



# Who Was/Is My Neighbour?

A LITERAL- AND LATERAL-THINKING EXPLORATION BY HUGH GIBBONS

**Who was/is my literal/lateral-thinking neighbour?**

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**Why I wondered about neighbours 80 years on**

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**How Joe Halpern was excused The Isle of Man**

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**How we fared AfterWar**

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**This was our neighbour Peta**

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**This was (surprise!) our neighbour Peto**

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## Who was/is my/your literal-/lateral-thinking neighbour?

"MORE TO HONOUR THAN TO GLORY"

This document was a surprise to me. I was after a couple of sentences in *Reconstructing No71* – our family's account of being bombed in the Moseley district of Birmingham in 1940. Who were our neighbours that night? Just the literal interpretation (eg Evelyn, Joy and Gertrude at No69) was expected. Instead, you have here a spun-off collection of self-contained topic pages with information harvested from sources on the internet in late summer 2020.

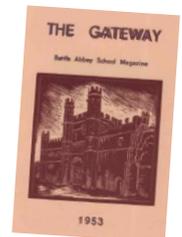
Why's that? In unearthing the answers, I came across examples of the more lateral-thinking interpretation – variations on the parable of the Good Samaritan used to define "my neighbour" in the Second Commandment. Once you think of "neighbour" as anyone, near or far, in need of compassion and common humanity and the help of any sort that I/we/you can provide, you're on the right lines. If 2020 has anything good about it, it's been all good neighbours – worldwide.

So this document lets me contribute some miniparables – including Dublin firefighters rushing across the border towards the flames of Belfast, the army doctor turning on the tears of an odious enemy; nuns at Assisi cooking after Yom Kippur for the Jewish people they'd helped hide in convents; and to start, HM The Queen sponsoring leper children in Nigeria.



Is that last one a surprise? It wasn't to Helen Sheehan-Dare. In 1953, she was head teacher of Battle Abbey School in 1953 - which Peta, one of my Moseley neighbours, was attending. In her Foreword to the school magazine *The Gateway* just after the Coronation, Helen had a perceptive sympathy for the new Queen's sense of duty to neighbours – worldwide.

*"Within the nation, and internationally and, above all, within ourselves, it is so painfully easy to become indifferent and to cease to fight for standards of right. No queen, however virtuous, can rule justly unless her ministers and judges are just. No monarch can be truly "glorious" however often we may sing the National Anthem, unless her people devote themselves more to honour than to glory. Neither can she, as Head of an empire, be "happy" while the least among us is content to see misery in any part of the world."*



The Queen led the way. As the charity Lepira points out, she was one of the first Royal sponsors of BELRA's Child Adoption Scheme, sponsoring two girls at Itu Leprosy Colony in Nigeria. Likewise, Battle Abbey School's ethos offered – offers – not just words but action. *The Gateway* updated progress on Juma, a leper boy in today's Tanzania whose education the school funded for several years. Able to read and write, he in turn could help others – his own literal neighbours.

So I hope you'll enjoy finding out the answers to Who Was/Is My Neighbour. And yours.



### Hugh Gibbons

outside No 71 School Road Moseley in Summer 1940



and

with Anne in Bracknell Summer 2020

# Why I wondered about our neighbours – 80 years on

A PAGE ON EXPLORING PUBLIC DOMAIN INFORMATION

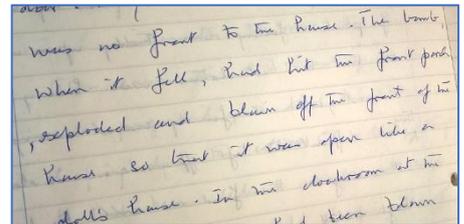
**O**n the right is a Google StreetView of the site where my family lived 1938-40: No71 School Road, Moseley, Birmingham 13.

If you think the smaller house looks out of kilter with its Victorian neighbours, you're right. It replaced our Old No71. My mum, sister Bunny, brother Paul and me in long shorts are seen by its front door in October 1940. A few weeks later the door just about hung in place after our No71 had been rearranged by a parachute mine. We all survived, in the cellar.



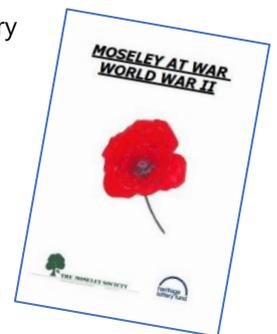
We'd been at No71 for just under two years – a return to Birmingham for my parents who'd met and married there but lived in Dublin and Bristol with his ICI job. My father chose to rent No71 for its size and handy setting in a quiet residential area with all facilities. But in late 1940 the south of Birmingham became a sort of Bomb Alley for the Luftwaffe streaming en route from France to attack the industrial heart of the city just to our north.

Fifty or so years later Bunny wrote up the story of that night in Old71 as part of a seriously detailed family history 1900-42. At a loose end in the pandemic, I decided to send it to whoever was living in New No71. And it got a great welcome. We even found that Bunny and the current occupant had dined together, in 1988 at a law students' reunion in Birmingham!



I promised a version of the story for the excellent Moseley Society and its local history section - part of Birmingham Heritage Forum. And that's set out in *Reconstructing No7 Et Al*. But I thought it would be interesting to have a note on our neighbours that night – and maybe even try to share the story with their families today.

The starting point was Ancestry UK, a large on-line genealogy resource. It lets you access, explore, compare and interrogate a great range of documents that have been digitised: for example, births, deaths and marriages; military records; even passenger lists from boats. In many cases you can also see the actual documents, complete with copperplate handwriting, fading typewriter ink, or pencilled notes.



For the UK, they have census data – listing everyone in a household, with key facts such as gender, date and place of birth, marital status, and occupation. The UK Census started in 1801, and has been run almost every ten years since. There are a few gaps. All the records for 1931 were destroyed in the London Blitz; and 1921's won't be on-line until late in 2021, apparently. And instead of the 1941 census, in September 1939 a National Register was hurriedly run to help planning, especially rationing, listing all in the household and key details. Some information is still private under a 100-year rule. For example, my parents were named at No71, but us children (now 82 and 87) are Closed.

*On the next page is what I found out about our neighbours*

# Putting names to our literal neighbours

A PAGE ON NATIONAL AND LOCAL INFORMATION

The 1939 National Register shows our right-hand neighbours at No69 were the Farmer sisters. Eveline 49 and Joy 43 were confectioners; Gertrude 46 a piano teacher. No73 on our left? A blank record.



Directly across the road, No50 was a large house that Bunny said was "standing in its own grounds where, periodically, we would see a chauffeur drive up for the elderly lady occupant." In fact, she was Mollie Padmore 69, six years a widow, with two servants.

Diagonally opposite – beyond bottom left of the photo - were Oliver and Bessie Langford, an elderly couple with two servants, Gladys and Rose. They were probably the good neighbours who my brother Paul said looked after us after we were led out of the bombed house. Those at No48 may have joined in too. Mary Bradford 61 was recorded as head of an eclectic household. Mary Baird 26 was a clerical assistant in local government; Margaret White 24 was an architect's secretary; and George Baird 22 was a theology student.

