



MAGGIE'S MEMORIES

**Memories of Lowton
as Recalled by
MAGGIE KANE**

A few of my old Lowton memories ... June 2012

Lowton As I Remember it LOWTON In the year 1117 was recorded as being called **LIEWETUNE**

Lowton In the Late 1940s was as my Mother told me much like when she was a child in 1920, she said very little if anything had changed so here I go on a little walk about as I remember as a child. Lowton Lancashire always seemed to me looking back 3 villages all rolled into one .Lowton St Mary's, which ran from the Shepherds Inn to the top of Lowton St Mary's bridge Then came Lowton which ran from the top of Lowton St Mary's Bridge to Lowton Lane Head and St Lukes which started at the School on Church lane and on to Just past the Hare and Hounds Public house . Lowton was my playground as a child, only a small village when I was a youngster. Everyone knew everyone else and news would spread like wild fire if anyone new entered, Lane Head the centre of our village for Lowton, We had St Catherine of Sienna at Lane Head the Local Catholic Church, which was only a small prefab building but a beautiful little church inside,We had no Catholic school in Lowton until the 1960s, most Catholic children went to either St Lukes school or St Mary's which were Protestant schools, the parents had no choice because the nearest school was Golborne and to far for a child to walk, They still attended Mass at St Catherine's though. The New Sixpenny Church was built in the 1950s with the landbeing donated by Gus Sinar the Landlord of the pub. Across from the Church which is the Kings Arms (now the carvery, and next to the kings were some small white cottages,I remember they had outside privies (toilets) Around the corner next to the Kings Arms was a shop(later to become the VG owned by Mr and Mrs Twist a lovely couple) which when I was a child belong to the Howarth Family and was called Howarth's shop.

in 1912 my nanna Annie Taylor as she was then went 'into service as the called it , she cooked cleaned washed and did all the menial chores of the day ,she was only 12 years old ,she was very lucky the family thought a lot about her and treated her kindly. Next door to Howarth's shop used to be a wood yard owned by the reeves family, I remember Mrs Denney used to sit and chop the wood every day, which was sold for tuppence a bundle, her hands always looked so sore and often cut, at the end of the day she would go home and start to sew to earn a few more pennies to feed her family,a wonderful woman. Across the road from the Kings Arms where the new sixpenny churchnow stand`s was a shed like building, this was the place were people would take their shoes and boots to be soled and heeled and clogs to be mended, We never brought shoes as my father did all ours for us , Indeed even today I could heel and sole a shoe given the tools, I was taught at a very young age how to do it. I remember as a child often having to walk down from Cedar Avenue with a big battery(about the size of a car battery) in my arms taking it to be recharged at Joe Simms shop, at the age of six or seven this was no mean feat for a child My granddad used this for his radio, Next to Joe Simms the clogger was a big white house which I remember was a shop owned by Harry Judson and later became Roberts Newsagents, for a short time used as the village Post Office. Not a large shop in my younger days ,it was altered in the 1960s and a door put in a central position when the shop was extended ,At the time of writing this it is a Car showroom ,i have to say Stephen James the owner has done a fantastic job of

returning the buildings to their original look (that is including the blacksmiths) the door is back on the corner as I remember and preferred it. Just around the corner from this building was the Blacksmiths, many a happy hour us kids would spend watching Chris Jordan and his dad shoe the Horses. I remember once watching Peter Kane the world featherweight boxing champion showing and telling us kids how to make a horseshoe and how to shoe the horse, we had to stand well back mind you the sparks flew everywhere and the smell from the hoofs when they put the shoes red hot on to the horse was not to be sniffed at. Further down Kenyon lane just past the blacksmiths was a toffee factory, Hurst's, they made the cough sweets called Lung tips, delicious I remember, Further up the road from Hurst's was the Doctor's surgery very convenient, he would advise if you had a cough to call at Hurst's, Across the road from the Smithy (which is now part of the car shop) was Rosie Flint's toffee shop (the next owners were the Swarbricks) only a tiny shop but we could buy anything from there. Next to Rosie's was a big red telephone box oh yes we were posh in Lowton? with a big black telephone with a twisted cord stood on a cradle on top of a box into which there was a slot where the pennies were put, when finally connected and often it took a while if Rosie was busy in the shop, yes the switchboard was in there, you had to press a button B and the money would be noisily taken, if the call had failed you had to press button A to get the money back and very often it would not work, many an angry face came out of those boxes I remember, but to lose a couple of pennies in those days was a lot of money to a struggling family of which there were many, Next to the telephone box was a low white building at present it is a garage now but was a joiners shop in 40s early 50s, just around that corner was what once was the bakery and as I remember Jack Gorse opened his first shop in that building and later opened a cafe and shop, This was where I saw my first ever Jukebox it was gigantic. Across the road (which by the way was cobbled, The cobbles (or sets as they were called) had been laid by my Great Grandfather John Lythgoe who was a paviour by trade) Was the Red Lion Public House, The Red Lion had the finest Bowling Green for many a mile so they say, again it was my great grandfather John who laid it and tended it until his death in the early 40s, He lived in Heath Lane which used to be called as my mother told me Hannah's Green Lane.

