

## Recollections of Cotterells before the gardens were built

### Tim Edwin and Dave Walsh

**Tim:**

I was born in St Paul's Hospital, but I lived with my parents in a house in Heath Lane next to what was Heath Brow School at the time. And we looked out over the grammar school, the playing field. I can remember going down a steep hill called Charles Street, which actually my mother went down on her bike, her brakes failed and she ended up actually on the Nicky Line. I can remember we used to walk across there. There used to be a crossing which is probably roughly where the edge of the Kodak building was, used to be able to cross the Nicky line, along a path, under a bridge, and then you came out by the air raid shelters, and we used to go into the left and there was a paddling pool and swings. That was approximately where the Plough roundabout is now, and so I remember going there frequently. And, I can remember then walking up old Marlowes High Street, which was lots of little old shops. Some of them actually two or three storeys high, and you used to have to go up staircases in the middle of the shops.

**Dave:**

Well you could cross the line by going under it, between the Heath Park and the sidings.

**Tim:**

Well you used to go along Cotterells and ... there was actually.. I can't remember if it was gated or not? Maybe it was gated but you actually walked across the Nicky Line.. you didn't go under it, you walked across it.

**Dave:Yes**

**Tim:**

But then there was a field, cos we used to play in there as well, and then the pathway went under a big brick tunnel which then came out on to Aeroplane Meadow?

**Dave: Meadow, Yes, Station Road, yes**

**Tim: Yes, and Station road was in front of you**

**Dave:**

Being 15 when I moved down here, and this was at the beginning of the new town so there was just Adeyfield which was being built. We used to meet on the cricket pitch at Heath Park or by the side of the cricket pitch, and go along Cotterells to what we called the Pop Shop which was the off licence at the bottom of Charles Street, which obviously in those days was the only place opened, early evening because they kept licensing hours.

**Interviewer: So was that where the knitting shop is now?**

**Dave:**

Yes, yes, and there was, on the other corner was a bakers'. And if you look at it, you can still see the arm protruding from upstairs where they used to pull the sacks. Up.