



Sedgley's

Diamond 60

*Sixty years, sixty people,
sixty stories about village life
since 1952.*

1965

Sedgley High Street in the mid-60s

by Jean Timmins

In the High Street by the old Crown pub there was a row of old miners' cottages; we lived nearby in a house with a bay window. Next to us was the original **Pig and Whistle** pub, but they'd turned it into a house and someone lived in it while we were there. Next to them there was the carpet place – Kirks. On the very end was the wine shop. In the immediate area there used to be a freezer place, a launderette and a cinema (The Clifton, now a JD Wetherspoon pub). It was a little community with a cake shop and Fields the Butchers and you had everything you needed within a short walk.

My husband and I moved into the house in 1965 - we shared it with an old couple. We had a bedroom upstairs and a front room downstairs, with a kitchen. We had a washing machine – not many had them – one with a hand-mangle attached. The kitchen was in a 'brewhouse' off the main house: it was very basic with a stone sink.

The toilet was originally down the yard but they converted a bedroom into a bathroom and toilet for us while we were there. The tree that was in our garden is still there. The trolleybuses used to stop right outside the house. We moved out in February 1968 because they wanted to widen the road; also I was expecting our first child, who was born in March. The road widening didn't happen till 2-3 years afterwards. Sedgley was a charming 'olde worlde' village with character then, but now alas it's just a busy thoroughfare.

At the time I worked at Ewitts factory in Burnt Tree Island where we made components for gas and domestic appliances - during the war they made shell noses there.



High Street and old Crown Inn



The Pig and Whistle, High Street



A 1960s twin tub washing machine. Clothes were picked out of the hot water in the washing machine with tongs and passed through the mangle before spin drying.