

*Hi Miss Davies,*

*I have been finding out about my great great grandparents from my nana (Pat Crosby).*

*My great great grandparents were John Littler and Emily Gee. They both went to St Mary's Birchley school starting about 1894/95.*

*Before they married they lived next door to each other at 204 and 202 Main Street Billinge, which is where Willowbrook Hospice shop is now. They left school age 13.*

*My great great grandad John known as Jack became a Coal Miner and my great great grandma was a maid at the Masons Arms in Carr Mill Road Billinge.*

*They were married at St Mary's Church on the 7th of November 1914. They had three children one of them being my great grandad Austin Littler ( my Nana's dad) My great grandad Austin and his two sisters ( Veronica and Mildred) also went to St Mary's School.*

*Veronica Littler my great grandad's oldest sister was the first girl to pass the scholarship to a grammar school from Birchley and my great grandad was the first boy to pass.*

*Sadly, my great great grandma Emily died when she was 31. At that time there was an orphanage in Billinge run by nuns called "Greenfield". The nuns took a great interest in Vera and Austin and helped them educationally and were very kind to them.*

*My great great grandad John Littler retired when he was 65 after working all his life "down the pit".*

*In 1968 the row of cottages where he lived were demolished to make way for the row of shops that are there now. He died in 1972 aged 81.*