

At 90 Years Old

“Memories of Morley”

By Ken Stennett

Eye Witness

To Some. Part 2

In Words and some films.

2024

Memories of Morley at Ninety. Part two.

INDEX.

3 Morley Limes 1938

3 My Great, Great, Grandad memories of the 1800's

4 World War 2 Plane Landing EXTRA.

4 Scout Camp Drum Hill 1947.

5 Leonard Hussey of Morley 1904/1984 and 1939 bravery award.

5 Trades People in Morley, from 1937.

6 Jock's Hole Brackley Gate 1950.

6 World War 2 air raid precautions and demonstrations.

7 World War 2 things remembered in Morley.

8 Ploughing and Thrashing.

8 How about "Bible Cake" WW2

9 Morley Thank You.

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Memories of Morley Part 2 by Kenneth Stennett.

Morley Limes 1938 now known as "The Gripes".

In 1938 we went on a picnic to Morley Limes with the family. It was a nice warm day. To get there we went via the stile next to the school house and left hand side of the field along a cart track to its far end and then a stile and copse to go through which opened out into a "fairy glen", The Limes. With trees and bushes also a stream through the middle of a small valley. The Limes was surrounded by stone walls, holly bushes, hawthorn hedges, rose hip and blackberry bushes also trees- willow, crab apple, green gauge and one damson tree and others such as ash elm and oak. We spread out car rugs on the ground to sit on for our picnic feast, all eight of us. There were a couple of seesaws and a stone slab over the stream where I slipped off and got a wet foot and spanked backside for falling in! I called it the "dumbles" I can't remember why.

My Great, Great, Grandad's Memories.

My great, great, grandad Stennett had a grocery round, he used to deliver his goods (mostly home grown) by horse and drey. My wife Jean met a client during her home help days who remembered him. The next story came down through the family from my great, great, grandad to me. It was about a horse rider who rode from Little Eaton to Kirk Hallam. He came from Risley to start his ride. I must have heard the story being talked about between my mother, father, Len and George Bott. (George was my aunt's adopted son) When I was about eight or nine years old and reminded of it later when older. The rider started at Little Eaton, the road and Lane opposite to Jack o' Darley bridge (the old horse rail track to Ripley). He set off following the road and track, towards Brackley Gate, to the right hand track over Drum Hill to Little Eaton lane. Then turned left towards Morley, until opposite Knackey Row, turned right through a gate into ten-acre field, going down by the Priory wall to the top of the next field. Turning left, going between the quarry and an orchard, to the moor (Portway) to Mason field and followed the bridle path to Morley Bridge, down Church Lane and left lane towards Stanley. Then over fields and crossing over LNER railway line into Stanley village bearing right, going past the White Hart pub, and past the Bridge Inn up the hill towards King's Corner. At the top of the hill he turned left into a wood with a hedge lined cart track towards Dale Windmill via the fields to another hedge lined cart track onto Spondon Kirk Hallam road. The grass verge on the left to Dale Windmill was three to five yards wide (for horse riders) my great, great,

grandad didn't know which way he rode from Kirk Hallam to Risley. It took the rider four hours by dismounting and remounting, also opening and closing gates as he went through. The latch gates were easy. This all took place in the eighteen hundreds. The actual date and the name of the rider was not known.

World war two plane landing extra.

As I was going through my memory notes, I found I had missed the following piece of World War two plane landing in ten acres.

When Alan's dad arrived at the Priory, the first person he saw was Dave Watt tending the rose garden in front of the Priory and told him about the plane. Dave took the message and 'phoned the aerodrome with the pilot's message. He told Mr Haslam that it was urgent business to do with the war. Then he returned with a message for the pilot. Dave Watt arrived ten to fifteen minutes later to help with the plane. I found out by eves dropping on the conversation between Dave, Sid and the pilot at the site on the day, which reminded me of a war time poster called "Walls have Ears"! (Whose listening?) of a lady reclining on a sofa with a drink in her hand, the poster was in yellow and black.

Scouts Camp 1947.

In 1947 my Mum, Dad, Len and I went on a picnic. It was Easter time and nice weather. My Mum closed the shop/off licence as it was Saturday and the hours were (9am to 12.30pm and 8pm to 10pm (as it was Bank Holiday). We set off about 1pm Morley Moor, the Quarry to Ten Acre and Little Eaton Lane, until we got to a cart track on our right leading to Drum Hill and beyond. As we were walking through the wood someone called to my Dad by name, so we stopped and Dad spoke, it was one of the scouts he knew when he was a King Scout, both in at the same time. This person was now a scoutmaster with eight young scouts under his wing. He said that we were welcome to have our picnic at the camp. There was an old shed covered with a tarpaulin sheet that was used as a scout hut and there was also a bell tent. On the ground there was an old tree trunk and some cut tree stumps for seats and table. He told Dad we could have our picnic there and we did. At 6pm Dad said that we had better get off back. We went via Brackley Gate, Brailsford's farm to the Brick Yard and back to Morley Moor. At the beginning of November 1947, a scout came to the shop to give my Dad a letter, it was an invitation to the scout firework display, gathering and hog roast at Drum Hill. It was a great night with a clear starlit sky for a good walk home.