Still in Lowton but a little further down the road past the Red Lion Pub, Next to Heath Lane stood Lime House which was for many Years the home of the Eckersley Family Peter or PT as he was known their son was quite famous and won many trophies playing cricket, Mrs Eckersley often called in on my Grandmother for tea. Lime house later became as I knew the Council offices for Lowton and Golborne, it is now a care home for the Elderly, Down Heath Lane on the left and around the corner was where my Great grandparents lived two poplar trees planted by my g grandfather marks the spot, The cottages are down now and the land is all green belt, White cottages stood on the corner where I remember The Lloyd family Lived, these were demolished and new houses are now on the site, at the end of Heath Lane on the right are a few detached houses my husband did the groundwork for these when they were being built. Heath lane continues and takes us to Stone cross lane and St Lukes, it was divided by the building of the East Lancashire road, around here was the old workhouse on what they called Mount Taber, we walk back now to the top of Heath lane and Lime House is on our left.

Across from Lime house was Winwick Lane, The Methodist Chapel stood on the corner, across the way on the left of Winwick lane was a row of cottages in the Last cottage was Miss Woods shop again a lovely old shopkeeper always smiling I remember, just past the big house on the left standing well back in the field was a building known as the Morgue which was in use until the late 50s I think. Across from Miss Woods shop stood another row of terrace cottages at the side of those was the Council Yard, carry on further up winwick Lane and over Dolly Bridge a path to the Moss and the memorial, the boundary for Winwick began. Back on to Newton road near the chapel at the T Junction ,we turn left and next to the Methodist Church were the step houses as they were called ,My Great grandfather was offered one of these to buy in the late 1800s for 30 pounds he refused it because all the houses had cellars in them, they still stand today and the selling price is now about 195,000 pounds, behind these im sure stood another street which I seem to remember was called Hammer St , they are all knocked through now.

A little further on the left was Worsleys farm along side the farm was a dirt track that took us over to the Huskinson Memorial built to commemorate the death of the first man to be killed on the railway by Stephenson's train The Rocket and over the railway line onto The Moss, The Moss was Lowton local Beach ? Many summers I remember families would turn out with bottled water and butties for a day on the Moss, My own 2 Children visited as did generations of my family before them. Onwards the near Travellers Rest where The Worsley farms stood either side of the road, Herbert Worsley the Author of many books about Lowton lived in the farmhouse near the road. On the right going towards Newton le Willows. Lowton House a big fine house was nearby it was closed after it was found it was being used for illegal activities a scandal in the 40s. We carry on and we come on the left to the Round House a very old house which is now a large Dormer style bungalow when the new owners in the 60s applied for planning permission to redesign the house they had to build around and keep intact the original walls of the house as it was a protected building. A little walk and we get to the Bulls Head public house, on the right was the Lowton sidings at which the royals arrived by train to visit gentry in this area .Also Sandfield Hall stood back on the left it still standing built around the 1800s a beautiful magnificent building , We are now at the boundary With Newton Le Willows.

Now we will go all the way back to The Red Lion at Lane head and back on to Church Lane again. Opposite Howarth's and the wood yard I remember Only fields ,no houses, no lime grove beyond, just a big kind of lake which attracted quite a bit of wildlife, further on stood the local Co-op, it is still standing today on the corner of the east Lancashire road , When I was young we kids would play on this road we were lucky if we saw 2 cars a week I remember being really scared of them and rushing to the side of the road about 10 minutes before it got to us ?