But the occupants of No73 were unrecorded anywhere in the 1939 Register. This may simply be that they were away or chose not to send in the form (unlikely as registration was linked to rationing). The 1938 local electoral roll (left) revealed their names: the Halperns. Researching them was fruitful given that Halpern is an unusual surname, and Judith Beatrice a helpful combination of first names. Further key information quickly surfaced. David

was a young doctor, graduating from Manchester in 1936. He and Judith had married at Ashton-under-Lyne between that July and September. Her maiden name was also unusual: Foggo. And in the Spring of 1937 they had a daughter - and gave her unique names: Peta Graine.

MOSELEY & KING'S HEATH WARD. POLLING DISTRICT RJ. (No. 478)					
1142	Rw	Dw	Barber, Leeta	68	SCHOOL ROAD—cont
1143	Rw	Ow	Clay, Elizabeth Lilian—J	65	
1144	R	—	Clay, John Ernest	65	
1145	Rw	—	Clay, Margaret Pring	65	
1146	Rw	Ow	Farmer, Eveline Daisy—J	69	
1147	Rw	—	Farmer, Gertrude Nora	69	
1148	Rw	—	Farmer, Ivy Martha	69	
1149	R	O	Gibbons, Alfred Charles—J	71	
1150	Rw	Dw	Gibbons, Ilma	71	
1151	R	O	Halpern, David	78	
1152	Rw	Dw	Halpern, Judith Beatrice	78	

Halpern, David	73, School road, Moseley, Birmingham	1936, July 6, E	M.B., Ch.B. 1936, V.U. Manc.
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Foggo, Eric	Burgoynes	Dewsbury	9 b	1669
— Ethel M.	Trenham	Newcastle T.	10 b	277
— Frederick M.	Perry	Crosby	8 b	1562
— Henry R.	Bailey	Liverpool S.	8 b	520
— Judith B.	Halpern	Ashton	8 d	2257

Halpern, Peta G.	Foggo	Glossop	7 b	1338	— Mar
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So our No73 neighbours were, like us, a youngish family with a small baby. And as my parents were very sociable, it's likely that Peta got to meet Bunny, Paul, and me. And she was around my age. So: now?

The Medical Directory showed David at the No73 address until 1942. But the British Medical Journal for 7th October 1944 had this poignant entry. It was enough to make me explore the hinterlands of Halperns and Foggos to piece together their story – and maybe find a relative now.

CASUALTIES IN THE MEDICAL SERVICES Killed in action in Italy.—Capt. David Halpern, R.A.M.C.
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The next page is about David's family – in Manchester

## How Joseph & Hannah had ready-made neighbours

A PAGE ON SETTLING INTO THE SETTING OF MANCHESTER

**A**round 1874, Joseph Heilpern Vel Tannenbaum was born in today's Lvov in the Ukraine. At the time it was in Galicia, part of the Austro-Hungarian Empire, giving him Austrian citizenship. Lvov was an old and cultured city of about 200,000 people around 1900: half Roman Catholic, 28% Jewish. Over 80% spoke Polish and 11% preferred Ruthenian, a form of Slavic language.

By 1903 he was Joseph Halpern, getting married in Prestwich in the UK to Hannah Schur from Lithuania. In time they were Joe & Annie. The public records don't show when or why they migrated to Manchester. But it was likely for the better economic prospects - even though it meant moving to a major foreign city with different language, culture and social norms. Having a large, established Jewish community - and perhaps relatives and friends there as ready-made neighbours - would have helped.



The Jewish community there was diverse in many ways. There's an excellent new perspective in a 2019 doctoral thesis by Tereza Ward of Manchester University: "Social and Religious Jewish Non-conformity: Representations of the Anglo-Jewish Experience." Tereza drew on the oral testimony archive of the Manchester Jewish Museum (seen in its new planned form). They included common struggles, with competing forces acting on individuals and families trying to balance their heritages with Anglicisation and assimilation into British life. For example, intermarriage with people of other faiths was increasingly accepted. Others kept to core traditional values by maintaining tight family and social circles.

What language did Joseph use to propose to Hannah? She was from the town of Plungyan in Lithuania; 8 years younger, born on 18 December 1882. Sister Sadie went to New York around 1910, and had a family of two sons and a daughter there. Brother Jacob brought up three sons and a daughter in Plungyan, but moved them to Canada in 1936 as Europe showed its dangers for Jewish communities

Joe and Annie Halpern's family grew. Their children were Simon 1905; Ada 1907; Dora 1910; David 1912; Minnie 1914; Barnet 1916; Sarah, 1918; Esther 1920. In 1934, Barnet – Barney – died age 18.

In the September 1939 National Register, Joseph and Annie were living at 15 Esmond Road, Prestwich (below, today). Joseph gave his occupation as a raincoat machinist. Curiously, both he and Annie are



shown as born in 1883. Four of the children were still with them, in perhaps a not untypical Prestwich household. Simon, now 34, was a waterproof machinist; Dora, 29, a raincoat machinist; Esther, 19, a greengrocer's assistant; and Josephine, 15, an adding machine operator.

And David? He's not listed at Esmond Road - for a good reason. Registers of medical students had been flagging him from 1929, until in 1936 he qualified as a doctor from the then Victoria University of Manchester. For a first-generation immigrant family, this was a remarkable development.

There was another surprise. Almost immediately after graduating, at nearby Ashton-Under-Lyne David married Judith Beatrice Foggo. By mid-1937 they had a daughter, Peta – and had moved 100 miles south to Birmingham.

*On the next page is Judith's very different background*

## How Peta came from a long line of Pets

A PAGE ON MIGRATION - FROM MINING TO MISSING

Judith's parents John and Barbara Foggo both came from the coal and metal working town of Bedlington, about 20 miles to the north of Newcastle-upon-Tyne. The Northumbrian Language Society celebrates the rich regional dialects – in which "Pet" is a common term of endearment.

- John Frederick Foggo was born at Bedlington in 1881. His father was a sawyer working at a timber merchants. The family lived at Shorts Terrace in 1881, West View in 1891, South Parade in 1901, and back to West View for the 1911 Census. John's father came from Bedlington too, but his mother from Chesterfield.
- At Middlesbrough in 1909, John married Barbara Ellen Clarkson. Barbara was eight years older than John, born in 1873. Her father was a blacksmith who'd come to Bedlington from Wallsend on Tynemouth (where the Romans had a cavalry fort, hence a long blacksmith tradition). Barbara's mother was from Rothbury, a little town up on the hills in the centre of Northumberland. The Clarkson family lived at Pease Bush in Bedlington, and Barbara had four sisters and two brothers. In the 1891 Census she was recorded as milliner's assistant.
- After John and Barbara married, they came south to the mining communities of Derbyshire, living in Street Lane, Ripley (actually a long road seen on the right). In the 1911 census John filled in the form as head of household, listing Barbara, his elder brother Watson and his wife Elizabeth. He gave his profession as mining engineer. In Northumberland, John had been a member of the local Freemasons and he joined the local Okeover Lodge.
- In January 1913, there was an addition to the family. Judith Beatrice Foggo's birth was registered at Belper, the district office for Ripley.
- After that, the documentary record is fragmented for nearly twenty years. The 1921 and 1931 Census data isn't available, and there's no trace of John in the WW1 service records. However, in November 1931, John was a passenger listed as a mining engineer on the White Star SS Themistocles returning from Durban in South Africa. His address was now given as 73 Staleybridge Road, Ashton-under-Lyne, a suburb of Manchester. Had all the family moved there?
- In the September 1939 National Register, there's a surprise. Barbara Foggo was still in Ashton-under-Lyne – but at a new address, 3 Brookfield Grove (right). With her were Joan Foggo, recently married to Thomas Wardle who an "assistant oil refinery operations"; and Cyril Sharples, a young Anglican curate. Barbara's daughter Judith isn't listed – being way south in Birmingham with husband David and daughter Peta.
- But John Foggo was missing from Ashton. In the 1939 Register, he is shown as living at 83 Trap Lane, Sheffield, "previously colliery manager", now a mining lamp traveller. In the same address is Louisa Sapple age 32. John's next sighted in the Spring of 1950, getting married in Sheffield to Ruth Heginbotham of Bakewell. They lived in the village of Calver, where he died in 1952, leaving effects of £1388.
- What happened to John and Barbara's marriage? One explanation is that I've unearthed the wrong John Frederick Foggo. Another is that he and Barbara divorced (in 1935 there was a change to the Divorce Act making it easier for wives to do so). (Or – unlikely - maybe bigamy...)



