

A Fair View Community



A photograph posted on Facebook in April 2012 has led to an extraordinary story about the community in Fair View, Pilton. It all began because Dave Bayliss posted this photograph, date unknown but looks like the 1960s, of his grandparents Eliza and Bert Passmore. They had six girls - Dave Bayliss' Mum, Mary Bayliss (now deceased), Valerie Moule, Ilene

Annette, Pamela Passmore (deceased), Phyliss Oxly(deceased) and Mabel Cairns. Linsey Davis remembered them all well as she lived at No 50 and then at No 65 before getting married and leaving. Mark Hill remembered Bert well as he lived next door at No 67. Bert used to borrow their paper from the letter box for a read in the morning. Gill Madge lived at No 28 and her grandparents lived at No 31. She and her grandfather used to chat to Bert and his dog Toby on their way out for a walk on Sunday mornings.

Ian Cairns revealed that Eliza and Bert were his grandmother and grandfather, as did Jackie Bayliss who revealed that her mum was Mary, who is not with us anymore. Danny Passmore recounted that Bert and Stan were his grandfather's brothers and his dad was one of twins - Michael, the quieter one, and Brian Passmore. His grandmother was called Joyce. Danny's Mum and Dad are Michael and Lesley Passmore who live 108 Pilton Street (and whose family is to be found in other archive entries). Danny Passmore's dad thought that Stan had two children, a boy and a girl and had two other brothers Jack and Charlie Passmore, and there were also two sisters, for a total of five brothers and two sisters.

Danny Passmore noted that there are a lot of Passmore families in Barnstaple and wondered if Bert had any brothers. His family lived in Trinity Street and his great grandfather had a pony and trap. Dave Bayliss was sure he did. Stan Passmore lived by the old driving test centre (near Gloucester Rd) and was a Taxi Driver. There was another brother who might have worked for the Council. The best person to help would be Bert's daughter Valerie Moule. Danny Passmore's grandfather worked on the council and his name was Pat Passmore and was married to Joyce and they lived in Trinity Street and then moved to Forches when that was built (which was in the 1940s and 1950s).

Mary Tucker remembered her Auntie Annie and Uncle Les Cooper and Joyce living at No 46 with a black & white cat called Twinkle. Les worked at Shappies (Shapland & Petter) probably as a french polisher/cabinet maker. Ken Smith told us that he used to live at No 48 Fair View with his foster mum called Jewell. At a different time, Linda Stacey, then Linda Passmore and one of 14 children, lived at No 48 Fair View and Anita Higgins's grandmother also lived at No 48 and then she lived opposite at No 43.

Michael Essery's paternal grandparents lived in Fair View in the 1930s. They were Frank and Lily Clements. He also told us that his Aunt Faye and Uncle John Webber lived at No 72.

Dave Bayliss revealed that his wife's grandmother and grandfather were Liz and Stan Williams who lived at No 49 Fair View - next door to Linsey Davis who thought they were a lovely couple who came round to her house for a cuppa and a chat with my mum. They had two dogs called WILLOW and PIPPA. Her mum still lives in Fair View at the age of 87 in the house where she has lived from the age of 11 years. Peggy Thomas, who lived at No 49, also remembers Linsey's mum.

Dave Bayliss also mentioned Tex Taylor, his wife and their son John who lived in Fair View in 1972. Tex Taylor was described by Dave Shapland as a man with Barnstaple history. Their house had yellow and green paintwork on the front and was on the opposite side to Lynch (or possibly P.C Chapple Builders). The front garden wall of the Taylor house was painted yellow and green as well and they had the metal fence that is missing from all the others. It was donated to the war effort apparently and never replaced.

When Gill Madge lived in Fair View, Dave Haslett lived at No 3, a postman was at No 4, Mark West's grandfather at was No 5, the Suttons were at No 6, Mrs Sommerfield or another lady called Rosie were in No 7 or No 8 and Tex Taylor lived in No 9. Dave Haslett mentioned that the Prestons (John was the Barnstaple Mayor at one time) lived at No 1 Fair View and a builder lived at no.2 (name unknown) and, when he was younger, No 2 Fair View was the home of Tommy and Annie Gubbs, brother and sister. Tommy Gubbs always claimed his family built the street. Dave Haslett's aunt and uncle are now living at No 43.

*Compiled, and hopefully accurate, from a Facebook thread (April 2012 - March 2013)
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