon. We hired a big, old car from Gardiner's Garage to drive to Southsea. Ivor drove as I didn't drive then. We stayed in a hotel called The Arundel on the seafront, where my sister had stayed the year before. I can remember Ivor's mother waving us off from my mum's house - running down the road she was!

Mr Piggott, who used to have a shop on Queen's Road, where the tall white houses are now, was a tailor and he made my wedding suit. I had a feathery hat! Connie went to Bristol and bought this feathery hat that matched my suit. It was a burgundy colour.



*Ivor and Pam on their Wedding Day.*



*Pam and Ivor on their honeymoon  
in Southsea.*



*Pam and Ivor with Pam's mum Helen (Nellie).*

We lived with my mum at Far View Cottages for three years to save up some money to put a deposit on a house. Then this house (6, Aldergate Terrace) came up for sale and we have lived here ever since. We had our 60th wedding anniversary here.

We bought our house for £1,075 in 1953 and they sell for over £250,000 now! Or even more. When we moved in, the two living rooms were separate and we had them knocked into one big room, and the stairs moved round the other way. The builder was Mr Bainbridge from Cashes Green. The kitchen was very old so we had that knocked down and a new kitchen built with a grant from the Council.

When I lived over the road we shared a toilet with the next door house. If you wanted to go to the toilet you had to go outside round the back to No.1 to an outside toilet – a bucket lavatory not a flush! But later on after we got married, my mother got a grant to build a bathroom on. When we came to No. 6 there was an outside toilet and no bathroom. We had the back bedroom made into a bathroom. So we only have two bedrooms. Other houses in the road have had extensions built on.



*No. 6 Aldergate Terrace*

Later Ivor worked at Hoffmann's. We didn't have any children so I worked in the Co-op for 42 years until I left in 1983. I loved working there. When I started there was a stables round the back and deliveries were made by horse and cart. You could put an order in and they would deliver it to your house by the horse and cart. They delivered bread too. Ossie Arnold and George Wright from Cashes Green used to drive the cart and come back at teatime, take the horses out of the cart and wash them down and feed them before putting them in the stables. By the 1950s the horses were replaced by a van. Gardiner's Garage with petrol pumps was next to the Co-op. That was demolished to extend the Co-op.

I learned to drive when I was 42 and passed my test first time. Peter Uzzell taught me in a Morris 1000. I didn't want to know when my test would be so one day on a lesson he just stopped outside the test centre at Denmark Road and said you're going to take your test. I thought I'm never going to pass. This old boy came out and he had a cap on and a long overcoat and he got in looking all stern and said do this, do that, do the other – and when we got back to the centre, he said "You've passed".



*Pam with Connie Parker in the 1950s.*



*The Co-op had a skittles team that played on the alley at the Crown and Anchor. Pam second from left, Connie extreme right.*





*The Co-op skittles team with Mr Frith, General Manager.*

I worked in the drapery department for many years until one day a manager from the North came along and they decided to make our area into a shoe shop. They got rid of all the furniture and the drapery to make a factory shoe shop. Crazy that was! It wasn't a traditional shoe shop like Bradley's on the corner of Regent Street.

I worked in there for a while until they decided to change it into a bakery which was joined to the food hall. Shortly after that I was made redundant.



*Pam's leaving presentation in 1983.*

I fell over in Gloucester about 4 years ago and had to go to hospital with a broken pelvis and shoulder. I was in hospital 6 weeks and two days – Cheltenham, Gloucester and Stroud. I got Covid twice in Cheltenham but I never had any symptoms at all. I can't move my arm very well and have back pain but I can still manage at home with help. Carole rings me every day to make sure I am OK and she brings me a roast dinner on a Sunday. Megan and John come every day for a cup of coffee and biscuits.

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Since Pam's fall she found it difficult to walk far and was unable to go out on her own. To help her to stay in her own home, her nephew, Nick Iles, organised all her finances, his wife Carole collected her medication and shopping, and their son and daughter Matt and Charlie were regular visitors.

Shortly after this interview Pam's health declined and she moved into Regency Retirement Home. She died on May 2nd 2024, aged 96.