*On the next page, David Halpern becoming a doctor*

## How David Halpern was striving towards the sun

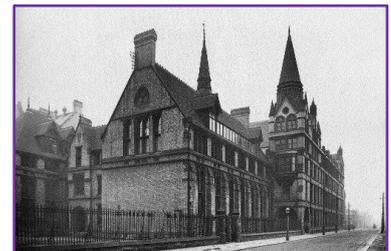
A PAGE ON BEING EDUCATED IN NEW SORTS OF NEIGHBOURS

**D**avid Halpern qualified as a doctor in 1936. It was a remarkable achievement both for him and his family. His father and mother had come as immigrants from Eastern Europe perhaps 30 years before, with a modest lifestyle, adjusting to new languages and values, a home crowded with children. Yet somehow David went got into university - the first and only one in the family.

We don't know the thinking of his parents Joseph and Annie. Perhaps they saw him as returning to practise in somewhere like Prestwich, start a family, live a useful life. Perhaps they had a role-model in a local family doctor within the Jewish community, someone who saw David's potential and encouraged both them and him to go and study. Or perhaps a teacher, or friend. Manchester meant he could live at home, but studying would have been costly – unless he perhaps gained a scholarship or the like. Somehow he was funded for the several years as a student, and obtained his MB, BCh in 1936.

He wasn't unique. Joel Strauss was a medical student from Crumpsall, adjacent to Prestwich, also with Jewish immigrant parents. His metalworker father came from Russian Kurland – now in Latvia – and his mother from Poland. They got to see their only child as a Manchester doctor - and Army officer.

At the Victoria University of Manchester David and Joel trained at one of the UK's leading medical schools. Formal medical education in Manchester had begun in 1814 when Joseph Jordan opened the first anatomy school in the English provinces. It offered dissections as well as lectures, and medical education proved good business. In London the private anatomy schools, which had competed with each other for decades, became incorporated with hospitals. In the provinces, private medical schools continued beyond 1870, using the hospitals for clinical teaching but not formally attached to them. But it wasn't till 1874 that the private schools were replaced by the Victoria University of Manchester, with its motto "*Striving Towards the Sun*". The new medical school was in the back quadrangle, behind the main college buildings. The medical building was extended in the 1880s, and connected with the extensions of the chemistry department. A large extension built on Coupland Street in the mid-1890s made Manchester one of the largest and best-equipped medical schools in England.



But there's a risk for all families with someone at university: they might change. It's shown frankly in Anthony Burgess's no-holds-barred autobiography *Little Wilson and Big God*, as an undergraduate from a Catholic family in Manchester in the late 1930s. You get to meet new neighbours: other students, tutors, friends, tutors, authors, challengers; often from many different parts of the country or world; offering new values, experiences, skills, attitudes, personalities. In studying medicine, you get to see up-front the reality of human life in patients – sometimes in hospital, sometimes in their homes - and their families and neighbours.



More change was in the air in the 1930s. The rise of fascism meant that many young doctors – not just in Britain – would find their civilian practice replaced by a military one. It had happened before. The lower plaque on the Manchester University Memorial on the Quad Building commemorates 511 men and one woman who died in WW1. Of these, 28 were serving with the Royal Army Medical Corps – all but two of them officers. The upper plaque shows seven from WWII.



"*Striving Towards the Sun*" was again about to become "*Faithful in Adversity*".

*The next page is about an issue for some doctors*

## Where the literal neighbours were welcoming

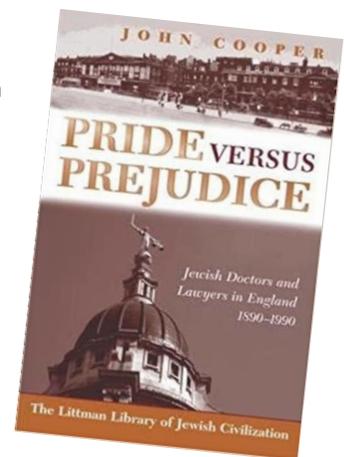
A PAGE ON AN ENDEMIC PROBLEM IN MANY PLACES

David's entry in The Medical Directory for 1938 had him at 110 Billesley Lane, Moseley, Birmingham 13 – a semi I must have later passed many times on the way to the local butchers. The Directory doesn't show whether he was a hospital doctor or GP – but the latter is the more likely.



Why the move away from Manchester? It's probably where a post was to be found - or offered. He may have been fortunate. Even doctors were not seen as suitable neighbours for some doctors. On 21 June 1930 an advertisement appeared in the British Medical Journal in the following terms: *'Wanted, Midlands, Assistant [doctor] male. Panel 1,950. Receipts £2,700. Good House and garden available. No Jews or men of colour'*. It jars today, but it was of its time.

For the NHS' 70th anniversary, the Royal College of General Practitioners staged an exhibition on *'Migrants Who Made the NHS'*. One visitor was John Cooper, author of a much-respected book *Pride Versus Prejudice*, on Jewish doctors and lawyers in England 1890-1990.



John was struck by the parallels between the experience of South Asian doctors in the early NHS and the Jews who had entered the medical profession earlier in the last century. A study published in the 1990s in the BMJ showed that candidates with Asian names were much less likely to be called for interviews than candidates with equivalent qualifications but with English surnames. John pointed out that similarly, during the 1920s and 1930s, many newly qualified Jewish doctors Anglicised their surnames, and sometimes their first names, in order to conceal their origin and to help advance their careers.

He said it could be argued that the influx of Jews into the medical schools in Britain from the First World War onwards helped to staff surgeries in working-class neighbourhoods between the wars and in the early years of the NHS. To overcome these difficulties, Jewish doctors purchased their practices, usually beginning their career in working-class neighbourhoods. Similarly, South Asian doctors from India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, and Sri Lanka encountered so many negative answers when they applied to join a general practice that they opened new practices in inner cities and industrial areas - where no other doctors would venture. And he pointed out that today, Jewish and South Asian doctors can be proud of the contributions they've made to the improvement in the nation's health.