Now I cross over the east Lancashire road onto Church Lane, in the 1700/1800s this lane was known as Factory Lane changed Later to Church Lane as we know it now,2 cotton mills once stood on this lane. From the Junction at the east Lancashire we are on Church lane ,the terraced houses with the bay windows still stand on the left, the 4th one from the end lived Mr Reed a real character everyone knew and liked him, he kept chickens and for many years they could be seen out on the east Lancs. road scratching for food.

I remember Mr Reed saying they never came to any harm he said in his broad Lowton accent I av um trained not fert go ont road he said ,Mr Reed could turn his hand to anything it seems, anyone who had a bike he would repair them, a lot of the time for nothing, I remember him fixing me up with a bike in the earl 60s, He got an old frame, replaced the tyres ,seat,sprayed it and put on it a light and a bell ,and new mudguards all for half a crown (2/6p) then gave me a basket for it God bless him he was a lovely man . if anyone had a stiff neck he would say "gerr one o thi dads owd sweaty socks purra peace o rodie bacon in it ,tie it on and leave it forra a couple a days` thall be as reet as rain. Across the road lived Mrs Arnett , who's daughter owned the wallpaper shop at the other end of Lowton (the one that was the Victoria ballroom) next came another grocers now Dillon's it was owned by Mr and Mrs Potter and later by Mr and Mrs Hull a really nice couple ,I remember about 1947/48 I had to have my tonsils out ,and Mrs Hull sent me colouring books and pencils with my Granddad to Leigh infirmary gosh I was the only child in the ward that had them, I felt so special ? Further along the road only fields as far as the eye could see , there was no Bradwell road estate just wide open spaces Known as rookery fold ,it was on this land that the Rose Queen and carnival was held every year, a great day out for all. On the left of Church lane after the terrace houses was the post office now a hair dressers, This came as I remember in the 60s , Bessie Eckersley was the Post Mistress for many years. In the next field where Stretton Avenue is now was Lee's Farm, Two spinster sisters lived there, I remember people used to say they never changed their stocking they just put another pair over the top, they had massive legs I recall, they were lovely people though. Then after the farm more fields until you get to the farm track leading to Stirrups Farm, Opposite the farm track was The Sovereign Toffee Works, they made the best caramels and treacle you have ever tasted, I remember the whistle being sounded at break times and hundreds of people in white overalls would come out of the factory, the smell of the toffee used to hang in the air around church lane ,It was called the Victoria Toffee factory before it was renamed ,they made creamy whirls delicious I remember , Back to the farm track, and in the field were more houses now demolished off the road the fronts facing South as does the backs of Alderley Avenue built on the next field around the mid 70s, Mrs Gallagher lived in one of the old houses she was a good friend of my great grandmother Amelia, then again more fields until as I said earlier they built Alderley Avenue. The 2 bungalows 1 of which later became the dentist's were also built around the same time as Alderley these still stand, After the bungalows standing slightly back off the road a row of terraces, then another block of terraced houses nearer the road, A little way back over the road opposite Alderley Avenue was the St Luke's Big School as my mother called it the school house stood in the grounds now long gone i am afraid, just after this opposite the terraced houses I have just mentioned was the school house and the little school which I attended age 4. The little school is still standing and but as I write this they are knocking part of it down the big school was built around 1876 I imagine the school now that was newly built in the 70s ,such a shame, another little piece of our local history being demolished. After the little school came a pair of semis, my Aunt lived in one of these during ww2, Fields followed on both sides of the road until we arrive at Farrington's Farm on the right all built on now, and opposite the farm, the old white cottages on the left still standing today , Opposite those was the first house I lived in after leaving Cedar Avenue where I lived with my mam Nan and Granddad,

