

Remarkable response to appeal for photos

Our previous 'Living Archives' piece was based on an architect's drawing we had just received of a house which had once stood on the corner of Arthur Road and Clopton Road. We ended with a plea for a photograph and within hours Roger Armfield rang to say he could help. In fact, the interest of his photograph, from the 'sixties, went beyond the house itself, for it shows the workshop next door and, beyond that, some of the old Flowers' Brewery buildings, long since demolished. So, as you can imagine, we were very pleased.



Roger Armfield's photograph from the '60s, looking down Clopton Road, showing, on the left, the old 16 Clopton Road and the workshop.



Above: Dr Robert Bearman, right, Head of Archives and Local Studies at the Shakespeare Birthplace Trust showing Dr Goldstein and his wife the plan of 16 Clopton Road

Below: Gerald Crutchley and his wife, Charda, on their wedding day on 1st October 1966 with 16 Clopton Road and the workshop in the background

But the following day, to our astonishment, we had a visit from Rabbi Dr Andrew Goldstein, from Northwood. He was in Stratford for the weekend, had bought a copy of the local newspaper, and had then found himself reading an article about his own birthplace! In 1943 Dr Goldstein's expectant mother had been evacuated from Birmingham to Stratford during the War and had been boarded at this very house in Clopton Road, then owned by the Meredith family; and this was where he had then spent the first months of his life. He also recalled fondly the close links he and his family formed with the Merediths and the holidays he had spent with them for the following twenty years. Dr Goldstein told

us that he spends much of his spare time researching his 'real' family in Warsaw and Slovakia. He had hardly expected, though, on this quiet weekend trip to Stratford, to be reminded of this very important episode in his own upbringing. Back at home, he is now sorting out more photographs for us.



And still it wasn't all over. Gerald Crutchley, who now lives in Bromsgrove, then brought in one of his 1966 wedding photographs, showing him and his wife Charda outside the Mayflower Hall in Clopton Road, where the reception was held; and in the background, an excellent (if unintentional) view of the buildings in question!

We often get feedback from 'Living Archives' but this level of response must be a record.

Robert Bearman

Living Archives from the *Stratford-upon-Avon Herald*

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