



John Braden Remembers.....

Growing Up In Old Redditch

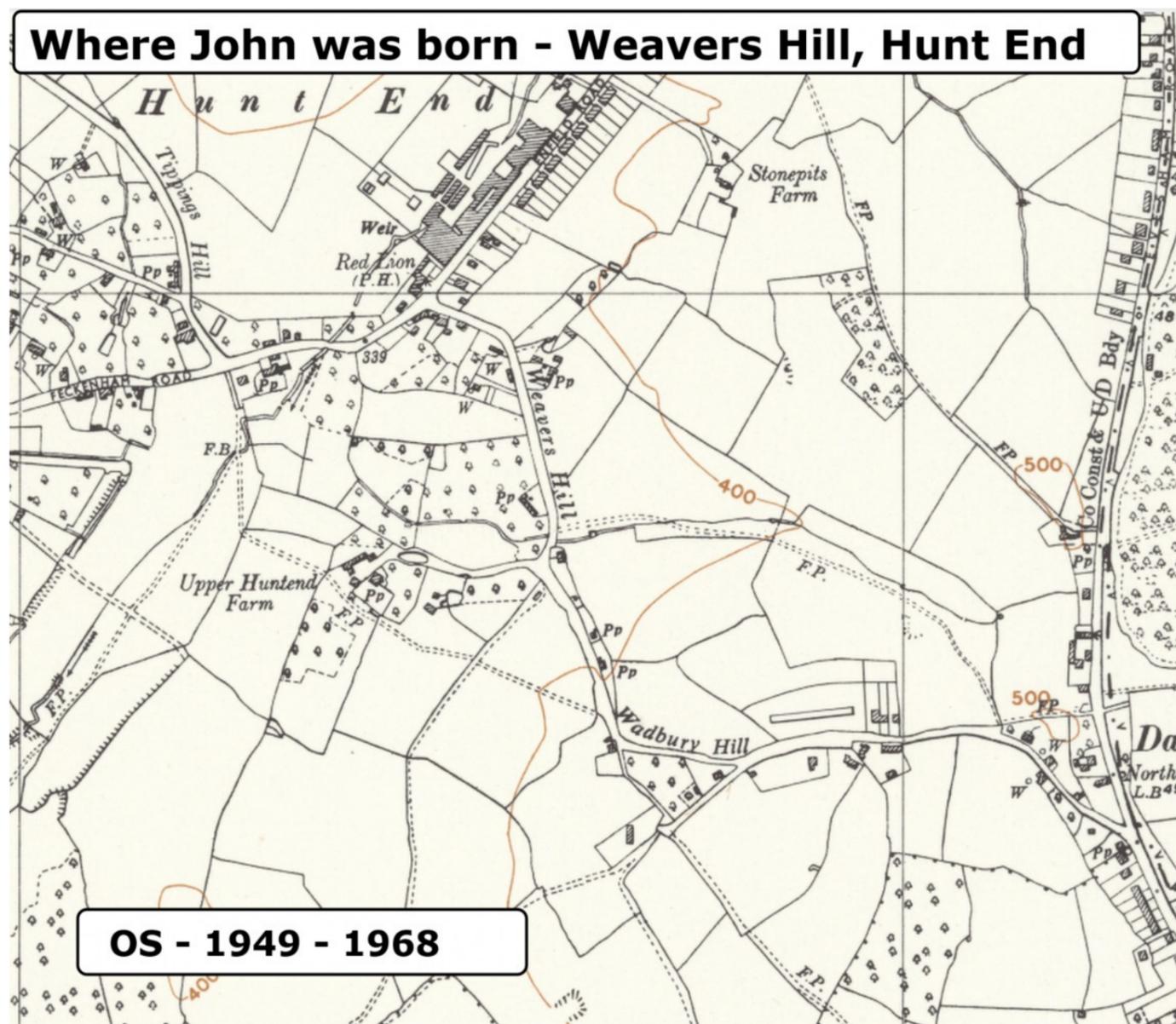
I was born in 1945 at Hunt End in a row of cottages called "Yew Tree Cottages" These were situated just down the road from Weavers Hill, Which is opposite the Red Lion. You go down the hill that runs on from Weavers Hill. There is house there now called Yew Tree House.