This was Ashwood Avenue in the early 40s across the road there was no Newlands Drive again only fields as the Eye could see. Further on and just past what is now Newlands drive the old white cottages houses and the terraces remain much the same but opposite those, houses have now been built on what was once again nothing but fields, Now we are in the parish of St Luke's, On the left of the road (before what is now the coop) and still standing is Albert Claire's House the end one in the row of terraces a big Shed at the back for storage. Albert went around Lowton for most of his life selling Hardware ,I still have a bread knife he sold my nanna in 1940. He always had a cup of tea with my granddad and many little snippets of news from around Lowton was passed on, we always knew when Albert had been everything smelled of paraffin and carbolic soap. Next to Albert's house where The Estate agents is now were 2 semi's, one of these houses was a shop (well a drop down counter across the living room door and the stock in the living room) Mackie's we called it they sold the Kali I have ever tasted. Next to those semis were more houses these gave us our first mini market Harold Kingdoms, and then later came the newly built fish and chip shop I forget the name of the first owner but later Geoff Puller an ex England Cricketer owned it, After this was a field, Children used this as a playground for many years until they built the Co-op recently. Across from what is now the coop is Lowton st Lukes Church the oldest church in Lowton complete with Stocks (Stocking Stoops) still in good repair today, The Church was built in 1732 Paid for by the Leigh family, the stoops or stocks are much earlier. Across the road (crossroads) on from the church on Slag Lane stands The Rams Head the first public house to be built in Lowton I am unsure of the date, across the road on the other corner on Stone cross Lane stands The Hare And Hounds this was opened in the 17 century and was used in the beginning as a courtroom and holding cells for prisoners, On Stone cross lane opposite the Hare stood shops for the St Luke's area still standing and in good repair, a little further up the road brings us to Boydell's farm an old Lowton family, here we now have a new Hotel and a McDonald's here in Lowton just up the road the boundary for Golborne . I return now to walk up Slag Lane on which the church stands ,this road had houses sparsely scattered along it but many fields between them, After the Ram's head was a large field (the new school and houses are built on there now) then the old vicarage and further about a mile down the road were cottages that were called the barracks, Many houses have now been built along this road ,about another 15 minutes walk up Slag Lane on your left going towards Leigh was a Large house called Byrom Manor, Byrom Hall as it is now called is dated back to before 1212 when the Poet John Byrom lived there, it was bought from the Parr family of St Helens of who Catherine Parr a wife of Henry the V111 was a daughter. It is said that Cromwell stayed there on his way to battle, it still stands today exactly the same as when it was built,Our local conservative councillor James Grundy (now our MP) and his family have lived there for many years. Continue up the lane and it will bring us to the Canal ,Plank Lane and town of Leigh Lancashire but Across from Byrom Hall is the road that will take us to Lowton St Mary`s, Again lots of farmland until we get to the corner where we see The Flash an expanse of water caused by mining subsidence and floods 2 farms were lost in the early 1900s one of them was called Urmston in the Meadows it is now part of Pennington country park .Walking down from Byrom hall and onto Byrom lane, In the first field standing way back was Mosley Hall. Continue up this road and into Sandy Lane passing Albert Priestley's cottage, he travelled

by horse and cart for many years selling fruit and Veg to the locals. Sandy Lane was and still is quite a long built up area of houses and industry, along the lane was Westwells the garden centre, a little way on was a small grocery shop ,When I get to the end of the lane I arrive back on Newton road, I am now facing Lowton St Mary`s Church and next to it the old school built for sum of £1,073-15-0s it was opened in 1861.

Opposite the church on the corner of Sandy lane was Ince`s Bakery a family run business from the early 1800s, turn left at the side of Inces shop and we are on our way into the town of Leigh, On the left on the same side as the Inces shop were cottages and semis ,then came the Independent Methodist Chapel and school, more cottages then Flints Ballroom one of two in Lowton and very popular , later in the 50s it later became a wallpaper shop and DIY shop, next door after a small gap and then ! yes Lowton did used to have its very own bank, next door to Tommy Talbot's newsagents and sweet shop if my memory serves me right it was Deacons Bank, at the end of the row was Urmston's another news and sweet shop they also sold clothes and bric a brac. Over the road was Ruffley`s shop a very old Lowton / Croft business, there was no Silsden avenue as now , only fields as I remember and a tennis court at the side of the church, it is now a housing estate ,

We lived at Number 11 Silsden for quite some time, Carry on past Ruffley`s towards Leigh and more fields on the left on the right is Kenneth Howarth's shop ,at the back of the shop was Unsworth nursery and lots of greenhouses, Just a little further on we come to the Ould Terminus the trams from Leigh turned around at this point at the top of reeves street and at the front of the Shepherds Inn Pub only a small pub as I remember with 2 small houses attached to the side of it all fields at the back NO Lowton high school this was only built in the 1970s a few yards further on was the boundary for Leigh.

