

## *Storey Family Notes*

Here you will find a miscellany of Storey family members, their acquaintances, and some of the places and events that they have seen, all of which have been brought to life as a result of sifting through old photographs

# **Wylde Green** **(Baker's Shoe Repairers)**

by

Jillian Storey

See also *Storey Family Notes, Boldmere*  
and *Storey Family Notes, New Oscott*

January, 2023

**374 Birmingham Road Wylde Green Sutton Coldfield**



Philip Baker was my step grandfather and an amazing man who ran his shoe repairing shop at firstly 364 and later moving to 374 Birmingham Road Wylde Green Sutton Coldfield for many years.

This photo shows the shoe repairing side of the shop and eventually he and his wife Kay rented the shop next door 372 as a shoe shop. They had bedrooms and a lounge upstairs over the shops and a kitchen bathroom and sitting room to the rear. Also behind the shop was their beautiful garden with a pond. The shop and garden were a fun place for their five grandchildren to visit and play. We all fell in the pond at some point and as the shops both had staircases, it was brilliant for games of hide and seek.



As a young child Philip caught Polio which severely damaged his leg. He was sent to Princess Alice Children's Home at the Beggars Bush, to be taught the trade of a cobbler.

He never let his disability hold him back. As a young man he started the 2<sup>nd</sup> Wylde Green Scout Group. They originally met in the Emmanuel church hall and then a small parcel of land with a stable on it was purchased in Douay Road. Over the years the scout group thrived, and a proper scout hut built. It is now called the Philip Baker Hall.

Philip along with his scouting activities was very active in the local Rotary Club receiving the Paul Harris Award for his Rotary work and charity fundraising. The shop was often full of silver foils as local people collected it and brought it into the shop to raise money for Guide Dogs for the Blind. For which he also received an award. He also received the silver acorn and silver wolf awards in scouting.



He worked and lived at the shop until his retirement when the home part of the rented shop was no longer fit for a residence. He and Kay were lucky to be the first residents at the newly built council bungalows in Hurley Close just a little further down the Birmingham Road.

When they moved out the shop was again let and has been selling plants and pet food for many years.



Written by Jilly Storey Step Grand Daughter 27.12.2022