*Pam Barnett pictured at her home on January 22nd 2024.*



## Pam's memories of Stonehouse

I can remember the steam trains coming past. (*Burdett Road station at the end of Aldergate Street*). We never took any notice of the trains we were so used to it. We used to play in the street as children as there were no cars then. There were potholes everywhere.

The field next to Aldergate Street used to be an apple orchard before the bungalow in the top corner was built. Also Mr Alder (who the Street is named after) had his sheep there and they used to run around the orchard. On the corner, where Verdun Court is now, there was a slaughter house and they used to drive the sheep down there. Chandler's Stores was on the corner by the slaughter house. There were Les, Cyril and Ernest Chandler - three



*Chandler's Stores at the bottom of Aldergate Street*

brothers. The family used to live in St Cyril's Road and Mrs Chandler had the bungalow built. There was a gate through to Burdett Road where Mr Sergeant lived. One Sunday he had a bonfire when Mrs Chandler's washing was out and I won't tell you what language she used but she told him to put it out!

Mr Johnston lived in the thatched cottage behind our house. He used to light bonfires as well. My neighbour had 5 children and she used to put a line of nappies out. Mr Johnston lit a fire in the day and I went and told him you weren't supposed to light a bonfire until after six o'clock at night. And he didn't light one in the day after that.

The thatched cottage used to be two cottages and the Bodenhams and Mrs French and her daughter Rosemary lived there before Mr Johnston.



*Queen Anne Cottage being re-thatched in 1976.*

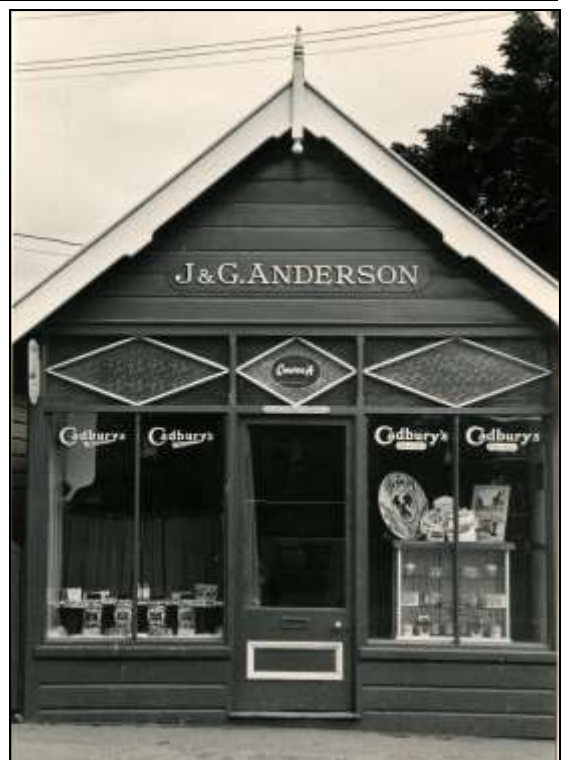
I remember the big house (Barnard House) where Barnard Parade is now. It had a tall hedge all along the front.



*Barnard House for sale in 1960. It was demolished and Barnard Parade built.*

I can remember some of the shops in Queen's Road. Mrs O'Neill's sweet shop was in the 2nd shop up from the Baptist Chapel/British Legion (now Moss's yard). Mr Anderson took over from her after the war. Next to that was the Vanity Box hairdresser and Mr Sleeman the barber was on the other end by St Cyril's Road. Norman Payne the cobbler was on the end by the British Legion.

I remember Piggott's the tailor's on the other side of the road next to Blick's shop, where the tall white houses are now. I had my wedding suit made there. Further down was Mrs Tudge's wool shop. Mrs Tudge used to live at Bridgend down by the river in Bridgend House. Mr Fiddler the barber was upstairs in Barnard Parade.





Mrs Palmer who lived opposite the Co-op (*Palmer's shoe shop*) often came in. Next to Palmer's shoe shop was a hairdresser's called "Annette" and Peggy Short used to work there for Mrs Palmer's daughter, Joyce Coates. Bramwell Parker's gents outfitters was next to that and then Cradduck's sweet shop. He took over from Mr Frank Moore. It became Lloyd's Bank but it's a café now.



