

Our Kitchen Unit

When we were first married in 1954, we were very short of money and could not afford to buy much needed things for the house but we were very resourceful and Ron had a few good ideas on how to make do and mend which many people had to do in the lean years after the war. We needed a small unit in the kitchen and Ron had seen some government surplus ammunition boxes for sale in a shop in Manchester. They were strong, grey, wooden 15 inch square boxes with a hinged lid, just what we needed. For four Saturday mornings Ron went into Manchester on the bus and bought two boxes. That was all he could manage to carry as we had no car. We lived quite a long way from the nearest bus stop so it was not an easy task.

I sanded them down and painted each of the six boxes in cream with several coats of gloss paint. The other two were painted in a very pale green and we each had one by the side of our bed to hold a small lamp.

When we had six boxes finished, Ron fastened three together on their sides to make small cupboards for each side of the unit. He made a drawer out of the top of an old gramophone and put dividers in it for cutlery. I lined it with a piece of green felt and Ron put a handle on the front.

A piece of metal across the back held the cupboards together and a piece of wood and red formica across the top finished the job.

We were really proud of our kitchen unit. It lasted ten years in Fairway and when we moved to Southport it went in the utility room to hold cleaning materials. The little drawer had small balls for the grandchildren to play with in the garden.

When I moved to Churchtown Gardens in 2009, the trusty little kitchen unit went in a skip, it served us faithfully for 56 years.

Barbara Eyes.