

Hi my name is Jack Wilkinson,

My first memory of Peterlee dates back to 1959, after my demob, I was living with my parents at Windermere Road, Westlea, Seaham. I got a job with Snowden & Bailles bakery at Seaham Harbour, [it was where Aldis shop is now] going from door to door selling bread, cakes, pies etc in Peterlee. My first call was in Grange Close at the bottom of Crawford Avenue, I then went on to serve the rest of that estate, Smith Crescent , Burt Close and everywhere in between, carrying on to Keswick Road, Rydal Crescent and the Chapel Hill Road area. I recall a young women running to me screaming for help in Smith Crescent, both her front and back doors had been open and a sudden gust of wind had slammed shut her interior living room door. I went to help her and managed to force open the door to where her new baby was,

I remember the Co-op milkman was going around at about the same time with a Clydesdale horse and cart, the horse knew the round better than the lad doing the job, he knew every stop and start, the lad never had to speak to him.

My pal at the time was Jimmy Smith who lived in Yoden Road, he also worked for the bakery and served the Dene House area, including Heath Close where he had a good customer by the name of Edith Fisher. Jimmy introduced me to this ladies daughter, named Yvonne. We were married in 1962, our daughter Diane was born in 1966 and we had almost 47 years together, until her death in 2009. I am now almost 87 and still live in Nesbit Road, Peterlee.