

Estate residents turn back the clock

Report by Charlotte Callear
charlotte.callear@expressandstar.co.uk

ALMOST 100 residents of Doxey have been taking a step back in time as they gathered at a reunion to reminisce about the estate.

It was organised by Ray Spurway for his 96-year-old mother, Olive, after she said how much she missed her friends since she moved out in 1983.

Around 90 residents attended the third reunion Ray has hosted and took along newspaper clippings and old photos to look through and chat about.

Ray said he was inspired to set up the reunions after he ran into an old friend of his mother's.

"So I told my mum and she started saying about all the other people she lost touch with when she moved off the estate. I thought I'd love to get mum connected with old friends again. Mum sat in the car after the reunion and all the memories came flooding back as she was back on the estate she used to live in."

A Doxey local, Eileen Skelton, took some of her scrapbooks for residents to look through as they gathered at St Thomas and St Andrew's Church. Another Doxey resident, Ian Simpson, put together a display of maps of the old estate and its history which can also be found online.

Meanwhile Ken Wood showed Olive some of his old pictures of the railway where he used to work with her late husband, George.

After the success of previous reunions in 2007 and 2009, which each attracted more than 100 residents, Ray decided to organise a third. And after the success of the latest one, he is now planning a fourth in a couple of years' time. The 66-year-old said: "As I looked around the room, I could see



Residents look at Eileen Skelton's scrapbooks



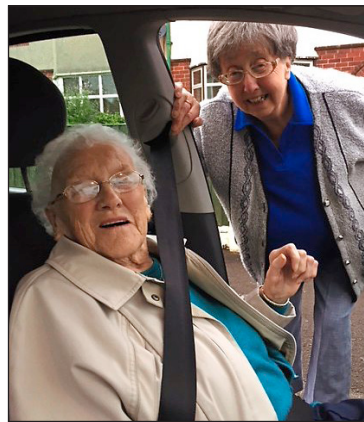
Ken Wood, who worked with Olive's husband, shows her pictures



Looking through old maps of Doxey



Sandra Breton looks through cuttings



Olive with Eileen Skelton

people's faces light up because they are putting the clock back and reminiscing. It was lovely to see families and friends greeting each other and sharing their memories once again."

He added: "Now everything is through phones and the internet so you don't have that personal contact any more. I hope Doxey doesn't lose its identity. I hope the reunion will

reinforce the identity." Around £80 was donated on the day which was used to cover the cost of tea and biscuits then the rest was donated to the church.

New f...
house fo...
tacular,
the Woo...

Takin...
Grigelis...
Sheriff...
Gee Bur...
at the ve...

Some...
a return...
as Friar...
Nanny...
Slader a...

They...
Wok'n'R...
with dir...
director...
pher Ven...

Songs...
Shakes...
Want to...
Run.

News...
two mo...
mance...
secutive...
during t...
will run...
7.

Ticket...
office on...
stafford...

Beer

A bre...
from Sta...
to back...
come UK

Titani...
ing Sagg...
at its thr...
is a 4.5 p...
Titani...
1985, is...
Bott and