The Cottages comprised of a row of 4 and one at right angles with the row. We had shared outside toilets, except the one at right angles, they had their own. We used that one if we could, because it had a smoother seat. The soil cart used to come round in the early hours to empty them.

There was a Well in the front garden which we all had to use. We also had a grocery man called Harry Boycott used to come round every week in his van and a bread man in a car with all the bread stacked on the back seat.

At that time my Dad was working at the Royal Enfield until he got made redundant and then the Alkaline Batteries. Mother did various part time jobs over the years from cleaning to fishing tackle.

John Braden



Maps: National Library of Scotland (GB) [www.https://maps.nls.uk/geo/explore/side-by-side](https://maps.nls.uk/geo/explore/side-by-side)

John Braden Remembers.....

Growing Up In Old Redditch



I went to Astwood Bank School which was quite a walk, but in the summer months we took a short cut across fields past an Abattoir and came out just below the school.

Opposite the cottages were all fields and we looked out over them. All gone now, thanks to the Redditch Development Corporation.

Going up Enfield Road from the Red Lion was a small shop on the other side and opposite was the Dunlop Tyre factory. Opposite that was a row of Council Houses and opposite that was Brookes wood yard.

Further on there was another small shop and Enfield Road ran on to Crabbs Cross Lane. Turning right the first thing encountered is the home of one of our famous residents, John Bonham of Led Zeppelin fame. Further on was a Council Estate which I moved to when we left Hunt End, it consisted of Priestfield Road, Beech Tree Close, The Fearnings and Lee Croft Road.

We moved into the last Bungalow in Priestfield Road, again opposite fields which are now covered in houses, thanks again to the Development Corporation.

Going back to Enfield Road as you came out of it and went straight across was an area called Littlewood which ran up to the main Redditch to Astwood Bank Road by the Fleece Hotel. Going up at the beginning on the right were allotments and opposite was an Estate of prefabs built by German prisoners of war and towards the top is St. Peters Church where I was christened.

I went then to Crabbs Cross School, which is still there now. I then went to Lodge Farm Secondary School in Studley Road Redditch. (having failed my 11 plus) Oh dear!! I enjoyed most of my school days but was glad to leave.

I left school at 15 years of age and started my first job at a small printers called Redditch Printing Company in Littleworth, Redditch (a much less reported street) as an apprentice. I had to do the menial jobs to start with, like cleaning the ink rollers and sweeping up. It was then owned by Ernie Gordon until John Tuckey of Studley who took over.

A little further down Littleworth was a larger Print Works (See Millicent Jones's Memory of Harris and Walford, printers in Littleworth)

I was a member of Astwood Bank Boy's Brigade for a few years, which was very enjoyable until I started to spend more leisure time in Redditch. We had three Cinemas then, The Danilo, The Gaumont and The Regal (flea pit) we used these quite a lot then. There wasn't much to do in those days so as soon as you were old enough (or a little younger) we tended to use the pubs and play Darts and Dominoes. Most of those establishments have gone now (thanks again to the Development Corporation)

I got married in 1967 and lived at the top of Mount Pleasant opposite The Park Inn, (very convenient). Next door to a Jakeman who owned Regent Motorways in the Town.

In 1970 we decided to move to Norfolk after we had seen what the Development Corporation were going to do with our lovely Town. Having said all that I don't think the Town has changed for the better, but I think that would come from people like me who knew it as it was. As you will notice after what I have written the
John Braden



Is this the printers that John remembers?

Image courtesy of Redditch Library

John Braden Remembers.....

Names from my Redditch days



John Braden put together some names from Hunt End & Crabbs Cross that he could remember from the 1940` and 50` in the hope that they bring back some memories for someone.

He starts with Yew Tree Cottages where he was born in 1945.