Well let's go back to Sandy Lane and Ince`s shop on the other corner, from there stood the Church Inn it is still there today, this was another pub used as a courtroom ,next to the pub were terraced houses and next to those The Co-op, across the way was the Little school the playground was around the back of the school a newly built school now stands next to the playground , the school House where the caretakers Mr and Mrs Gallop lived, stood nearer to the road and was demolished some years ago, next to the school house was Hart`s chip shop the best chips I have ever tasted ?

then came the semis in the last one lived Rene Ashcroft the hairdresser I remember the old perming machine she had with lots of wires coming from it to curlers that were used to heat the hair, many an older person who remembers her will say, it's funny we weren't fried alive ,she also used metal clips to wave the hair ,I had mine cut and waved for my uncles wedding in 1956 it cost me 1/6p around 6p in today's money. Next to Rene's was Harry smiths butchers another very old family business. Across the road from the butchers stood the Jolly Carter it was a very quaint pub, not so now as it is now an Indian restaurant and looks so stark and cold now, Next door 2 very old cottages stood well back from the road one was a greengrocers Phip's ran by two elderly sisters, We carry on past the Jolly Carter and down the track, after the small row of houses came Cheetham Farm, The owner was murdered in the 1700s by his nephew the trial was held at the Church Inn. Over the road from the track stood cottages with an orchard, next to those was the Village Club with its own bowling green, more terraced houses followed,then we come to Lowton

Garage this still stands today, On the land next door stood the Paramount Ballroom ,everyone went there on a Saturday night, the Nick Hayworth band consisted as I remember of a Piano, The accordion ,Trumpet, drumsx2 and violin a big band of 3, the trumpet player could play more than one instrument ? ,no alcohol was sold only soft drink's. Further along the road to the left, past what was once the Lowton Construction building was Pocket nook Lane where the Leigh and Walsh families had their Farms. Just off pocket Nook was Carr Lane , Greens Soap works had a factory there once the Glue factory, the owner John Green built and lived at Oaklands just a couple of rows of terraced houses stood on both Lanes, Williamsons farm was on the left, I used to love seeing the little pigs they had , My Brother Jack used to help Mr Williamson and it was from them we got our Dog Bobby a black and white, blue roan Spaniel he was 19 when he died, Back again to the top of the lane and we are on Lowton St Mary's Bridge where the railway station stood, it was closed in the 1960s, As Children we used to stand on the top of the stairs leading to the platform and watch the trains fill up with water, the train drivers were as we used to say black as up chimney dirty with coal dust due to them having to shovel coal into the train boiler, the drivers would blow the whistle for us children to hear it was magical we loved it ? Just after the doors down to the platform was a shed this was Tommy Talbot's Cabin. he did a great trade with people using the station and children going to school, We carry On the and again only fields until we get to Woods fields Once called Lowton Hall, Kilroe the engineers later built offices here. Opposite there was Hesketh Meadow Lane. The Big house on the corner called was Green Lawns very neglected now but a beautiful house in my young days, opposite Green lawns in Hesketh Meadow Lane stood The Oakland's, a boys home, Mr Jackson was the Master a very cruel man it was said, On Hesketh Meadow Lane across from the Oakland's were cottages I remember an old lady (I seem to remember her name was Rachel I'm unsure but I remember she was very deaf and we used to rush past so she did not stop us to talk we could get stuck for an hour trying to make her hear us . I remember she sometimes sat outside spinning in the garden and what a beautiful cottage garden it was, further up the road was the American Camp previously HMS Cabala used by the navy during the war , In the 1950s the yanks used it as housing for staff working at Burtonwood air base ,either side of the road was just a few terraced houses and Boydell's detached house ,The civic Hall was part of the air base and surrounded by more fields. There was no access to Oakland's Road as it was not built until the late 1950s. once again only Fields at this time.. So back to the top of the lane and we turn right and opposite the Oakland's in the field stood Woods farm where we kids all used to meet at the Red Gate the entrance to the farm, we spent many happy hours playing in the fields there, Taylor's pit which was quite a large pond was a big attraction for young and old alike when in winter it used to freeze over and we would ice skate I remember once there was so many people on it the ice broke near the edge and my sister fell in. I don't think she ever forgave us for making her stay with us for hours while she dried off, I would have been in big trouble if my parents had found out, Next came the youth club Mr and Mrs Swift used to run it and lots of the village children went to join in all kindsof activities. Silcocks fair used to come every year to the field at the back of the club for what was a fantastic turn out for the Lowton Carnival lots of Bands ,Morris dancers ,decorated wagons ,horses and carts ,Queens all dressed up complete with crowns and beautiful dresses came from all over the place to join in.