Leonard Hussey 1904/1984 and 1938 Bravery Award.

Leonard Hussey was born in 1904 at Atterwood Sheffield Yorkshire. He went to school at Carrbrook Council School Atterwood, where he learned to swim at the age of 13. He swam 880 yards in a quick time and got a certificate. He left school at the age of 13 to work as an errand boy at a big shop until he was 16. He then joined Sheffield Football Club and became a very strong player until the age of 18 when he had to leave because his father died in 1922. In 1923 he left Sheffield to come and live in Morley with his Mother (Grandad's sister). He joined Morley football club as a player and in 1924 Moley won the amateur football trophy, Len was centre forward. He also joined Morley cricket team and he kept up with his swimming. Len got a job on the river Trent catchment board because he was a strong swimmer. His job incorporated cutting down trees, clearing rivers of many objects and any animals and birds that had fallen in. During one winter, working at Peckwash Mill, Leonard saved a workmate who had fallen through the ice-covered river. Leonard dived under the ice to rescue his mate before he got sucked into the mill race, and got him out by swimming out under the ice. He received an award of £20 in his pay packet – a good sum in the forties! He also got a bravery award certificate in 1938 from the River Trent catchment board and a medal not seen. During World War 2 he worked at Blisses Munitions factory, then he went to Combustion Iron Foundry until the end of the war. He then found work at Parkers Iron Foundry at Mansfield Road and then went to Aitons Iron Foundry Stores Road as a supervisor, until he retired at sixty due to an accident. He passed away in 1984.

Trades People in Morley from 1937.

My Great, Great, Grandad used to sell home grown fruit and vegetables from a horse and drey in the 1800's. From 1937 I can remember a horse and trap coming round the Moor delivering milk to the Almshouses from a milk churn with pint and half pint scoops on the side. I had a ride in the trap driven by Mr Carter. He came from Lodge Farm. I can remember a Mr J. Leason collecting scrap metal by horse and drey. Also, a chimney sweep, with a pony and cart and all the brushes, rods, buckets and sheets on it, and the local farmer delivering a cartload of manure to some of the properties on the Moor, and in the winter, horse drawn snow ploughs and horse drawn coal dreys. Moving on, who can remember dust carts collecting waste and rubbish from houses? Also a lorry coming round Morley collecting toilet waste – it was still

being done in the late fifties and early sixties when it was chemical toilet waste until flush toilets were put in houses and connected to the main waste pipes. I have seen many changes in Morley from wireless crystal sets to accumulator radios, battery to electric etc. Also lighting through from candles, paraffin, gas mantles and oil until electricity was installed, and how about the arrival of motorised vehicles coming round delivering coal and logs. The axe and knife sharpener on a motor bike and side car. Fish bread and butchers vans, Walls Ice Cream with wafer slices wrapped in paper and given along with two wafers or a cone for three pence (old money)! Also the Coop Haberdashery Dennis Van. I also remember shop traders coming to Mum's shop and a drey of beer being pulled by two Shire horses. Then lorries delivering beer Offliers Ales and minerals, Ceylon Tea Company plus many others. I did have a ride on the Offliers lorry to Cosy Corner transport Café on Alfreton Road Breadsall, while I still lived on Morley Moor. I used to be a door to door salesman for Buxton's Groceries, and Star Stores at Nottingham Clothing and Furniture. Also I worked for Midland Counties Ice Cream in Derby, I took over from John Alphus of Morley, until I became a bus and coach driver for Trent and National Express. I also did some driving for Felix before retiring completely.

Jocks Hole Brackley Gate at Dobbs Hill Plantation.

Does anyone remember "Jocks Hole" just below Brackley Gate in Breadsall Moor Woods (now Moor Plantation). I know my Dad, Len Hussey and Wilf Peach used to swim in it when it was full of water supplied by a spring and rain water. As teenagers Len and Dad dived into it not knowing of any danger under the water. They got caught and told off by the woods ranger giving them a lecture. Not long after, a danger sign was put up and a metal fence round it. Which was taken away for the war effort during World War 2. It was filled in with loads of rubbish as far as I can remember. What it is like now I do not know. The last time I was there was in the 1950's with a friend. He was taking photographs and I was filming. I never got to see any of the photographs as he passed away, and the film turned out to be poor quality, NOT MUCH LUCK.

World War Two Air raid precautions. ARP demonstration.