HUNT END (Yew Tree Cottages)

- Doris & Jack Braden, Son John
- Violet & Bert Swain, Son Bertie
- Daisy & Harry Hornsby, Son Norman & Daughter Barbara
- M r. & Mrs Taylor
- Mr & Mrs Sturdy

ENFIELD ROAD

- Mr Parry, Landlord of Red Lion
- Brookes Family Wood Yard
- M & Mrs Russell, Son Keith
- Mr & Mrs Patterson, Son Robert

CRABBS CROSS LANE

- Mr & Mrs Davies, Daughter Maureen
- Mr & Mrs Jones, Daughter Florence
- Gladys Tuffley

BUNGALOW ESTATE

- Mrs Richards & Miss Lois Hardy (Midwives)
- Dolly & Bill Sydes, Son David & Daughter Carol

- Mr & Mrs Willis
- Mr & Mrs Walker, Daughter Linda
- Mrs Harris
- Mr & Mrs Carter, Sons John & William
- Mr & Mrs Ashford
- Mr & Mrs Clissett, Daughters Joy, Kathleen & Christine (my first love)
- Mr & Mrs Carr, Twins Glynn & Patrick
- Mr & Mrs DuCross Son Roy
- Mr & Mrs Seals, Sons Paul & Eddie
- Mr & Mrs Haden Sons Freddie & Alan
- Mr & Mrs Hambley
- Mr & Mrs Cox (Several Children)
- Mr & Mrs Downing (3 Daughters)
- Mr & Mrs Sims
- Mr & Mrs Drew, Daughter Pamela
- Mrs Barbara Rush
- The Braden Family & The Swains moved from Yew Tree Cottages to the Bungalows (circa 1952)

EVESHAM ROAD

- Mary & Fred Morris, Shop, (later moved to the (Castle!!)and then to the old Royal Oak).
- Mr Wedgebury (Fish Shop)
- Clarry Whitehouse, (Garage)
- Mr & Mrs Sidwell, Son Derek (Hardware Shop)
- Savage (Butcher)
- Mr (Policeman) & Mrs Hare, Son Robert

CRABBS CROSS SCHOOL TEACHERS

- Mrs Bradbury
- Miss Wilkes
- Mrs Williams
- Mr Hack
- Mr Clayton Headmaster

Going away from the Red Lion Hunt End on the Feckenham Road, on the right hand side there is a road called Tippings Hill. I went to school with a Glenys Mole she had twin sisters I think who`s names escape me for a while.

John Braden adds.....

"In 1970 we decided to move to Norfolk after we had seen what the Development Corporation were going to do with our lovely Town. Having said all that I don`t think the Town has changed for the better, but I think that would come from people like me who knew it as it was. As you will notice after what I have written the Development Corporation have a lot to answer for. If it hadn't changed I think I would still be in Redditch, although I have not regretted moving to Norfolk."

John Braden

If you have any memories, details, photographs or more names to help on this topic, please get in touch.

Derek Coombes



Millicent Jones Remembers.....

Harris and Walford, printers in Littleworth?

John Braden mentioned in his memories "A little further down Littleworth was a larger Print Works". Millicent Jones sent in an enquiry to the RLHS in 2015 in which she remembered a printers in Littleworth. From her description it was probably this larger one that John mentioned in his memories. Particularly when you compare the photo of John's memory page to the one below shown to us by Millicent.

Millicent wrote.....

"I remember a printers in Littleworth, a street off Evesham Street, called Harris and Walford. My grandfather worked there for 50 years from around 1893. I have photos of him at work and on various works outings where there appear to be 50 or so employees. I am puzzled that there doesn't appear to be any reference either to Littleworth or the factory in any local history books. I wondered if you can shed any light on this story. I knew we have some photographs of Littleworth, particularly looking towards Evesham Street, and in particular I remember the one shown on the front page which also shows a printers. However, the premises looks far too small for the 50 employees Millicent remembers as shown in this photograph from her."

