

# OŁBIN

## neighbourhood map

Ołbin is the second oldest area of Wrocław (after Ostrów Tumski). Originally, the area was occupied by marshy pastures and a few manors. The meaning of the name of the settlement has not been definitively established. Some look for its source in the name Albin, while others point to the word swan (*labędź*) as one of the possible meanings.

Ołbin is dominated by tenement houses – compact rental buildings from the turn of the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> century delight with their amazing decorations. During the siege of Festung Breslau (nowadays: Wrocław) in 1945, the housing estate suffered less damage than its surroundings.

After the war it came back to life quite quickly – it was there that the repatriates settled down, the seats of municipal authorities and public institutions were established. The first post-war bakery and the first secondary school were opened in Ołbin. To this day it has remained a lively inner-city area with a variety of shops, groceries and services.

One of the most popular places for Ołbin residents is Stanisław Tolpa Park, which was called Waschteichpark at the very beginning of its existence. The name is connected with a system of ponds used as public laundries. It was after their partial filling in that it was decided to establish the park. The biggest attraction was and still is the hill, from where you can see the panorama of the housing estate in spring and summer, and toboggan down in winter.

Allotment gardens are another important green area in Ołbin. These, located in Bujwida Street, were established in 1906 as the Szeberowski Garden - by far the largest garden of its kind in Breslau before the World War I. It was supposed to combine utilitarian and relaxing functions – this history continues to this day. The allotments make it possible to grow fruit and vegetables and cool down the housing estate during the hot summer months.

1

I moved to Ołbin in 2011. It seemed bleak and neglected to me back then. In order to get to know and get accustomed to the new space, I started to take walks, enter alleys and look into old tenement houses. The first discovery that I remember were the **tiles at Reja Street**. The tenement house I have in mind was grey but impressive. A mysterious semicircular portal, balconies and a bay window with decorations encouraged me to take a look inside. Inside, I found tiles that covered the walls up to shoulder height. Perfectly preserved – bright with a pleasant to the touch texture over the entire surface. They were complemented by a patterned floor and two brackets in the form of dragons guarding the entrance, placed at the ceiling. Today the tiles can be seen through the pane. The tenement house has recently undergone renovation. Now I know that this is probably one of the first tile patterns produced in Meissen. This is also what the first post on my blog was about: Old Kafel Story. A decade later, I continue my journey through Ołbin. Today, more and more often, thanks to the efforts including the activities being undertaken by the residents, not only the façades of tenement houses are being renovated, but also the tiled staircases. **Magda**



2

**The Nowowiejski park!** Great place! Currently the Stanisław Tolpa memorial park and the Edith Stein memorial park – it has been divided into two parts. It used to be a whole. I studied there for the secondary school final examinations with a friend. He is a priest today. A bench where Stanisław Tolpa used to sit is supposedly there. I was not aware of this at the time. I fell into the pond in the park when I was 7 or 8 years old. Everyone in the family was laughing at this. **Łukasz**

As far as entertainment is concerned, I remember a **hill** in the Stanisław Tolpa memorial park, where people used to sledge in winter, and when it was warm, my grandpa and I went to feed swans and ducks with dried bread. Grandpa kept this bread in a milk bag. **male neighbour**

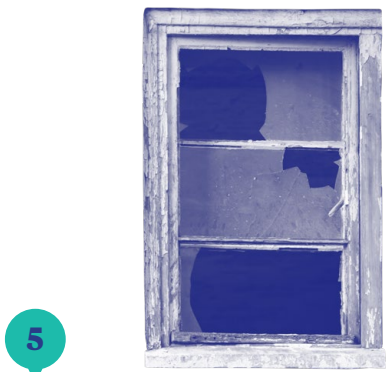


3

This is a taboo topic in Ołbin. Ages ago – the Secondary School No. 1, previously Karol Świerczewski memorial, and then a no name. When I went to the school, **the statue of General Świerczewski** has been painted like St. Nicholas. It was the students' idea, 20 years ago, to make something nice out of something ugly. This statue disappeared one night. I believe the administration ordered to take it away. For a year and a half, however, Świerczewski was St. Nicholas. **Łukasz**