*Bramwell Parker's shop in High Street in 1970s*

Are there any shops that have survived since the 1960s? The Co-op, the butcher's - there was Gillo's by the Co-op (now Broomhall's) and Mr Green on Barnard Parade (now Cotswold Prime Meats) and Hurn's Hardware (*closed later in 2024*). Hurn's shop was where people used to buy paraffin for the stoves.

*Pam remembered White's sports shop being near there but she was not sure where that was. We checked the 1939 Register and found Chas H White sports shop was in the part of the Old Post Office nearest the Crown and Anchor. Albert Hurn was in the other side with a radio shop, he later moved over the road when Hurn's hardware took over both shops.*



*White's Sports shop on left next to Hurn's radio.  
Later both shops became Hurn's Hardware.*



Mr Cole lived in Elm House behind Hurn's. He was a County Councillor and Pam thinks he was on the Co-op committee too. He left Elm House to the Council after he died, to build a car park.



*Elm House in the centre of the photo  
between the Crown and Anchor and the old Post Office c1900.*

Pam and Ivor were not pub people. But Pam did go and play skittles at the Crown and Anchor skittle alley. Connie used to get up a Co-op team. She remembers playing against Standish Hospital.

The shop by the Memorial Green. What was there before Fine Fare?

After Fawkes Store (*the 1921 census records that Walter Chandler and his family worked at Fawkes Stores before opening their own shop at the corner of Aldergate Street and Bath Road*)

Pam says it might have been Burton's before Fine Fare. After that there was the Freezer Centre and Megan thinks Scoops where you bought loose stuff in late 1980s. Lobby's Tackle Fishing Shop has been there a long time now - since June 1989.



Jack Anderson (*councillor and local historian*) used to live at the maisonettes at the top by Cotswold Green. Then he moved into the bungalow opposite Pam. Jack Anderson was still in Woodcock Lane in 1960 (*electoral roll*). By 1962, he was living in the bungalow named Kelsey (*newspaper report*) So he probably had it built in about 1961.

I remember the Andersons. Betty Anderson was Jack's wife. Jack was a lovely man. He used to have his work office in the front bedroom. He just dropped dead in the house. Betty came over to us for help but he had just fallen from his chair and died. They had no children. Betty went into The Elms at first but then she went to live with her niece, Angela. The bungalow went up for sale in 2006 at the same time as the one next to it.

Megan's Mum, Sylvia Bliss's bungalow on the end nearest Bath Road was built about 1948, by Cooper's builders. In 1960 it was called Innisfree and lived in by Underwood. The Underwoods later moved to 24 Gloucester Road which Megan bought from them in about 1991.

On the corner where the Bethel Church is now was Hill's garage which became Moss's garage. Before that there were various buildings which were demolished. On the other corner was Chandler's grocery shop and then there was Perkins garage. He used to repair cars – you could drive in and out off the main road – amazing. Mr Green the butcher was there somewhere. Later on that became Palmer's grocer's. The small shop on the end used to be Willcox Electrical. *From the old photos it looks like Chandler's, greengrocer's, Green's butcher, Perkins garage, Willcox electrical.*



*Bath Road top of Regent street c1900 showing Perkins Cycle Works which later became a garage repairing cars.*

I remember a cobbler's shoe shop on the other side of the Bethel Church on Bath Road - Mr Franklin in those houses there.

Top of Regent Street was Bradley's and Mullins. Kenneth Mullins was a very smart man always dressed in a suit. Bernice's sister Pauline used to live in the flat over Bradley's. Miss Freeman used to have part of the Bradley's shop for ladies shoes (*where Sysum's hairdresser is now*) She lived with her sister up under the railway bridge at Upper Queen's Road.

Megan's mum, when she was working at Coates farm during WW2 as a land girl, she used to bring the horses down past the Community Centre to the blacksmith near there. Pam remembers Mr Sirett the blacksmith – we used to go round when we were kids and watch him putting the shoes on the horses. Some of the horses used to be a bit obstreperous and he used to curse and swear at them!


*The blacksmith was behind the Woolpack Inn.*

Pam could remember William Pile saddler being in the shop next to Price's butchers (14 High Street). *There was a saddler's shop there for 72 years from 1870 to 1942.*

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*Pam looked at old photos of the Co-op.  
On the 1970s photo she pointed out the shoe boxes in the upstairs window.*