

My Father

My father, Frank, was a secondary school master near Hammersmith and he made the long journey every day from Grays. At the time we lived in New Road.

He was a very capable man and a popular teacher. He organised sports for the schoolchildren and later, during World War 2, he helped many local children.

During World War 1 he served in the Royal Army Medical Corps, where he dealt with German gas canisters. His job was to look at the large and small canisters, and test and analyse the contents (probably mustard gas).

Although there were photos taken of him during the war, when the slides were looked at they were unfortunately all blank.

He was away at the war for about 18 months before returning home. He wasn't injured and went back to teaching.

My grandfather was a signalman at Grays station, who opened and shut the railway gates. He also worked at Purfleet station, and helped on the Purfleet rifle range. This was despite having had a bad accident to both legs.

My grandmother was a very busy lady and helped out at Grays station when the troops arrived and departed.

A memory from a local resident at Bluebell Court, aged 103 (born in 1914)