David may not have had to face those issues.

Indeed, much of Moseley and Kings Heath were reasonably well-off areas, with a lot of doctors living there. By 1938 he, Judith and Peta were established in the very spacious semi No73 in School Road. Their neighbours? On their right, the friendly and well-travelled Anglican/Catholic Gibbons family, also with a young baby. On their left, the Smallbone family – Jabez 49, a Baptist Minister of Religion (perhaps connected with the big church in Oxford Road); his wife Edith 49; and Joyce Vida 13, at school. In other words, two lots of neighbours likely to be welcoming and liberal-minded.

**HALPERN, David, 73, School Rd., Birmingham, 13—  
M.B., Ch.B. Manch. 1936.**



And then came the outbreak of WWII in September 1939, and changes to neighbours everywhere.

*The next pages are about what war meant – first, back in Manchester*

## Why Joe Halpern was excused The Isle of Man

At the outbreak of war in 1939, in Manchester Joseph Halpern had a problem. Though in the UK for around 40 years, he was still an Austrian citizen – and therefore an enemy alien. Austria had become part of Greater Germany through the Anschluss of 1938.

In September 1939, 70,000 UK resident Germans and Austrians became classed as enemy aliens. Internment tribunals examined everyone registered over the age of 16. They assigned them into three Categories: A, to be interned; B, to be exempt from internment but subject to the restrictions; and C, to be exempt from both internment and restrictions.

As it happened, the form on the right shows that Joe was classed as C. Perhaps his employer in Gordon Road and neighbours in Esmond Road spoke out for him and his good character.

MALE ENEMY ALIEN EXEMPTION FROM INTERNMENT—NON-REFUGEE 898

(1) Surname (last name) HALPERN  
Forenames Joe  
Alias

(2) Date and place of birth 1873 - Zaborow  
(3) Nationality Austrian

(4) Police Regn. Cert. No. 150 332 Home Office reference (if any)

(5) Address prior to internment 13 Esmond Road  
Salford, Manchester

(6) Normal occupation Machinist  
(7) Present occupation Machinist

(8) Name and address of employer B. Rang & Co.  
Gordon Road, Salford

(9) Division or Tribunal Esmond Rd. Salford Date 11 October 1939

(10) Whether exempted from Article 6 (a) (1) or (2) No

(11) Whether des. res. to be repatriated (Yes or No) No

(12) 20217-53 (Rev. 9.39) G.S. 9 104

In fact, by February 1940 73,000 has been examined, and 66,000 were classified as Category C. These included most of the 55,000 Jewish refugees who had come to the UK to escape Nazi persecution in the early and mid 1930s – though 6,700 of these were classified as Category B and 569 as A.

Category As were interned in camps set up across the UK. The largest settlements were on the Isle of Man, with others in and around Glasgow, Liverpool, Manchester, Bury, Huyton, Sutton Coldfield, London, Kempton Park, Lingfield, Seaton and Paignton. Wives and husbands were separated, as this photo on a station shows.



However, by May 1940 the risk of German invasion was high. Regardless of their Category classification, a further 8,000 Germans and Austrians resident in the Southern part of England were interned. Following Italy's declaration of war on Britain on 10 June 1940, resident Italians were also considered for internment. About 4,000 resident Italians known to be members of the Italian Fascist Party and others aged between 16 and 70 who had lived in the UK for fewer than 20 years were ordered to be interned. They included Ernesto and Roberto Piccioni who lived near us in Moseley.

The increase in numbers meant a serious space problem in the UK. So more than 7,500 internees were shipped overseas in June and July 1940. Tragically, en route to Canada on 2 July 1940 the Arandora Star was torpedoed by a German submarine. On board were 712 Italians, 438 Germans (including Nazi sympathisers and Jewish refugees), and 374 British seaman and soldiers. Over half lost their lives. This event that swayed public sympathy towards these Civilian Internees of Enemy Nationality, often known as good neighbours. By October, about 5,000 Germans, Austrians and Italians had been released following a White Paper. By December only 9,000 were still interned in camps in Britain, Canada and Australia. Of those released, 273 were men who applied to join the Pioneer Corps. By 1942 fewer than 5,000 remained interned, mainly on the Isle of Man.

Husbands and wives were separated. But at least on The Isle of Man Rushen Camp was run by civilians not the military. The owners remained there with their families, so internees could shop, go for walks, bathe and attend classes. Paradoxically, they were safer than those on the mainland, as you'll now hear.

*The next page is about common suffering – in Moseley, Belfast and Manchester*

## How neighbours in Moseley and Prestwich and Belfast suffered

A PAGE ON WHY "THEIR SORROWS ARE ALSO OUR SORROWS"

**T**he thing about bombs is that they don't discriminate. Her family history shows that before we were bombed, my sister Bunny had a close friend at Camp Hill School, Phyllis Waldron living round the corner in No68 Oxford Road.

Phyllis' mother was also Phyllis. She was a widow who had remarried an Italian marble merchant called Ernesto Piccioni. They'd had another child with a lively name: Gina Edvige Ernesta. His brother Roberto also married a widow, Doris Townsend. They had a daughter Angela, and lived at No 61.

In 1940, both the Piccioni brothers were classified as aliens in the A category and interned in the Isle of Man. So they were unable to make any arrangements to move their families to safety.

On the night of 11 December 1940, both their families were in No 68 Oxford Road, together with a lady of 63, Florence Elliott, and a young bank clerk William Howard Watson – who doubled as a firewatcher. They were all killed by a bomb in what is believed to be No68 in the photo. The brothers were released in late 1941. They returned to Birmingham to pick up the pieces. Ernesto rebuilt No68, marriage, and his life – Roberto living almost next door.



Though neutral in the war, the people of the Republic of Ireland knew who their neighbours were. In fact, over 100,000 volunteered to serve in British forces, and 5000+ died. And they cared in other ways.

On 15 April 1941, Belfast was badly bombed, suffering over 1000 deaths. The neutral Irish government asked for volunteers among their own firefighting crews in Dublin, Drogheda, Dun Laoghaire, and Dundalk. They all stepped up. In the early hours of 16th April 1941, Taoiseach Éamon de Valera sent 13 fire appliances and 71 volunteer firefighters north of the border. Later that month, de Valera said why they'd been sent to help Britons of Belfast. *"In the past, and probably in the present, too, a number of them did not see eye to eye with us politically, but they are our people – we are one and the same people – and their sorrows in the present instance are also our sorrows; and I want to say to them that any help we can give to them in the present time we will give to them whole-heartedly, believing that were the circumstances reversed they would also give us their help whole-heartedly"*.



In 2011 six of the 1941 crews rode an appliance back in Belfast to commemorate their humanitarian mission. You can read more at <http://www.fire-service-trust.com/belfast-blitz-remembrance-2011.html>

Bombing took its toll on Manchester, too. Later in December 1940, more than 800 civilians were killed in two nights of intense bombing which ended on Christmas Eve. At one house in Prestwich, three generations of a single family were killed. That's a bomb crater in another part of Prestwich. In Rusholme's Fernleaf Street, eleven people were killed, including a one-year-old boy and a two-year-old girl. On 2 June 1941, Bessie and Fanny Halpern of 455 Cheetham Hill Road were killed – perhaps relatives of Joe & Annie. But worse was happening elsewhere.



