

## 'HAPPY VALLEY' THE STRATFORD CANAL (AREA 3)

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There is a lot of dispute over the full extent of the Happy Valley grounds. Some say it extended all the way to Trittiford lake, but not much evidence of that remains, for example 'Happy Valley' (c.1910) says: "It was located on the north east bank of the canal, by bridge near the bus". There is also a photo of canal side cottages, "over the bridge from happy valley." these cottages are still there.

My dad used to cycle there back in the 1920s and recalled many happy times there: you could also get the tram from Kings Heath.

I have followed the canal towpath from the Three Horseshoes Pub (A435), past the Lyons Boatyard (of my boating days), with the Cocks Moor Golf Club on my left (possible camping site grounds) down to a wider part of the canal, then on to remaining canal cottage on left. Approaching the bus garage is a large development of canalside apartments, with most of the surrounding area swallowed up by the 1930's council house estates. Homes fit for heroes, they said.

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