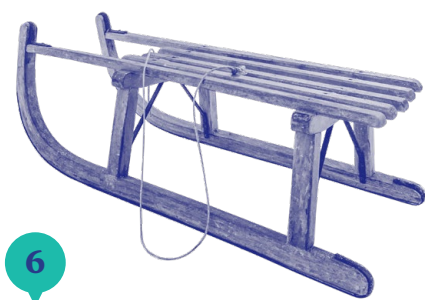
4

She was a great Polish teacher. Mrs. Masny – a great person. She is dead now. She always had “brass knuckles” on her fingers – made of her 10 rings. Everyone was afraid of her. She did not slap anyone on the face, but the look of these rings was shocking. She stroke fear in us, but she was a decent human being. She was able to alleviate the misery of all those who did not see the Polish language being an important part of their professional future, and at the same time everyone learned something valuable from her lessons. **Łukasz**



5

There was an **old factory** here, and a **chimney** next to it. You could climb this chimney, and I even did it once. I did not want to come down. I made a bet with a friend. I sat there for about 6 hours. The bet rules were that whoever lasts longer – wins. The district attendant came, told me to come down, and I said: “No!” I continued to sit there. He started to climb up to me and I was going higher and higher. He gave up and I waited. He left, and then I came down. The chimney still stands today. There is no ladder up to the height of 3 m anymore, and I did not realise back then that I might have fallen. **Łukasz**



6

**Słowińskie Hill** is located on the border of Ołbin and Nadodrze. The famous trips behind the garages – where we used to ride down the hill on bicycles, sledges, straight to the garages. They looked completely different than they do today. The garages that were located in the back are gone now. The last time I crashed into such a garage on my bike was around 1999. 22 years ago. It has been a long time. I survived the accident unscathed, and so did the bicycle, but the garage suffered some damage – the dent was quite large. Musical rehearsals were also held there, some of the buildings were abandoned, there were sots walking around. Various things were happening there... **Łukasz**

7

The City Board chose the tenement house at today's **25 Poniatowskiego Street** as the seat of the **first Mayor of Wrocław** – Bolesław Drobner. Now it is just a normal tenement house near a stop. Close to the public toilet. **Janina**

8

I remember all the girls did it. Even recently, when I met with my friends, I asked them: “Do you remember the **little views game?**”, and they said: “Of course we do!” But why did we make them? No reason; just for fun, to make it look nice. Back then, a lot of different things could be found in the backyards: glass pieces, tiles, etc. You dug a small hole: you had to put something colourful inside to make it shiny and sparkling: glass pieces, wrappers, etc. An finally it was covered with a piece of glass and then buried in sand. Then the sand was moved aside by hand. An then you got a beautiful little view! **Dorota**

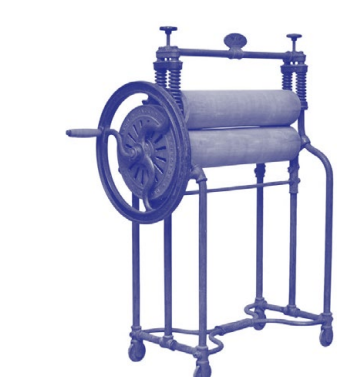


9

I remember the **flood** of 1997 perfectly. We used to go to the well by the yellow blocks of flats – there was a water intake there. The line started near the grocer's store – at the **corner of Kluczborska and Wygodna Streets**. It was about 100-150 metres. I was 13 years old, I used to go to build embankments on Słowińska Street. Actually, I do not know if we helped a lot, because we were kids, but it was quite enjoyable – we felt important. And the famous expeditions with buns... When they brought bread, we would take it and then deliver it to various parts of the city. We were cycling very slowly. We transported bread in plastic bags. When I went on vacation, I told everyone about it. I felt like a celebrity because there was no flood at the seaside. The water destroyed our basement and various strange valuables: a radio and a bag from the 40s in which my grandfather brought some things from the occupation. The flood in Ołbin was strange – we were kind of flooded, but not really. There were many rats. Oh, Jesus! We ran on the pitch, trying to escape them. **Łukasz**