*The next page is about what happened where Joe & Annie had come from*

## How the Holocaust struck Joe and Annie's birthplaces

A PAGE ON NEIGHBOURS AGAINST NEIGHBOURS

If the civilian population of Britain was suffering, far worse was happening to those of Eastern Europe following the Nazi invasion of Russia in 1941. It was not just the scale. In Britain, there was nothing personal about the bombs. On the ground, though, it was possible to pick out individuals, groups, communities, races. And neighbour could turn on neighbour.

In Joseph Halpern's cultured city of Lvov, from late June through July massacres of thousand of Jews were perpetrated by Ukrainian nationalists, German death squads, and local crowds. The nationalists targeted Jews in the first pogrom on the pretext of them being purportedly responsible for the Russian NKVD prisoner massacre in Lviv, which left behind thousands of corpses in three prisons. The subsequent massacres were directed by the Germans.

The Lvov ghetto was established in November 1941. At its peak, it held 120,000 Jews. Following the 1941 pogroms and Einsatzgruppe killings, harsh conditions in the ghetto and deportations to Belzec and the Janowska concentration camp resulted in the almost complete annihilation of the Jewish population. By the time Soviet forces reached Lvov on 21 July 1944, fewer than 1 per cent had survived. In 2016, a memorial was erected commemorating the victims of the pogrom on the site of the former Golden Rose Synagogue.



In Annie's pleasant town of Plungyan, a notorious massacre was committed around 15 July 1941. Following the anti-Soviet June Uprising, Lithuanian nationalists formed a town administration and police force. German forces killed 60 young Jewish men, accused by the Lithuanians of being a rear guard for the Red Army. Later, the Lithuanian nationalists transported the 1700 remaining Jews to ditches near the village of Kaušėnai where they were shot. Jesuit priest Petras Lygnugaris age 32 baptized 74 Jewish girls in an effort to spare them; but the activists killed them regardless. This wall bearing the names of most the Jews killed stands at the Kaušėnai Holocaust Memorial.



Fr Lygnugaris had a harrowing aftermath. He survived the war, but in 1950 was sent to Siberia for 10 years by the NKVD. He later served as Catholic priest right across that region, known for his compassion. Eventually banned, he returned to Lithuania and saw out his days as the priest at St Anne's in Akmene, where he died in 1985.

There was peril too in Italy. Despite the alliance between Hitler and Mussolini, and a German military presence, in the early years of the war Italians mostly ran their own domestic affairs. Indeed, due to the perceived "softness" of the Fascist regime, many from other European countries had sought refuge in Italy.

Matters changed drastically after Italy surrendered to the Allies on September 8, 1943. Along with their sympathizers, the Nazis began to round up Jews for deportation. Now the lives of both Italian and foreign Jews were at risk. But hundreds found they had new and caring neighbours – as you'll see later on.



*The next page is about David Halpern joining the war against Nazism*

# How David Halpern acquired thousands of new neighbours

FAITHFUL IN ADVERSITY

**D**avid's Birmingham address in the Medical Directory was unchanged in 1941. But in 1942 it was "Unknown". The Army had logged him at 3 Brookfield Avenue, Ashton-under-Lyne – presumably having moved his family to stay with Judith's mother as he was called up.

The London Gazette in August 1942 (right) shows he was now an officer in the Royal Army Medical Corps. It's where a fit young British doctor might expect to serve. And older ones too. The Gazette on the right shows three Fellows of the Royal College of Surgeons – very experienced practitioners, bringing specialist skills to casualty clearing stations and hospitals.

Initially in WW2, the RAMC and other services doctor intake were volunteers. But it soon became apparent that this would not be enough to meet the need for medical officers. So the practice of medicine was removed from the list of reserved occupations; and medical practitioners

became liable for compulsory military service under the National Service (Armed Forces) Act. Local medical war committees determined the most suitable recruits from each district. But they had to balance the needs of the three services while making sure the civilian population had enough doctors.

1st Aug. 1942:—  
William Venters BAYNE, M.B. (241089). James BOOTH, M.B. (241097). Robert Thatcher BOWES, M.D. (239800). Alistair John CAMERON, M.B., F.R.C.S. (241088). James CARSON, M.D. (239220). John James Bernard CONNOLLY, M.B. (239791). George Thomas CRIBB, M.B. (241107). Roy Townley DAVIES, M.B. (239803). Cecil Herbert DEVEREUX, M.B. (239236). Jack Robertson DOW, M.B. (238816). Ivor Quarren EVANS; F.R.C.S. (239250). Philip Rainsford EVANS, M.D., M.R.C.P. (239253). Leslie William FREEMAN (239246). Leonard Aitchison GIFFORD, M.B. (239789). John GILCHRIST, M.B. (239790). Robert GLENN, M.B. (239057). David HALPERN, M.B. (241090). Harry HARRIS (241162). Israel Jacob HARRIS, M.B. (239795). Kenneth Francis Wakefield HINSON (239802). Christopher HOUGHTON BROWN (239806). John Humphreys HUGHES, M.B. (239793). Robert Roland HUGHES, M.B., M.R.C.P. (236873). Kenneth Clive Davies JONES (241106). Henry Turner KNOWLES, M.B. (241104). Ivan LEVESON, M.B. (241091). William Harold Godfrey Mackwood LING, F.R.C.S. (239799). Terence McCARROLL, M.B. (241083). Archibald Holmes MacGEACHY, M.B. (241099). Dennis MALCOLM, M.B. (239813). Robert Pickard MATTOCK, M.B. (241087). Raymond Andrew MOIR, M.B. (239235). Robert ORMISTON (241105). Alec Crossley PARKINSON, M.B. (241103). William Hope PARKINSON (239801). Cecil Willoughby RICHARDS (241069). James Reginald RICKETT (241092). John Parkinson SENIOR, M.B. (241085). Arnold Urquhart SOMERVILLE (239804). Robert



Some were Manchester graduates. They included Captain Norman Altham, Captain John Barker, Major William Purves MBE, Captain Donald Starr, Captain Harold Thackray MC – and Major Joel Strauss.

David Halpern left behind his nominated next-of-kin Judith, baby Peta now 5, welcoming mother-in-law Barbara Foggo, and went to war. In 1942 perhaps the most likely posting was North Africa, and on then on to the 1943-5 campaign through Central and Northern Italy with the 15<sup>th</sup> Army Group

David now had a very liberal interpretation of "who is my neighbour": thousands gathered from many nations, to care for and share with.

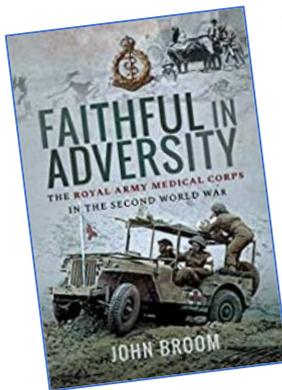
*The next page is about the caring ethos of the Royal Army Medical Corps.*

## Why the SS officer stared and started crying

A PAGE ON THE RAMC NOT GETTING TO CHOOSE THEIR NEIGHBOURS

**"M**en able to read and write, of regular steady habits and good temper and of a kindly disposition'. That's what the British Army was looking for in 1855 when the Medical Staff Corps was formed. And you could say that it's a good specification today, save that many women have also been fine soldiers with the Royal Army Medical Corps.