it took at least an hour for it to go through the village as it was then, Next to the club facing the youth club was a Pink cottages where the Marshes lived, Mrs Marsh was another old lady that used to spin yarn and make clothes that were sent all over the world it was fascinating to watch, next came the council houses ,opposite these on the other side of the road were the houses of the Speakman ,Ackers (garage) ,Guest, Marshes and Leigh Families considered to be gentry or money folk as the locals called them ,this land now has house's built and is called St Mary's Court, Beautiful houses were demolished to make room for what I consider to be an eyesore, We walk on after what was The Leigh Land and next we had Croston's bakery who always had a cat that sat in the shop window along with their delicious vanillas, health and safety would not have that now. Croston's opened Lowton's first temperance bar ,their dandelion and Burdock and hot Vimto were a must. Also Pickets grocery and wool shop and the only place we could buy fireworks 2/6 a box (2 and six pence)about 12p in today's money, Sparklers thrupence (threepence) a packet 1p in today's money ,Then Binall's Butchers his son Hugh became a teacher at St Mary's later. Opposite those was the Kings avenue estate where I lived from the age of six (It was only in the last 40 years I have learned that over the bridge did in fact keep us in Lowton St Mary's. Half the streets where I lived as a child were divided I do not think many people were aware of this. Cedar avenue was in this parish and the rest Kings avenue and Beech were in Lowton St Lukes). Walk on past Kings avenue and over to Binall's the butchers there were house's all along this part of Newton road but only fields beyond them , No shops no elm tree road ,After the gap between Binall's in the second detached house lived Derek Howarth who was the Manager for Morecambe and Wise the 2 famous comedians they were often seen with Derek having a pint in the Jolly carter, Lowton Labour club was the next building only the size of a small detached house when I was younger it is now very much extended, Running along side the club was Laburnum Avenue , a long avenue with houses either side they were built by Bushel's of Leigh and were rented ,but now all privately owned ,Across from the club were Council houses. On the same side as the club just a little further on and on the right ,another camp Scotia North HMS Gosling which along with HMS Cabala (Scotia South) was military housing ,Later to be used by the coal board and now at this time new houses have been built. Across the road from there was Matt Howarth's Farm who for many years was another local Blacksmith and farmer (before Chris Jordan), All Howarth Farm land was sold and used in the late early and late 1950s to build what are now the Maple avenue and Rowan Avenue estates.

As we walk on up the road very little has changed over the years until we reach the East Lancashire road again. what was, when I was a girl only 2 narrow lanes wide from Liverpool to Manchester is now a very busy dual carriageway. Just before i reach the road there was Dick Potters dry cleaners and later a hairdressers this was the first of the last two houses opposite the garage. The Williams Garage has now been replaced by the Texaco garage, the house next to the garage on the Lancs. is no longer a tea room and the second garage on the Lancs. Is now a housing estate. In the rows of semis looking over the Lancs. and standing on the right of the Lancs. The last house before the fields was Mrs Goodwin's Shop opened all hours a lovely old lady. We have now arrived back at Lane Head so now we are done that is the three corners of Lowton. And of course The fourth corner which I had forgotten about, Lowton met the boundary of Culcheth and Croft on my walk further on past the Blacksmiths doctors surgery and Hurst's toffee factory on

Kenyon Lane there was only a few houses, one of which on the right was a very large Detached house called the five Acres built the owner of the sovereign toffee works Tom Hindley lived there. It was sold around the late 1920 s to become a maternity hospital, After many years this closed and it once again became a private residence in the 1960s. Just a little walk past there and we come to Kenyon Junction and the Boundary of Culcheth / and Croft, so many changes to numerous to mention and no doubt many things missed out or forgotten. July 2012-07-05 with thanks to my Brother Our Jack who has a memory like an Elephant and has helped me out when I could not remember names.

Editors Note: Maggie put down these notes in 2012 many of the buildings she mentions have changed use or been demolished and that in recent years there has been vert much residential development in Lowton