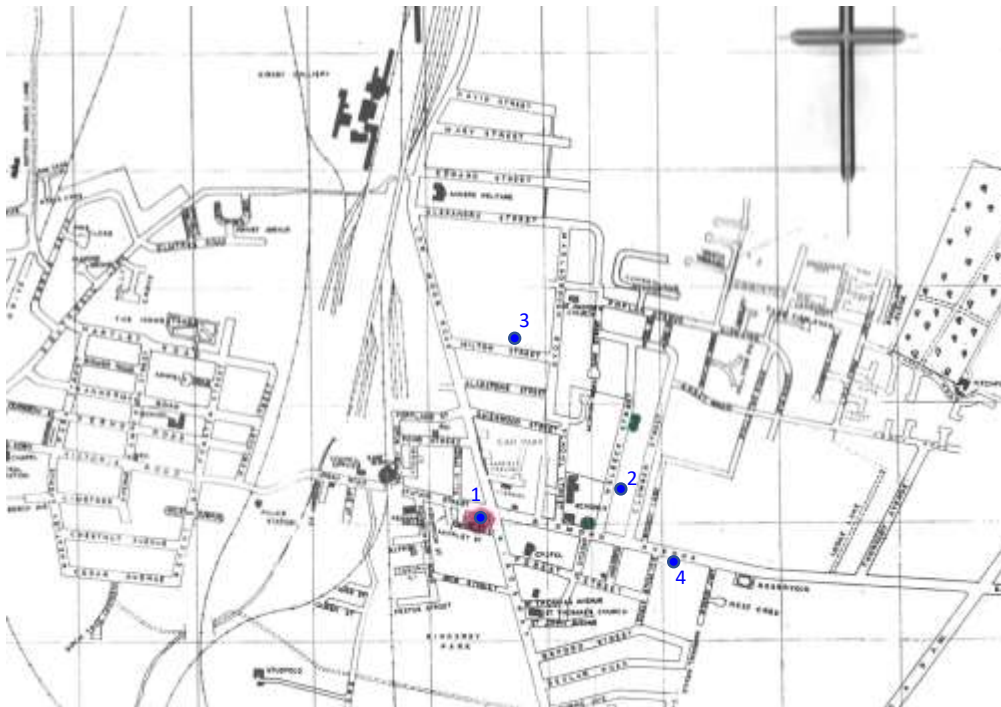


Chapter 24: Homes

At the start of this period, grandad gives his address as [54 Welbeck Street](#) and, it seems, he was living here with his family while still working at the shop in Station Street, where the family had lived until 1915.¹ According to electoral registers, he lived at number 54 with his mother and father from 1921 to 1924.^{2 3} It appears that grandad's father had also owned 52 Welbeck Street⁴ and that he sold it in 1919 for £350.⁵

In 1924, grandad's brother Len moved to Ollerton⁶ and, in 1925, grandad noted that "we" moved. However, he did not explain who moved, where they moved or why. As he was still unmarried, I assumed that this move was with his parents. In his diary for 1929, he gave his address as Hilly Mount, Forest Hill, Kirkby in Ashfield. Initially, I struggled to find any such address and wondered if it was some kind of joke about how hilly Kirkby is! However, it turns out that Forest Hill is what locals call(ed) the eastern part of Diamond Avenue.⁷ My understanding of this⁸ was perhaps confirmed by newspaper cuttings related to grandad's mother's death in 1930 which gave her address variously as "Hillymount", Forest Hill, East Kirkby and Hill Mount, Diamond Avenue, East Kirkby. Based on electoral



Above – Map of Kirkby in Ashfield 1969 – numbered circles show approximate location of properties in Station Street (1), Welbeck Street (2), Milton Street (3) and Diamond Avenue (4).

¹ And where his brother James Henry was living with his family.

² Arthur Evans was recorded as living with them too but Eva was not recorded. Perhaps she was there but was not eligible to vote? Between 1918 and 1928, women were only [eligible to vote](#) if they were over 30 and met certain property requirements. As Eva was born in 1895, she would not have been 30 until 1925 whereas Olive turned 30 in 1914.

³ In addition, John and Olive were living next door at 56. Between 1922 and 1924, Ray, grandma's brother was living there too. I wonder if Winnie was also living there but did not appear on the electoral register as she was born in 1898 so would have only turned 30 in 1928. From 1922 to 1924, there was also a William Smith there. I wondered if this was John's father.

