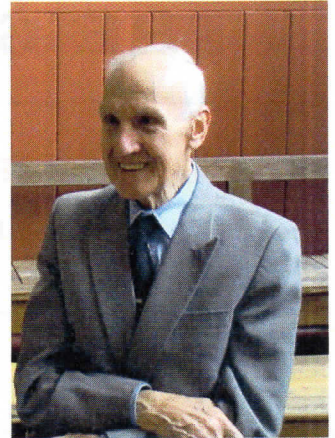


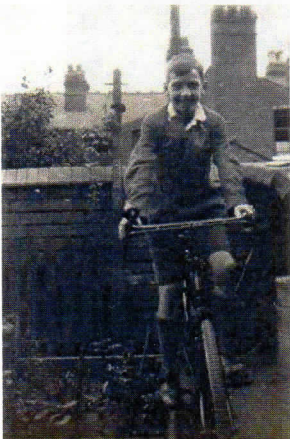
Jack talks about his early life:-

“I was born at Oldfield Road, the best bit – the top part. Further down to Ladypool Road they were back to backed. We were up Noel Avenue (number 7), its still there now. Now I live in Knowle Close! I went to Clifton Road School from when I was 5 till I was 14. I used to come home for lunch from Clifton, we had two hours then, you knocked off at 12 o’clock and you had to go back by 5 to 2 in the playground.. The only split with boys and girls was in the infants and that was round in Hertford Street. About 1929/30 they made the older girls go to Tindal Street and the lads at Tindal Street, from when they were 11, had to come to Clifton Road. So we had quite a few lads come and we had good football then”!



When Jack (John) left in 1933 they said he was “A steady reliable type of boy who has been found trustworthy and responsible”.

“I was in St John Ambulance during the war and we did one night a week. This was Lionel Street St John’s. I did 51 years in St John’s. It was tough (the war service) because I had to leave my wife and Alan (son). There was quite a bit of bombing in Balsall Heath and we hadn’t got a place so they let us go into air raid shelters there. While we there they dropped incendiary bombs and one went about 1 o’clock and blew up. All the shrapnel and so on came onto the roof and woke us up. There was a house in St Paul’s Road – that blew up -and one in Woodfield Road”.



• Jack at Noel Avenue and the front of the house today

NEXT MEETING: 27TH JANUARY

A trip down memory lane with a chance to share memories and view the Society’s resources. There will be a 15 minute silent film shown at this meeting of Birmingham’s trams in operation. Can you identify the background locations?

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