

Some Oakwood Memories

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Do you remember when Connaught Road (the never-finished road across the fields parallel to Prince's Avenue) was more visible at the Old Park Road end? It started at the bend in Old Park Road just before Roundhay School, where there was a gate (was it a kissing-gate?).

Do you remember when the fenced Soldiers' Field had bullocks grazing in it (in the 1950s and perhaps earlier)? They were often at long-off when we played cricket near the junction of Gledhow Lane and Old Park Road, and it was best not to be the bowler or fielder if the ball went into the cowclap.

Do you remember July 27th 1949 when Princess Elizabeth and the Duke of Edinburgh motored down Prince's Avenue, past the Oakwood Clock and on down Roundhay Road?

Do you remember the occasion in the late 1940s when the government tried unsuccessfully to end sweet rationing? Stocks were inadequate and rationing had to be re-imposed. I remember the empty shelves of the Bee Hive sweet shop (a few doors nearer town than the fish and chip shop). All I could get was a Mars bar.

Do you remember the steep sided quarries of the Oakwood area in the post war years (and earlier of course)? I and my friends used to play quite happily at a very young age above the sheer drop of the quarry at the junction of St Margaret's View and Fitzroy Drive. There was no fence to protect us. Less health and safety then!

Do you remember Neville Heselgrave, the North Leeds batsman in the 1950s? He was disabled but could bat brilliantly with only one serviceable arm.

Do you remember the Dr Who-style police box and the little copse of trees (cops and copsel!) on the island in the road opposite Oakwood Clock? Now the trees and box are gone with just a bus stop in their place.

Do you remember when it was possible to board a tram at Oakwood which went up to Roundhay Park, along Moortown

down to Sheepscar, along to City Square and up to Lawnswood (all without changing trams)?

Do you remember the Donkey Field entrance to Roundhay Park, the donkey-field being the now open grassy area next to Hill 60 and above the Lakeside Cafe?

Do you remember the rides given by (presumably the same) donkeys a few yards along from Barran's Fountain?

Do you remember that Peter Sutcliffe, the Yorkshire Ripper, murdered one of his victims near the changing-rooms adjacent to the Donkey Field entrance?

Do you remember the immediate post-war allotments at the junction of Prince's Avenue and Park Avenue?

Do you remember the 'penguin queue' at the Oakwood Clock tram stop? Would be passengers queued at right angles to the tram track, the rear of the queue being under Oakwood Clock. Usually queues are alongside tram tracks, or roads in the case of buses. It was said to be the only penguin queue in ?? - unfortunately I have forgotten the rest of the sentence. Leeds? Yorkshire? The UK? Europe? The World?