



# Hollyfield Road,



## Surbiton.

### Home of the Cooper Car Company and other claims to fame.

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#### Street of fame

*Based on an article by Alan Wraight*

What an insignificant little road Hollyfield appears to be; there's hardly anything there.

If you took a stroll in the summer sun, what would you see? On one side: a new scooter shop, the Police garage, a block of flats, the old Seeboard offices, the British Legion and a dilapidated school, now used as an adult education centre. On the other: the Fishponds park.

It is hard to comprehend that over 40 years ago this simple thoroughfare played host to several people who were to have such a huge impact on the country we live in today.

Picture the scene back on a damp, foggy, November evening in 1961. Its almost dark. You've just got off the bus in Ewell Road, Surbiton, and are walking home to Berrylands. As you get to the corner of Hollyfield the mechanics at Charles & John Cooper's are working flat out on what they hope will be yet another World Championship winning racing car.

The door is open, spilling light into the darkening road. You're heart skips a beat as you catch a glimpse of twice World Motor Racing Champion Jack Brabham, chatting to the legendary John and his father Charles and Roy Golding and Terry Kitson are behind them working on the new T-59 Formula Junior car. Dougy Johnson is about to play another practical joke on the new apprentice and the formidable outline of 'The Beard' (Owen Maddock) can be seen in the 1st floor window, bent over his drawing board.





The building is unusual for the area and was designed by Owen's architect father seen here as it was in 1957 & in 2002 above. Roy Golding (left) is seen here working on a Formula Junior car.

Your head is still in the clouds as you reach the end of the road and what was in those days Hollyfield School. You hardly pay any attention as you walk by.

The lights are on and a young teacher is working late, preparing her English lessons for the next day. In the classroom next door, one of those old metal, green-painted shades with its exposed lightbulb sways above the head of a schoolboy, oblivious to anything other than the guitar he is practising on.

He is Eric Clapton, destined to be one of the greatest blues guitarists in the world



But as he worked away at his chords back then, did he ever realise that he could be disturbing the concentration of the young Anne Wood next door?

She was then in her first couple of years of teaching. But already ideas about children's literature were forming an imagination that would eventually bring us Roland Rat and the Teletubbies !

