

old man and only did alterations and pressing. Between the two shops was the entry leading to Nan's house. Mom recons that the lorry facing the wrong way was delivering fruit and veg to Deakins the green grocer. Other business's in Cox Street West my Mom recalls are Browns Garage, Bonds Engineering, Clifton Builders, Lowe's fruit shop and Mrs Kytes sweet shop. I can remember two Fish and chip shops Mr Pyatts in Balsall Heath road and just around the corner Mrs Floyd's in Longmore street. I also remember the empty Peacock's store by the Bus stop in Longmore street opposite River Street. I don't think it reopened after the War. Dad did not fight in the War. He was an apprentice Press Tool maker and his was a reserved occupation. He did however take turns at fire watching, and was on duty the night the BSA was hit. After he married in 1945 he was called up for national service in the RAF.

My dad Bill Wakelam's parents, William Wakelam and Gertrude, lived at 8 Sherbourne Avenue where Nan remained until her death in October 1966. Dad's sister Gerty was manageress of Baxters butchers in Longmore street and his other sister Ellen [Nell] ran Fitters' bakers in Lincoln Street with her husband Albert Newton. Albert's sister married the son of Frank Trippas who ran a bakery in Balsall Heath and Albert learned his trade working there until starting his own business before the war. He and Nell and youngest son John retired to Plymouth in 1967".

NEXT MEETING: 15TH DECEMBER

MEMBERS' EVENING

Here we are again. Christmas is fast approaching and we have a very special members' evening for you. Entertainer Lisa Jayne Smith visits with her entertaining tribute to Marie Lloyd.

Marie Lloyd was born Matilda Alice Victoria Wood, in Hoxton, one of the poorest areas in the East End of London in 1870. She started in music hall at 15 and soon won fame for her saucy style, wink, innuendos and double entendres, which all caused quite a stir in the Victorian era.

Lisa Jayne says: "I chose Marie Lloyd as I think she is the perfect character to narrate an entertainment story. She was bubbly, strong, cheeky, full of life, independent and a very entertaining character. She was the pop star of her day, reaching heights of fame and wealth that pulled her and her family out of poverty."

Marie Lloyd died on stage at the Empire in Hendon, Middlesex at the age of 52 in 1922.

