

**Memories of Wednesfield with Ray Fellows
(published in the Wednesfield Magazine, 2017)**

My life in Wednesfield

Ray tells us about a letter he received from an ex Wednesfield lady who now (2017) lives in Australia. The lady's name is Ivy Grant and these are just a few of her memories of her time spent living in Wednesfield.

"My name is Ivy Grant, I am 82 now and I am a descendant of Emma Tonks, of 20 trees. I was reading an old edition of Wednesfield Magazine and I thought I'd like to drop you a line. I was born the youngest of 7 children to Frederick & Ada Jan Elizabeth (nee Tonks) the only one born in New Cross Hospital in 1935. They were living in Wednesfield opposite the Methodist Chapel. I was two when we got a Council house in East Avenue, Nordley Hill. It was a lovely place to live and my parents were wonderful.

I went to Woden Avenue School and then Lichfield Road School. I am the only remaining member of my family, as my sisters have all died and my mother and father lost their first boy at 3 months. My father was in St Johns Ambulance and he worked in New Cross Hospital as a male nurse. He also used to do the mortuary with Dr Bill Bentley. They were friends, and Dr Bentley was also our family doctor. There was a very old school in Graiseley Lane where my mother used to go. It was near the old Institute. My Father lived in Hart Road.

I loved growing up in Wednesfield. During the war I can remember the bombs being dropped on Birmingham and also the lamplighter coming after dark on a bike putting on the gas lights. Our house in East Avenue backed onto the lane. We played on the park and watched the soccer matches and we would ride our bikes everywhere. I think it was a wonderful time of our lives. I don't remember much, if anything, of my Grandmother Emma Tonks, but my mom's brother Bill Tonks lived in Watery Lane and I loved it there. I believe you know my niece Brenda Minors and I have a feeling I met you when I came back to England for a trip. I also remember the Cottage Homes children coming past our house on Sundays on their way to Church and they would be in a line as they walked past. My brother John Waterhouse enlisted in the war at 17 years old. He was captured and died in a Japanese Prisoners Camp aged 22. He is on the memorial in the remembrance garden opposite Wednesfield Church. My Mother and Father were married there on a Christmas Day.

I was formerly Ivy Jaqueline Waterhouse. I got married to Brian Grant in 1956. We Emigrated to Australia in the same year and we now have 2 Children, 5 Grandchildren and 3 Great Grandchildren. We live just out of Sydney. My husband died in 2000. My Grandson lives with me now.

Thanks Ivy, for sharing your memories with us, it's good to know that you enjoyed living in Wednesfield before emigrating.