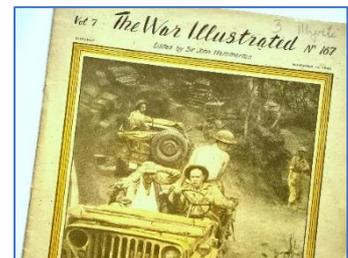
How they served on both world wars is set out in the excellent books by John Broom. He has personal knowledge – his father served in the RAMC. *Faithful in Adversity* - that motto of the RAMC – published in 2019 is a good if often uncomfortable read (as with many accounts of military medics.



One example he gives is Leslie Collier who qualified as a doctor in 1942. Like David Halpern, he was Jewish. After a short time as a house doctor at University College Hospital London, he was posted to the RAMC depot at Fleet for two weeks' basic training. From there he went to the Army Hygiene establishment at Mytchett, *'where we learned about how to put up loos in the middle of any desert or glacier or wherever we happened to be, and then we had a tropical course which was absolutely splendid. Very good indeed, at The Royal Army Medical College.'*

In the advance up Central Italy in 1944, David's patient list would have included British, Canadian, Indian, South African, French North African as well as Italian partisans – plus whatever civilians needed medical care.

And Germans. In Italy too, the now Captain Leslie Collier was with 226 Field Ambulance. As a fluent German speaker he used to have conversations with the walking wounded prisoners who were brought in for treatment. Our family's copy of *The War Illustrated* shows a German POW being ferried to a forward clearing station.



In Leslie Collier's view, British Army doctors did not prioritise the treatment of their own casualties over those of the enemy: *"You would think there might be a tendency to look after the British soldiers first and to leave the Germans till last, and that was one thing I would never ever do. Everybody got sorted out and dealt with and treated in order of their medical priority and that was the only fact that ever counted, and if a German needed treatment before a British person he got it."*

This common humanity even extended to a wounded SS officer. Being Jewish, Leslie Collier had extra reasons not to like the man, *"especially as he started ranting about 'the international Jews and Freemasons and so on'.* Collier replied: *'Well, it might surprise you to know that you are being treated by a Jewish doctor,'* It produced *"the most extraordinary reaction. He just stared at me and he said "a Jew", and I said "yes", and he started crying. It was really a quite interesting reaction."*

(Leslie Collier went on to have 50+ million neighbours worldwide - patients with smallpox. A virologist, he developed a freeze-dried vaccine that WHO adopted in 1967, eradicating the disease by 1980.)

The RAMC took its own hits. The Commonwealth War Graves Commission cares for war graves and memorials at 23,000 locations, in more than 150 countries and territories. The CWGC website has the RAMC losing 7674 soldiers in WW1. For WW2, the figure is 3272 – but spread across Europe, North Africa and South Asia.

*At Assisi, six RMAC have CWGC graves. One is David Halpern's, as the next page shows*

## Why a Star of David rests in peace at Assisi

"BECAUSE GOD MADE THEE MINE..."

The official record says that Captain David Halpern, 32, of the RAMC died on 17 July 1944. His resting place is in Section IV, Row F, Grave 6 in the Commonwealth War Graves Commission's Cemetery at Assisi in Umbria. The official register names Judith Beatrice Halpern of Helsby, Cheshire, and Joseph & Annie Halpern.

His neighbours are 900 soldiers and Italian partisans. Five others served with the RAMC, for all their families a heavy loss. Staff Sergeant Walter Cowell 32 from Wallasey; Private Cyril Whipps from Rochford; Corporal Ronald Smallwood 25, from Liverpool, husband of Elizabeth; Lt Thomas Notman 26, from Troon, husband of Muriel; and Private Alfred Mason 44 from Leeds, husband of Maud, died 30 April 1945 – a few days before VE Day ended the war in Italy and across Europe.



And David Halpern. We don't know the cause of death or time, only that he died that day. It may have been the result of wounds from small arms or artillery fire. Or perhaps a landmine, booby-trap, or air attack. Or a traffic or other tragic accident way behind the front line. Or a disease caught while operating. David's body was first buried in a small temporary cemetery down the

valley here, near San Gemini in the gentle Umbrian countryside north of Terni. It was peaceful then, too. The area had been liberated by the 8<sup>th</sup> Army in June, and by mid-July the battle area was well to the north.

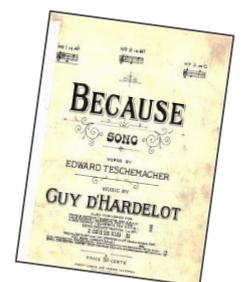
With the others, in mid-1945 David's body was brought to Assisi. In time, the CMWG provided their headstones. His carries the Star of David for his religion recorded by the Army. But the words "Because God Made Thee Mine" would have been specified by Judith as next-of-kin – perhaps referencing a special memory. It's from a song written before the Great War, popular for weddings.



*Because you come to me with nought save love  
And hold mine hand and lift mine eyes above  
A wider world of hope and joy I see  
Because you come to me*

*Because you speak to me in accent sweet  
I find the roses waking round my feet  
And I am led through tears and joys to thee  
Because you speak to me*

*Because God made thee mine I'll  
cherish thee  
Through light and darkness,  
through all time to be  
And pray His love may make  
our love divine  
Because God made thee mine*



The University of Manchester War Memorial lists David alongside others in the RAMC "Who went out from this place and did not return." They were Captain Norman

Altham, Captain John HR Barker, Major William H Purves MBE, Captain Donald Starr, and Captain Harold E Thackray MC. And Major Joel Strauss – whose parents had migrated from Russia to Crumpsall. Married in 1942, he died in June 1943, and is buried in Yaba Cemetery in Lagos, Nigeria. His headstone has a plain cross, not a Star of David.



For all on this page and the lead-ups to it, *Requiescant in Pace.*

*For Jewish doctor David Halpern, Assisi is an apt resting place as you'll see overleaf*

## Why the nuns of Assisi cooked after Yom Kippur

A PAGE ON "GOOD IS SOMETHING YOU DO, NOT SOMETHING YOU TALK ABOUT"

Assisi is cherished on the Yad Vashem Memorial in Jerusalem. While Allied soldiers were fighting their way to them, in 1943-4 its civilians were brave good neighbours saving the lives of hundreds of Jewish people hidden among the town's numerous churches, monasteries, and homes.

Following the Italian armistice in 1943, Bishop of Assisi Giuseppe Nicolini gave orders to all religious institutions, including cloistered monasteries, to take in whatever Jews in the area were in danger. Many other clerics provided food and clothing and the safekeeping of their religious items.



Citizens stepped up too. Assisi also played a major role in creating fake identity documents. One of the printing presses used to create these documents was located right in the town centre - a souvenir and print shop, owned by Luigi Brizi and his son Trento. Luigi not only used his pedal-operated Felix machine to print papers, but cleverly added the seals of various Southern Italian localities. The Jews were given new Italian names and assigned places of birth in the South because there were no Nazis there who could verify the validity of the papers. Trento biked over to the nearby Foligno to

arrange with an expert engraver there to make town seals for various places in Southern Italy. The Brizis used these to stamp the fake documents they printed, thus enhancing their "authenticity."

