



KSIĘŻE neighbourhood map

Today, Księże covers the area of several former villages: Księże Małe, Księże Wielki, Świątniki, Opatowice, Bierdzany and the settlement of Nowy Dom. As many as four rivers flow through the settlement: the Brochówka, the Zielona, the Upper and the Lower Oława, as well as the Opatowice Canal.

The oldest part of the settlement is Opatowice with its sluice and canal. It is a very popular recreation area among male and female inhabitants of the whole Wrocław. Świątniki is mainly a water area with two pumping stations: one of them is historic and the other still works.

Księże is exceptionally rich in flora and fauna. Ducks, swans, herons, roe deer, beavers, otters, weasels, ermine – these animal neighbours can often be found during walks in the green parts of the estate. An important place of rest among the residents of Księże Wielkie is Wschodni Park.

In turn, Księże Wielkie used to be associated with very large meadows. Due to its proximity to wetlands, for many years it was not an attractive place for development. For some years now, however, new buildings have been erected there. At the meeting point between Księży Mały and Księży Wielki there is a modernist housing complex built between 1928 and 1930, designed by Paul Heim and Albert Kempter in cooperation with Gustav Wolf, Hans Thomas and Rudolf Sack. It was the first rational, exemplary establishment of its kind in Breslau at the time. This created 762 flats for over 3000 people, as well as shops, a central heating boiler house with a bath and laundry, a meeting room for the local community, a kindergarten and craft workshops. The buildings are quite similar to each other, so ceramic bas-reliefs depicting various animals have been placed above the doors in the individual cages to make it easier for children to find the right entrance. One of the most famous landscapes from this area are the strings stretched between the windows, on which the residents dry their laundry on warm days.



Some of the visual materials come from the collections of the National Digital Archives

1



It was an **old field**, which we called after the then owner – the old Mazurczak's field. He is surely dead by now. Various types of metal elements could be found there. When we were children, we built hideouts there. There were also fruit trees there, we used to climb them – to pick plums. Lots of fun! **Anna**

2

I was looking for the optimal **route to Brochów** once. I knew one passage before, but not the other. The muddy road between the plots leads to an unlit, post-German tunnel under the tracks, where the Brochówka river flows. Then it opens up to the sky, goes right next to the river bank, and then into another tunnel under the next tracks. This place looks like a forgotten secret passage. **Aleksandra**

3



Whenever I go for a walk after a Holy Mass and look at the place where a **shooting range and a hotel** are now, I can see the lake that used to be there, and the meadows where cattle grazed. We went fishing in summer and ice skating in winter. My brother – a sailor, tried on this lake the first boat he built. In the evening and at night, you could hear in the house the croaking of frogs and the chirping of crickets. **Maria**

4

The sounds of passing trains lulled us to sleep. Not those high-speed ones, like today. The old ones, from these times, made a specific noise. We loved the trips to **two bridges** where we waited for a train to pass. We announced our presence with shouting and waving our hands, and the engine-driver always replied with a loud signal. In winter, we used to go sledding there. **Maria**

5

I really like (and recommend to everyone) the walks along the so-called **Kilometre Bridge** over the meadows, offering beautiful views. It is not uncommon to come across herds of roe deer, pheasants or storks there. **Maria**

In our collective consciousness it is the so-called **Kilometre Bridge**. I do not even know if it really is a bridge as it does not actually go over any water. In the article by „Radio Wrocław” the bridge is described as the longest passage. I do not remember, however, whether this information relates to the territory of Poland or to the whole of Europe. The bridge is exactly one kilometre long. Maybe not exactly one kilometre, but the distance is surely marked every 100 metres. **Agata i Kuba**

6



Lots of greenery and **allotment gardens** provide the opportunity to relax. I remember all the trips to our neighbours for apples as it was yesterday, even though everyone had identical ones in their own allotment gardens. In the fall there was the smell of fires, baked potatoes, and the smoke of burning dry branches. **Maria**

Life in Księże revolves around allotment gardens, because there are so many of them. The residents often feed the homeless cats that are regular visitors to the housing estate. **Agata**



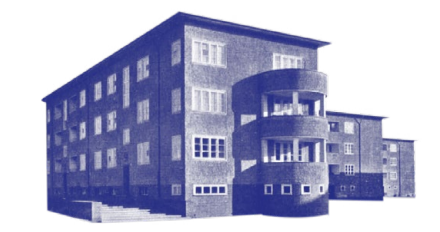
7

I was a student of the **primary school no. 29 at Opolska Street**. I remember from my school days the large, wooden green desks with a place for an inkwell. In every classroom there was a stove, which was fired up during winter. The windows overlooked a field. Sometimes a cow or pigs broke into this field – we stopped our lessons then to chase out these uninvited guests. This building currently houses a large medical laboratory. **Maria**

