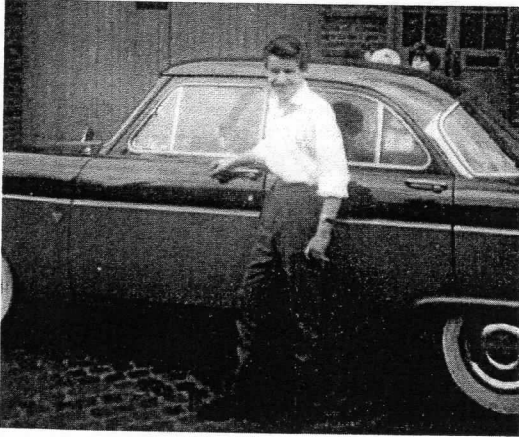


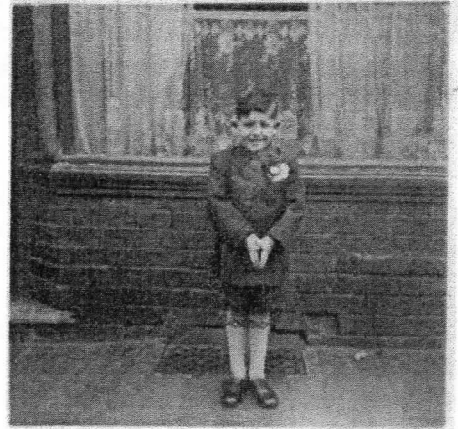
OUR BALSALL HEATH: THE BARTLEY FAMILY (BY JIM FITZPATRICK)

When Jimmy Bartley (Sonny, to family and friends) was demobbed after the war he brought his family to Balsall Heath (1948/49). The Family set up home at No 144 Mary Street. Jimmy and his wife Elizabeth had nine Children, Andrew, Chris, May, Angela, Rosaleen, Shay, Elizabeth, Veronica, and Joyce.

Andrew (Andy), the eldest, at the time of settling in Balsall Heath was already nearing his twenties. He had a trusty box camera which he used to good effect. He has kindly supplied all the photographs you see here.



(Left) Shay, Andy's younger brother poses with the Ford Zodiac parked outside the small factory, known as the 'Locstitch', just a few doors down from the Bartley's home in Mary Street. Note the two-tone colour scheme and the obligatory white walled tyres. Shay sports a Brylcreamed hair style so typical of the period, perhaps the inspiration for the 70's musical *Grease*?



(Right) 1949, Shay is 7 years old and dressed for Holy Communion. The picture was taken outside the Bartley's home, and note the Bay-window, which was a regular feature of the buildings from the 'Locstitch' up to the corner of Mary Street and Edward Road – directly opposite The Coach & Horses on the other side of Edward Road. These bay-windows were gainfully employed by a number of shopkeepers.



(Left) It's Coronation Day, June 2nd 1953. Wearing their party hats, Shay and his sister Elizabeth (Lily) are sitting on Andy's first mode of transport, the rigid framed ex WD (War dept) motorbike. Note the cobbled roadway, or Horse-Road as it was colloquially known then. At the far left of this photo beyond the window with ribbons on display, can be seen the 'embossed' style brick wall of the 'Locstitch'. Lily identifies the house next to the factory as belonging at the time to a family called Pailings, next door to them in the house with the boarded up window, lived the Maidens. Lily can remember little about these two families.