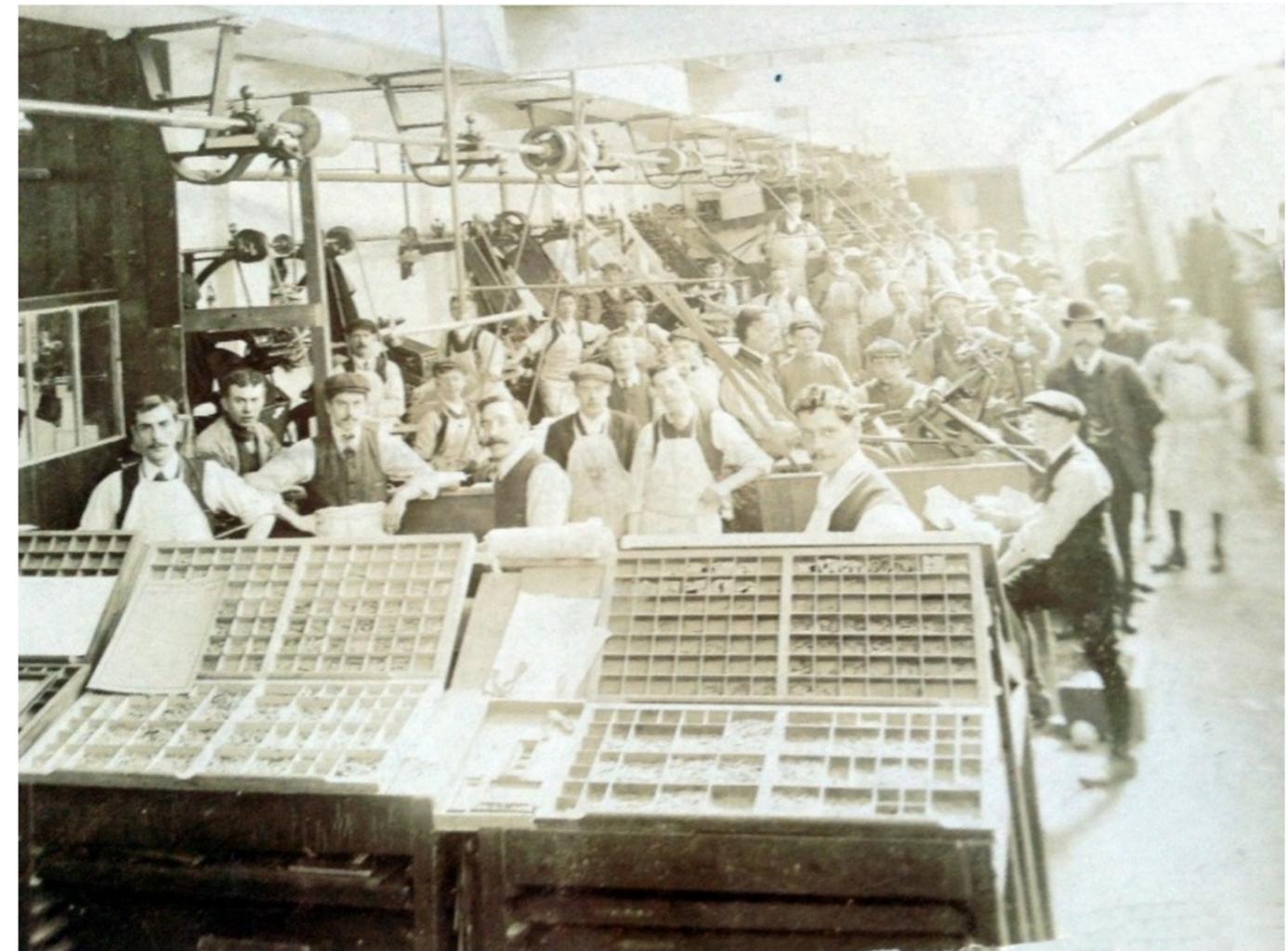
In a subsequent correspondence, Millicent recalls:

"I have found out a little more info, Harris and Walford are listed in a 1912 trade directory with the address as Park Road, Redditch, having moved at some stage from Astwood Bank. Park Road was near Littleworth, we always walked down Littleworth to visit my Grandfather at work. The photo shows the workforce, I can count about 50 people."

Millicent came to the February 2016 RLHS meeting and showed me some more photographs of the Harris & Walford workforce on their works outings.

Do you have memories of Harris and Walford, printers or the smaller one John mentioned? What did they print and what happened to them? If you have any details or photographs to help shed light on this topic, please get in touch.

Derek Coombes



Was this taken inside Harris & Walford printers in Littleworth in the early 20th century?

Image: Millicent Jones