A bicycle was to play another key war-time role in Assisi. But this was no ordinary bike. It belonged to the Italian cycling champion Gino Bartali, who had won the prestigious Tour de France in 1938 as well as the Giro d'Italia. He was a national sports hero, one who could train for races anywhere on Italy's roads. So he became a unique messenger, moving freely between Assisi and Florence - here many Italian Jews lived and foreign Jews had taken refuge - picking up and delivering newly printed identity papers. Ingeniously, they rolled up and hidden in the frame of his bicycle. After the war, he went on to win the Tour de France again in 1948. Gino spoke little about his bravery. When asked about it, he often replied: *"Good is something you do, not something you talk about."*



The town now has a small museum, Il Museo della Memoria, opened in May 2018 - near the bishop's quarters where Bishop Nicolini gave shelter to numerous Jewish families. Assisi is cherished elsewhere. Gino Bartali, Cardinal Elia Dalla Costa, Bishop Giuseppe Nicolini, Fr. Aldo Brunacci, and Luigi and Trento Brizi were honoured by Israel for saving countless Jewish lives. Having been declared "Just Among Nations" and "Righteous Gentiles", their names are on the Yad Vashem Memorial.



And here's a story David would have appreciated. Graziella Viterbi and her professor father fled to Assisi from Padua. There was no room at the inn, so Bishop Nicolini gave them his bedroom, and slept in his office. It was an ecumenical town and time. *"The nuns even prepared a dinner celebrating the end of fast on Yom Kippur"*. Graziella and others went to Catholic schools so that they could learn prayers and take part in the evening passeggiata stroll.

After the war, the Viterbis remained in Assisi. Graziella married a Catholic. Unlike the Halpern family of Manchester, their son didn't go off to university to become a doctor. He's a rabbi.

*And what happened to the families back in the UK? That's the penultimate page overleaf*

# How we all fared AfterWar

A PAGE ON OUTCOMES FOR THE FAMILIES

After the bombing, us Gibbons were away to Old Bilton and Rugby – but back in a road off School Road in 1943, where we lived until 1958. You can read that surprising story that in the PDF *Reconstructing No71* at [www.just1.org.uk/moseley](http://www.just1.org.uk/moseley). Today, Paul 87 and I 82 survive from No71.

JOSEPH HALPERN died in Prestwich in 1967 – aged about 93; ANNIE died in 1976, aged about 94. Of the children other than David and Barney, Simon went on to be 79; Ada 87; Dora 66; Minnie 91; Sarah 99 and Esther 63. It's hard to work out their own families and succession, as many records are marked Private.

JUDITH HALPERN in 1944 faced a bleak future as a young widow. As Judith was David's next of kin, living in Ashton she would have had the task of breaking the news to his parents in Prestwich. Peta was then 7, presumably at primary school. In late 1945, Judith remarried. Her new husband was James Moors, listed in the 1939 Register as Sales Manager at Astmoor, a big tannery business that was one of the major employers at Runcorn in nearby Cheshire. Though market changes led to the tanneries closing by 1967, James had had a senior position, presumably offering financial comfort. The whole family seems to have moved to Cheshire - Cotterstock House in the village of Helsby. BARBARA ELLEN FOGGO died at the Cottage Hospital in Runcorn in 1949, when Judith was 36. James himself died in 1978. And Judith eventually died in 1991, at Ellesmere Port in Cheshire, age 77 – a long way from Street Lane in Ripley.

PETA was given a private education – again an indication of James Moors' financial standing. As Peta Halpern-Moors she went to Battle Abbey School, 200 miles away on the south coast. She took her GCE O Levels in 1953; and if she stayed on for A Levels is perhaps somewhere in this 1955 school photo.



But within a few days of her 21<sup>st</sup> birthday, she changed her surname by deed poll - to plain Peta Moors. Why? It may have been a simple reaction to having a double-barrelled surname, or a tribute to the stepfather who had seen her through formative years and education.

NOTICE is hereby given that by a Deed Poll dated the 14th day of July, 1958, and duly enrolled in the Supreme Court of Judicature on the 24th day of July, 1958, PETA GRAINE MOORS, of "Cotterstock House" Helsby in the county of Chester, Spinster, a citizen of the United Kingdom and Colonies by birth renounced and abandoned the name of Peta Graine Halpern and assumed in lieu thereof the name of Peta Graine Moors.—Dated this 25th day of July, 1958.

TOM DIXON, 5, Norfolk Street, Manchester, 2, (102) Solicitor for the said Peta Graine Moors.

And in 1962 she married Michael Gore. Curiously, the summary marriage records show a variety of surnames. After that, the UK

HALPERN, Kathleen M.	HENSHALL	Chapel-le-P.	10 a	1355
HALMKAN, Martin A.	ANDREW	Saddleworth	2 e	1312
HALMSHAW, Grace J.	GORE	W.Cheshire	10 a	1183
HALPERN, Peta G.				

Michael J. HALPERN or MOORS W.Cheshire 10 a 1183

records for Peta petered out. But casually browsing Yahoo brought a surprise to light.

In 2005 this appeared in the Jewish Telegraph - by someone being a good neighbour. "Claudia Kugelmass of Toronto is helping a woman find her father's family. Dr David Halpern (born 1912) was the son of Joseph and Annie Halpern (originally from Poland). In 1936 David married Judith Beatrice Foggo (died 1990 at age 78). David Halpern had no further contact with his family because he married a non-Jewish woman. They lived at 3 Brookfield Grove, Ashton-under-Lyne. He died in 1944 in Sicily as a captain in the Royal Army Medical Corps. David and Judith's only child, Peta, who moved to Canada in 1961, would now like to meet her father's relatives."

Contact with Claudia in 2020 showed that this was successful, and that Peta and the Halperns in time exchanged letters and phone calls, suggesting a good closure. Then, from 2017, a face!

*The next page shows who, briefly, was our neighbour*

## This was/is Peta - our neighbour at No73 School Road

A PAGE ON PUTTING A FACE TO A NUMBER

And at last I was able to put a face to the name of our neighbour of 80 years ago.

This is an obituary notice for Peta in 2017. The location is Guelph, a large town not far from Toronto in Canada. As you can glimpse, she was survived by two children, Rachel and Tim; and grandchildren Justin and Megan Hood-Gore; Chelsea, Steven, Cameron Gore; and Emily and Hilary Thompson.

And here was an extra surprise in late 2020 from Battle Abbey School, which Peta had attended.

