

Bonvilston memories of Hywel Davies – 1950s

Hywel's grandfather kept the Old Post, Bonvilston, where Hywel grew up initially. The family spoke only Welsh, coming originally from West Wales, and when Hywel attended Cowbridge Grammar School, he could only speak in Welsh.

When Hywel's grandfather died in the early 1950s, Brains brewery took over the pub and the family was evicted. They went to live in the nearby Italian Prisoner of War camp.

This camp was on the road between the Aubrey Arms and Seth Hill's quarry, at the back of the Aubrey Arms, down in a dip – it is still there, inside the old deer park. Hywel had the use of cricket equipment left by the POWs. They lived in Nissen huts, with a communal stove and washing area. Hywel lived there for about 2 to 3 years.

Italians were brought back to work for the war effort, working for Bonvilston farmers.

Roly Watts ran a garage out of the old forge – the family now run the buses (Clive Watts).

From an interview with Betty Alden 2012