10

For as long as I can remember a **mangle** was in this place. It was on the corner of the building, and you needed to climb three or four steps to get inside. My parents said it must have been there since the 1940s. An elderly couple run it the whole time. I remember my mom sending me there with a pile of sheets. I always paid PLN 20 for everything. I also remember the owner of the mangle taking water into his mouth and then spraying it onto the laundry, soaking it this way. A few years ago the couple died and the mangle was closed. Currently, there is a hairdressing salon at this site. **Łukasz**

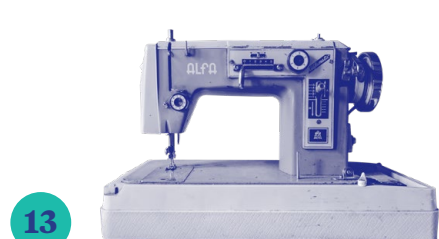


11

I associate Ołbin primarily with my grandparents. My one grandma lived at **Daszyńskiego Street**, she moved into a flat on the fourth floor in the 50s. I remember her carrying coal from the basement to heat the water on the stove in the bathroom before the bath. Before she moved in, a German officer supposedly killed himself in the flat. She lived in the **better part** of Daszyńskiego Street. In general, Wyszyńskiego Street divides it into the left part (towards Jedności Narodowej Street), which is considered **worse**, darker – you did not go there after dark, and the better one – towards Prusa Street. **female neighbour**

12

My second grandma lives at **Elizy Orzeszkowej Street**. There was a large grey door to the shelter near the exit to the backyard. We played in the **backyard** there. There was only a sandbox and a carpet-beating stand. Dad told me that when he was little, there was a beautiful children playground in the backyard, with a carousel and a small cinema. My grandparents moved here in the 60s. **female neighbour**



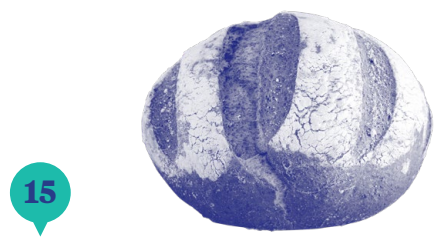
13

I remember that when I was little, the tenement house was still in a good shape. There was a **sewing supply store** downstairs. In 1979, they displaced all its residents and covered it with a fence. We went there through a hole, on the protruding bars. We went to the roof! Thankfully our parents did not see this! **Dorota**



14

Ołbin is also about the walk to school. Every day I passed the **“Marco Polo” bookshop**, which was located at Wyszyńskiego Street. Behind the stop. Textbooks were being bought here. Large maps of Poland were hung on the walls. **female neighbour**



15

There is a **bakery** at Barlickiego Street, which is legendary around the district. Many residents from the farthest corners of the housing estate go there to buy bread and buns. Next to it, there is a plaque commemorating the film by Wojciech Jerzy Has titled *The Loop*, which was the director's debut. It was one of the first films that were recorded not on sound stages, but at real locations in Wrocław! **Lech**

16

I remember that for many years there was a big square with **huge trees** here. I learned to ride a bike here, played French skipping, football – there was a lot of space. There were also wars between neighbouring backyards. **Dorota**

17

The **school** is from 1961. There were no sports pitches back then, but there was a **lake** created in a bomb crater and quagmires. **Ula**



18

I remember a time when there was no clinic, but there was a **pitch**. It was the time of our sports competitions. I remember the year 1962, 1963, 1964 – two Syrena cars belonging to the neighbours were parked there. We also played Palant in the street. Those were the days! **Ula**

19

The **“Juhas” restaurant** – now there is a pizzeria in its place. The restaurant, however, is still in the minds of the city residents, because if today you tell, e.g. a taxi driver to drop you off at the “Juhas” restaurant, he knows where it is. **male neighbour**