*Thank you so much for your email...Your article is absolutely fascinating, not just because I run our alumni association!*

*Peta Halpern-Moors was at Battle Abbey from 1948 until after her O levels in 1953. I've attached a couple of photographs from the original Registration Book. She started in the autumn of 1948 and left in July 1953. The pages also show her date of birth, home address, exams taken, previous school, Battle Abbey School House – St. Patrick's (think of Harry Potter & Hogwarts!), a position of responsibility in 1951 (Star – junior prefect), and in the final column, her leaving date. Sadly, we don't have any named photographs of her at school. She was listed on my alumni database, with her address in Canada, and employment record of 'Lab Technician', but no contact had been recorded prior to her death and a letter we sent in 2018 (not knowing she had died in 2017) was returned to us by the postal service.*

*Several of her contemporaries are still alive and in touch with me, including a member of staff who taught here from 1950-52 so I will forward your story/research on to them. It is amazing how quickly you completed it.*

*I have also forwarded it on to our History Department to show to our pupils as an excellent example of research and how you can bring history to life, especially as so much is now available on the internet. I personally am a huge fan of Ancestry UK and have done a lot of research on my family over the years!*

*Thank you again for sharing the stories with us – it is really appreciated, and definitely made me smile.*

*But if you think Peta was an unusual name for a neighbour, see who'd turned up overleaf*



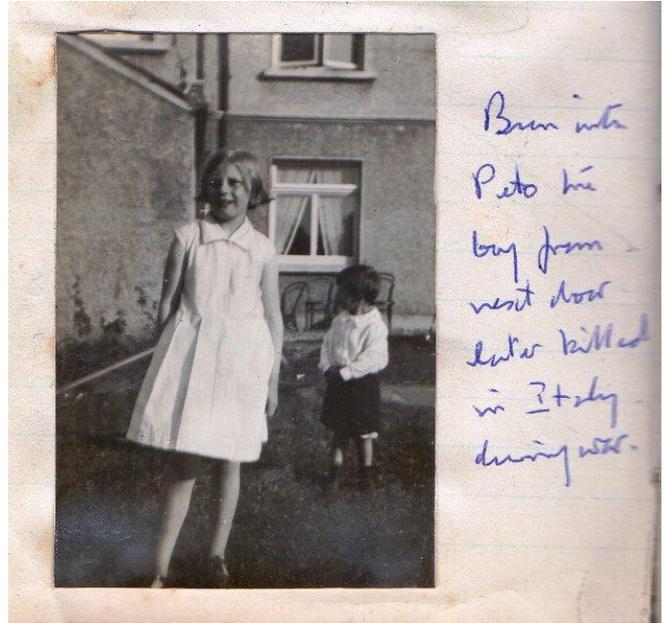
## And this was Peto - a neighbour in Dublin!

A PAGE ON A PUZZLING PHOTOGRAPH

While browsing Bunny's photo albums, I came across this big surprise. "Bun with Peto the boy from next door later killed in Italy during the war". Her family history references his family as very sociable – teaching her swimming at Blackrock.

In the late 1920's my parents and Bunny lived at 4 Ard Lorcaín Villas in Stillorgan, on the southern outskirts of Dublin.

Irish records show the neighbours at No3 were the Huston family. James Charles Hutson was actually British, and had recently retired from head of the Dublin Fire Department. James' first wife and daughter had died in the 1920s. His second wife was Kathleen Spadaccini from an Italian family who had long been in Dublin. They married in 1928. Bunny wrote about her being lively and fun as Peto's mum.



It raises lots of questions. How and when was Peto killed in Italy – and what was he doing there? Was he serving in the British forces – as about 100,000 Irish citizens volunteered to do? There's no sign of him in the CMCG records – or in the search engines. The age is also an issue. Photos suggest he was probably 3-4 years younger than Bunny, so would have been born in, say, 1926. The earliest he could have been in war service age 18 is 1944. It's possible he's shown in the list of about 4000 Irish people who died in British service.

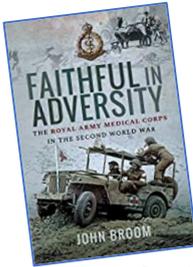
So the end of one story is the start of another? Maybe.

**Hugh Gibbons**

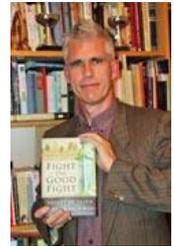
Bracknell 2020

# Some neighbourly information on references

## ABOUT THE ROYAL ARMY MEDICAL CORPS



**John Broom** graduated in History from the University of Sheffield in 1991 and has pursued a career in teaching, firstly in History, and latterly as a Specialist Teacher in Autism. The inheritance in 2006 of 170 letters written by his late father between 1940 and 1946 sparked a passion to discover the links between twentieth-century warfare and religion. After completing an MA in Local and Regional History with the Open University, he is currently studying for a PhD at the University of Birmingham and has conducted research on behalf of the Bible Society



for their First World War website. John maintains an active social media presence on Twitter at @johnbroom1970 and blogs frequently at [www.faithinwartime.wordpress.com](http://www.faithinwartime.wordpress.com). The ISBN of Faithful in Adversity published in 2019 is 9781526749550.

The RAMC Museum in Aldershot is at [www.museumofmilitarymedicine.org.uk](http://www.museumofmilitarymedicine.org.uk)

If you want a people-filled account of being a surgeon in WW1, then a recommended read is the journals of Harvey Cushing, an American neurological surgeon assigned to the British forces in 1917. Go to <http://www.vlib.us/medical/Cushing/journal13.html>

## ABOUT JEWISH COMMUNITIES: IN LAW, MEDICINE AND MANCHESTER

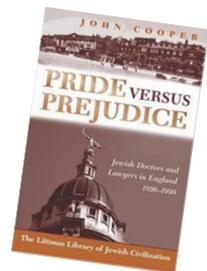


**John Cooper** was a lawyer himself until he retired, so law was an obvious choice for his acclaimed book on Jewish social history. He included medicine because it was the profession that Jews entered in the greatest numbers, and is easy to research. His account reflects the English professions' major concern about being flooded by

immigrant and refugee Jews. ISBN is 978-1-906-76442-5

You may also enjoy John's 2017 surprising book on 'The British Welfare Revolution 1906-14' ISBN 9781350109179

John was a near-neighbour during WWII – in the Cannon Hill area of Birmingham.



**Tereza Ward's** (successful!) December 2019 PhD thesis SOCIAL AND RELIGIOUS JEWISH NONCONFORMITY: REPRESENTATIONS OF THE ANGLO-JEWISH EXPERIENCE IN THE ORAL TESTIMONY ARCHIVE OF THE MANCHESTER JEWISH MUSEUM is available at the University of Manchester's on-line resource [www.research.manchester.ac.uk/portal/files/122871175/FULL\\_TEXT.PDF](http://www.research.manchester.ac.uk/portal/files/122871175/FULL_TEXT.PDF)

From Vsetin in the Czech Republic, she's seen here with her study support team at Tatton Park in 2012.

**The Manchester Jewish Museum** is located in a former Spanish and Portuguese Synagogue on Cheetham Hill Road. It's the only Jewish Museum outside London, in the oldest surviving synagogue building in Manchester, completed in 1874 - a beautiful example of Victorian architecture executed in Moorish style. Since the building became redundant in the 1970s through the movement of the Jewish population away from the area, it has been partially restored and now has Grade II listed status. With a compelling history to tell, the building needed a new purpose and in 1984 it re-opened as a Museum. The Museum now chronicles the lives of Jewish people in Manchester and their contribution to making the city what it is today. The Museum is currently (late 2020) closed, so that a developed museum will open in 2021 with a major new extension - and fully restored and refurbished synagogue.