⁴ Initially, I thought 54 was a detached house as [Google Streetview](#) only shows one door. However, it seems that 54 is only the half on the left. The right hand half is 52 and the door is round the side. The number for 52 is just visible behind the drainpipe!

⁵ Around [£12,500](#) today. According to [Zoopla](#), this house is currently valued at £137,000. It was sold in 2004 for £85,000. It is listed as a freehold, semi-detached house.

⁶ He and his wife Ethel appear in the electoral register for Boughton Road, Ollerton from 1925. He and Ethel are still there in the 1939 Register.

⁷ According to Gerald Lee's book "Kirkby-in-Ashfield Yesterday Remembered", Forest Hill is "the name that sticks with many of the locals" for the eastern part of Diamond Avenue (see Chapter 21, p108).

⁸ That he still lived with his parents and they lived on the Forest Hill part of Diamond Avenue

registers for 1925, he and his parents were living at 158 Diamond Avenue with Arthur and Eva living at 160 and John and Olive at 162.^{9 10}

According to the electoral register in 1930, grandma moved in with grandad and his father at 158 Victoria Road.¹¹ From the diaries, I had worked out they were living in a two-storey house somewhere¹² but I had not worked out exactly where. At this time, grandma's parents were living at 61 Milton Street and this is where grandma and grandad went to stay, in 1931, when grandma was very unwell¹³ and this was also the address to which some of their wedding cards were sent in 1930.

When grandma was ill, they let grandad's sister, Olive have the house where they had been living which I think was 158 Victoria Road. I am not clear if grandma and grandad owned this themselves or it was something his father had provided. Given that Henry Parkin owned a number of properties, the latter is perhaps more likely.

The family were also constructing at least two houses further along Welbeck Street – numbers 96 and 98. I am not sure precisely who owned the houses but they were clearly intended for grandma's parents and, a couple called Tom and Annie about whom more details are provided in Chapter 29. In November 1932, Tom and Annie and grandma's parents moved into these houses and grandma and grandad moved back to the shop in Station Street. Grandma's parents called their house "Elstow"¹⁴ and mum recalled moving into this house when she was 17, in 1951. This perhaps explains where mum got the practice of calling every house in which she lived "Elstow".¹⁵

In April 1937, after the death of grandma's mother, the family (grandad, grandma and mum), moved to Elstow, presumably to support grandma's father. However, when he died, in July 1937, they moved out back to the shop in Station Street, which is where mum remembered growing up. It is not clear what happened to the house they were living in after they were married, which went to Olive, or what happened to Elstow between August 1937 and when grandad, grandma and mum moved there in the 1950s.¹⁶ It does appear that the Milton Street property was rented out from September 1938 for 14/- per week.



Mum's Elstow sign from Rowan Gardens hence the 10. This came to me when she died and is displayed on the wall in my study

⁹ Along with William Smith who I assume was John's father. He was recorded as being there until 1926.

¹⁰ The numbers of these houses threw me a bit as grandad later owned 158, 160 and 162 Victoria Road so I wondered if these were those houses given that Victoria Road and Diamond Avenue are essentially a continuation of each other. But, the material about Forest Hill is contradictory to this as that indicates the eastern part of Diamond Avenue and Victoria Road is to the west. One thing I noted was the house numbers ended at 162 and the house between 150 and 154 was called "The Gables". I had a look at the possible houses on [Streetview](#) and noted that one of the houses, which is now 154, has a plaque which says "The Gable 1908". This could mean that the houses where they lived would now be [160-164](#).

¹¹ 1930 was the year that grandma and grandad married (see Chapter 16) and it was also the year that grandma's mother died (see Chapter 15). John, Olive and Len were living at 162. By 1931, grandad's father had moved out. From the electoral register for 1931, I found a Henry Parkin living in Blidworth Road. For more details see Chapter 47.

¹² As, when they had a wardrobe delivered in March 1930, grandad had to saw it (in half?) to get it upstairs!

¹³ See Chapter 23.

¹⁴ After the Bedfordshire village from which the Cirket family originated

¹⁵ As far as I recall, she started this when she moved to Grove Avenue and then kept up the practice in New Road and Rowan Gardens. I do not recall this name being used at our family homes in Middletons Lane, Waverley Road or College Road.

¹⁶ In 1939, Samuel Smith, a colliery undermanager was living there with his family.



Above left – 96 and 98 Welbeck Street

Above right – grandma's mum and dad at "Elstow", 96 Welbeck Street