The chief ARP warden Dave Watt for Morley and Breadsall villages, used to give demonstrations on civil defence, such as precautions and how to deal with things. Sid Healey, Bill Brown, Mr Beardsmore, len Hussey, Bert Stennet, Dave Watt and myself were all in the surgery room in Morley at the back of the shop to watch the demonstration of how to deal with an incendiary bomb. First

of all equipment to use- a bucket of water, hand held stirrup pump with hose attached, long handled shovel, long handled scoop, a box full or bucket of sand to hand, fire gloves and a fire blanket plus a fist aid box if needed. This was given in the first part and I was just listening. He then gave a talk on what to do if an incendiary bomb ignites or not. Keep well away from it as it generates a strong heat, it can burn through half inch thick steel in minutes causing a big fire. Stay at least eight to ten feet away and call Civil Defence. Don't tackle it on your own unless it is necessary. (What to do) if unexploded, leave it to the Civil Defence, if exploded use a stirrup pump well away from the incendiary, lie flat about six feet away holding the hosepipe above your head and direct the water onto the bomb to cool it down, for half an hour or more. When you feel it is safe, use a long-handled shovel to place it somewhere safe and cover it with sand or soil. Then call for help to deal with it. I took it all in and it was all very interesting. Dave said practise drill will be next on another day. Which I did not see as I was at school but Dad told me all about it. (What was used etc.). For demonstration they used oily rags in a tin and set on fire.

World War Two rationing Morley.

Who can remember war time rationing etc?

1. War savings certificates books.
2. National Savings certificates.
3. Post Office Savings- Defence bonds.
4. Ministry of food ration books.
5. Motor fuel, petrol ration books.
6. Clothing Coupons- ration Books.
7. Identity Cards and numbers. Discs on a chain or string.

How about Ministry of Food reminders WW2

8. A little ditty – Spam, Spam, Spam, Spam,
Hormels new miracle meat in a can,
Tastes fine, saves time,
If you want something grand,
Ask for Spam, Spam, Spam.
9. I remember a food warning poster with Churchill's and Hitler's face on,
Better pot luck with Churchill today,
Than Humble pie with Hitler tomorrow.
Don't waste food.

10. Lord Woolton's National Milk Scheme provided milk for school children.

11. Also, concentrated orange juice was provided for all children.

Does anyone remember the Merchant Navy Fund Whist Drive and Dance held at the recreation room, Morley on December 19th 1942? Whist Drive 7.15pm – Dance 9.30pm, with the Stanley Common Dance Band. Admission 1shilling and three pence (old money)! Organised by Mrs C.J.Stennett who also organised many whist drives and dances to raise funds for the forces.

14th November 1940 – the destruction of Coventry Cathedral – or – Herman Goering's bullet proof car in Derby at the drill hall Becket Street Derby, (around 1948 for a week)

Ploughing and Thrashing.

Can you remember horse drawn ploughs and rakes? I can, and watched quite a few from 1930 – 1940. Knifton's near the Brickyard and Carter's field opposite Little Eaton Lane. (wish I'd had a camera and a movie camera then to film the events) First the ploughing, sowing the grain, reaping the corn, then seeing the steam engine operating the corn thrasher machine and baler, later in the year at harvest time. And all the sheaves safely gathered in.

How about a Bible Cake WW2.

I found this in a book I was reading some time ago. This puzzling recipe was quotations from the Bible as the key to the ingredients. Look up the references and work out what's required. It won't taste too good if you get it wrong!

1. 225 grams (half a pound) Judges V verse 25 (last clause)
2. 225 grams (half a pound) Jeremiah V1, 20
3. 15 mis (1tbsp) 1 Samuel X1V, 25
4. 3 Jerimiah XV11, 11
5. 225 grams (half a pound) 1 Samuel XXX, 12
6. 225 grams (half a pound) Nahum 111, 12 (chopped)
7. 50 grams (Two oz) Numbers XV11, 8 (blanched and chopped)
8. 450 grams (one pound) 1 Kings 1V, 22
9. Season to taste with 11 Chronicles 1X, 9
10. A pinch of Leviticus 11, 13
11. 5 mls. (1 tsp) Amos 1V, 5
12. 45 mls. (3 tbsp) Judges 1V, 19

Hints – “leaven” means baking powder. You may need to add some Exodus 111, 14 to moisten the mixture. Beat one two and three to a cream, add four one at a time, still beating, then five six and seven and beat again. Add eight, nine, ten and eleven having previously mixed them and lastly twelve. Bake in a slow oven for one and a half hours. The Olio cookery book. I have not tried it myself!

“Morley Thank You”

I would like to thank my Great, Great, Grandad Stennett, my father, Len Hussey, David Watt, Mr E. Knifton, Mr Carter, Frank Selby for more information in the past. K.Stennett 2024