20

The **tree house** – in this huge backyard between Nowowiejska and Żeromskiego, Jedności Narodowej and Daszyńskiego Streets, there is a lonely ash tree with a house mounted on it. Apparently, it was built without using any nails, the tree was not damaged, and it can accommodate 2-3 adult people. Although it was created, of course, with children in mind, there has been no playground in this backyard for a long time, and probably over a thousand people live here. 5 years ago artists built it in a single week with the help of local residents, but they worked from morning to night, all of them. **Bartek**

21

The **allotment gardens** occupy a large part of the housing estate. I am glad that they started to open – literally and figuratively – to people who do not have their allotment gardens there. My favourite example is the Ołbin Open Garden within “ROD Lepsze Jutro”. A pavilion where people can meet was built there. Many educational and social activities are being organised. It is a place where you can organise an event and have a good time. **Lech**



neighbourhood map

OŁBIN

## Sąsiadujemy<sup>W</sup>

Neighbourhood is a programme of animation and cultural activities in Wrocław's housing estates run by the Strefa Kultury Wrocław (Wrocław Cultural Zone). For several years we have encouraged the residents of Kleczków, Brochów, Ołbin and Oławskie Przedmieście to get to know each other and build neighbourly relations. Since 2021 we have also included Huby, Różanka and Gajowice in our backyard activities. We continue to walk around the nooks of the housing estates with the city guide, Szymon Maraszewski, who plays the lead role in two seasons of the series “Tales from the housing estates”. You can watch all the episodes on the website, Facebook and YouTube of Strefa Kultury Wrocław.

In 2021 we also invited the residents of Oławskie Przedmieście, Ołbin, Kleczków, Brochów, Księży, Nadodrze, Świdnickie Przedmieście and Grunwaldzki Square to co-create with us neighbourhood maps of these housing estates. No one knows as many stories about the neighbourhood as our male and female neighbours, so we spent several months collecting various stories about the most interesting, beautiful and peculiar places in the neighbourhood. Thanks to our joint efforts, you can now look at eight Wrocław housing estates through the eyes of their inhabitants – get to know their memories and present-day stories, as well as discover spaces that no longer exist.

Take the map in your hand and follow the trail of your male and female neighbours! Remember that each map is available in three languages: Polish, English and Ukrainian.

We wish you successful neighbourhood journeys!



# OŁBIN

## neighbourhood map

### MEETING PLACES

- 1 Stowarzyszenie Żółty Parasol  
Prusa 37-39
- 2 Rada Osiedla  
Namysłowska 8
- 3 Biblioteka Miejska – Filia nr 5  
Namysłowska 8
- 4 Awaria Prądu  
– kawiarnia z planszówkami  
Prusa 9
- 5 Ołbiński Ogród Otwarty  
ROD Lepsze jutro  
Daszyńskiego 76

### GASTRONOMY

- A Łodziarnia – Kawiarnia Małeńka  
Prusa 61
- B KEBZ – More Than Kebab  
Nowowiejska 82
- C Pizzeria Pełnia Nowowiejska  
Nowowiejska 84
- D Kawiarnia Artystyczna ALFA  
Nowowiejska 63
- E Pierogarnia Nowowiejska  
Nowowiejska 71/1B
- F Bar Pierożek  
Poniatowskiego 3
- G Słodki chłopak  
Kluczborska 25
- H Odessa Market  
Nowowiejska 25/1A
- I Pierogi Babci  
– Wypieki Ormiańskie  
Oleśnicka 15
- J Coffe To Go  
Oleśnicka 2
- K Ragu Pracownia Makaronu  
Sienkiewicza 34A
- L Ban Thai Restauracja Tajska  
Sienkiewicza 34A
- M Bar „Domowe obiady”  
Sępa-Szarzyńskiego 67B
- N Mexico Bar  
Sępa-Szarzyńskiego 59
- O Petits Fours by Tobiasz Herman  
Sienkiewicza 30D
- P Neobab Kebab Wrocław  
Reja 47
- R BAR Pod Kuflem  
Nowowiejska 95

Green areas

100 m

