

14<sup>th</sup> June 21

Dear Naomi

Re: John Fishwick

I enclose the items discussed and I hope they meet your expectations.

I am so pleased that they are finding such a suitable site and that they will give many others some pleasure in seeing them.

My father was born in Adlington ( 7 Church St) on 23<sup>rd</sup> June 1916 and was the third son of John and Alice (nee Barnes) Fishwick, his older brothers being Harold and James- James died in 1941 of TB related illness.

John (Snr) was a police sergeant in the Lancs Constabulary and as a result moved about with the job. In the early 1920s he was at Kirkham police station in Freckleton St, right opposite a fish and chip shop owned by James and his wife Belle, and as a result my dad ,on gaining a grammar school place, started at Kirkham Grammar school.

Moving to Leyland in 1928 meant my dad started at Balshaws having only spent a few weeks at Kirkham and as we know he had a long and fruitful time at his new school.

He was unfortunately denied a university place due to family reasons, so went on to Saltley Training College in Birmingham in 1937, where not only did he continue his academic and sporting success but he also met my mother at a dance (they loved dancing) and romance blossomed.

The outbreak of WW2 seriously affected my dads sporting life as he had definite aspirations to complete in the 1940 Olympics in Tokyo, instead he joined the RAF hoping to be aircrew but not too good eyesight precluded him, so he was stationed at RAF Cosford and spent the war largely in a safe place being a PTI. There he rubbed shoulders with many of the sporting greats of the day, he even managed to play soccer for Derby County during the wartime league.

In 1941 he married my mother Olive and in 1942 I arrived – an only child as my mother had difficulties she was told not to have any more.

In 1946 at the end of hostilities we moved to Whitefield in North Manchester , but my mother was very homesick, so in 1948 we returned to Birmingham- my father having taught at Whitefield senior School for the 2 years.

We moved to the Erdington district of Birmingham and my dad started teaching at Victoria Rd Junior School in Sutton Coldfield, where he became heavily involved in the Warwickshire athletic scene. He moved onto Boldmere Juniors as Deputy Head in 1951 and finally became headmaster of Minworth Primary in 1954 where he stayed until his retirement in 1981.

I once asked him what he considered his greatest achievement and I was surprised to learn it wasn't of a sporting nature but that in 1953 every pupil in his class passed their 11+ exam- he was over the moon.

He retired in 1981 but it did not last long as in December 1981 he was diagnosed with pancreatic cancer and the end came in April 1982 in hospital in Tamworth at the relatively early age of 65 years old.

He spoke to me whilst in hospital and our last serious conversation was about the Falklands war- he said that he "arrived in a war" (WW1), his life was "blighted by a war" (WW2) and he was going to leave in a war" (Falklands War).

I do hope you have not been bored by my memories as it is so nice to share with someone genuinely interested.

Best wishes

Regards

Bob Fishwick