

Displaced persons 1945-55

A new use for Bridgend Hostel

After the war, displaced persons from all over Europe were being found living accommodation in various camps across the UK, including Bridgend Hostel.

Tony Reynolds remembers young Austrian women like Maria Serchnich and Ernastina Gattmeyer who both found work at Marling & Evans Cloth Mill, Ryeford.

Polish and Hungarian people also worked at the mill.

Among the Polish persons living at the hostel was **Adolf Kardynal** who arrived in 1947.



Local girl Pam Cave and Maria Serchnich



Adolf Kardynal at Bridgend Hostel in 1947

In 1941 Adolf joined the Polish Forces under British command in Italy. He fought at the battle of Monte Casino.

After the war Adolf chose to come to England and joined the Polish Resettlement Corps. They found him work and a place at Bridgend Hostel, where his brother Andre and their mother later joined him.

In 1949 both Adolf and Andre joined Marling & Evans' where they stayed until their retirement. Adolf left the hostel to live in a cottage in Ebley and later moved to King's Stanley.



Adolf pictured in 2003

Adolf died in 2012, a much-respected member of the local community.

Park Estate

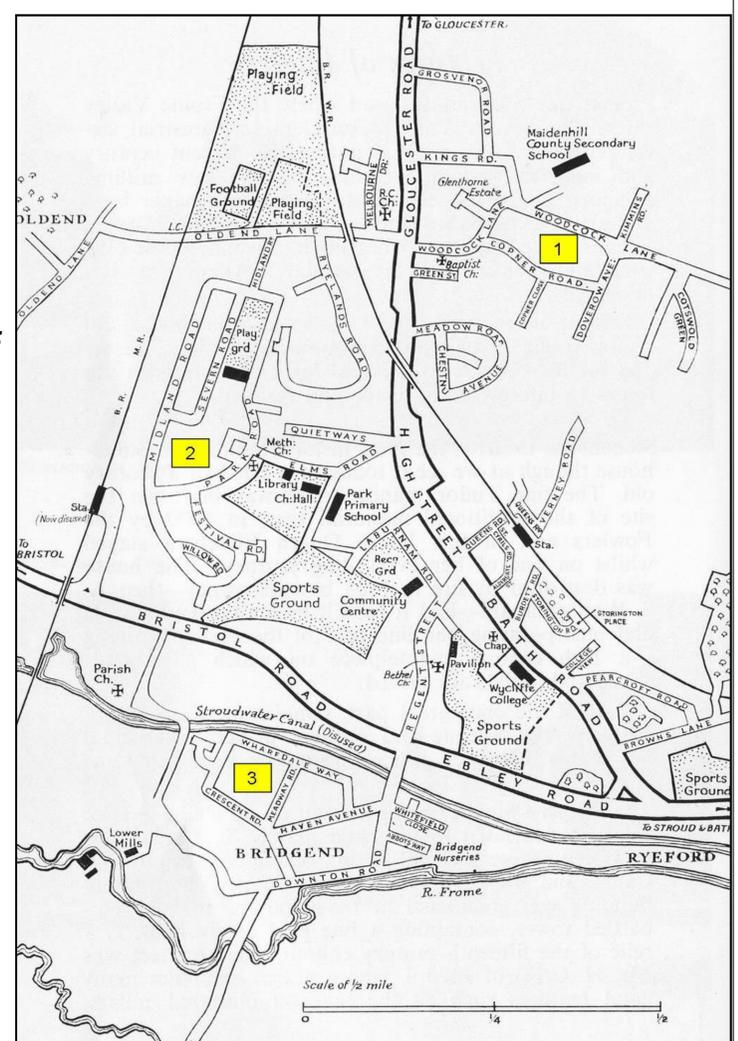
As many of the war workers, displaced persons, evacuees and refugees had decided to stay on in Stonehouse, the council decided to build a big new estate on the fields of what had been the Manor Park.

Building started in 1951 and one of the first roads was named Festival Road after the Festival of Britain held in that year.



The Park Estate from the corner of Festival Road turning into Park Road. Midland Road ran along the edge of the Midland Railway.

Many of the original families housed in the maisonettes moved to bigger houses on the Park Estate.



Map from 1960s showing the new estates built to house the families staying in Stonehouse after the war.

1 Woodcock Lane Estate, 2 Park Estate, 3 Bridgend Estate