8

Many nice childhood memories are associated with the tenement house at 119 Opolska Street, adjacent to the **tenement house number 117**. These are two old tenement houses joined together. The backyard behind them has survived to this day. This fact is significant because a new housing estate was built around it – the so-called **Śloneczne housing estate**. All of my grandpa's neighbours who lived in the tenement house at ul. Opolska had farm animals: rabbits, martens, coypu, pigs etc. One of the most memorable scenes from my childhood was a pig-slaughtering in the backyard. If I remember correctly, all the neighbours participated in it. The site of this pig-slaughtering still exists today. **Jakub**

The story is related to the **flood**. At that time, there was a system of signs that required going up to the roof in order to signal the need for help. There were signs – a white flag, as well as other colours. I remember that my grandpa and a neighbour went onto the roof and called for help by accident. The helicopter that began to land almost blew them off that roof. I think they went to adjust the antenna. One of them must have been wearing something white, and that confused the rescuers. **Jakub**



9

In the area where the so-called **Śloneczne housing estate** was built I helped my grandpa dig up potatoes. There were **huge fields** developed by the neighbours. Today the housing estate has the following numbers 119: A, B, C, D... I do not remember up to which letter. Even though the housing estate is 10 years old, postmen and couriers often have problems with delivering parcels. **Jakub**



10

When I was a child, we used to go to the **dam** a lot. You could sunbathe and catch crayfish there. Now you can get there, but from a different side than before – by bicycle. I think that it is not being visited very often, but I go there with my daughter whenever I can. **Anna**

My first memories of fishing trips are connected to my grandpa. I associated the landing net with the story about „Mr. Kleks”, who caught butterflies with an almost identical device. We always went to a small dam, actually it was probably a sluice, which is located on the so-called **Kilometre bridge**. There is a walking path there. I remember that many people used to swim there during my childhood. **Jakub**



11

The **Świątniki pumping station** is a stunning example of industrial architecture. It is a place with a very rich history, surrounded by stunning nature. **Franciszek**

Jan Klata directed here the performance titled „The Promised Land”. The first few première shows were also held there. **Jakub**



12

Many archival photos have been preserved, showing the life of **Klub pod Kominem**. An old car repair shop was there once, and after its closure the former president of the housing association allowed for opening the so-called **USEs** – „Universal Self-supporting Exhibitions”. Kamila Wolszczak invited artists. The topic was water. This is a topic that is pretty much imprinted on the memory of the residents, because the flood of 1997 caused a lot of damage in this place. **Jakub**

13



Zenek is a tiny **greengrocer's shop**. Everyone goes to **Zenek**. He always gives a small discount. For example, you owe PLN 6.55 for your purchase, and you pay PLN 6.50 – this type of a small discount. Sometimes Zenek will add a plum free of charge. The mood is... charming at the „U Zenka” greengrocer's shop. **Agata**

My best memories are related to the small family-owned „U Zenka” greengrocer's shop. As a child, I used to buy bubblegum balls and popcicles there. They cost about 30 groszes, but in those days every zloty found that allowed to buy sweets was the very pinnacle of childhood happiness. I have especially fond memories of the owners of this greengrocer's shop, who always chat us up and gave us free lollipops. **Weronika**



14

The buildings of this **housing estate** are from the **turn of the 1930s**. The atmosphere of this housing estate is something that people come to Księże to feel. On Saturday and Sunday it is customary to do laundry on the housing estate premises. It is then being hanged on clotheslines. Once I walked around the housing estate and counted the number of occupied clotheslines – there are over two hundred of them. Imagine that about ten percent of the clotheslines are occupied by laundry, not even a half of them. Walking down **Katowicka Street** and looking towards the backyard you suddenly have the impression that you are in an Italian resort or an Italian town. You look at the alley decorated with all sorts of mercery. Sometimes stockings are hanging there, sometimes a blanket with some kind of a print, or a bathing suit, socks. In times of the pandemic, face masks were often hanging there. Between the clotheslines, on the poplars at the Katowicka Street's side, a lot of birds that have their nests there. The birds that fly among the laundry... It looks amazing...**Sąsiedzi, którzy stworzyli „Małą Wielką Mapę Księżę” przy wsparciu Programu Mikrograndy**

15



Delicious **dumplings** that are sold by a lady directly from the room. You must enter the house in order to make a purchase. There is a counter and a TV set behind it. We see the whole room. Part of this space is designated for sale – this is where you order dumplings and something to drink. **Gregor**



16

In winter we tobogganed downhill on virtually anything. Sometimes on sledges, car parts, tyres. The hill was sprinkled with water in order to improve the glide. I also remember watching shooting stars at night... **Hamster**

17

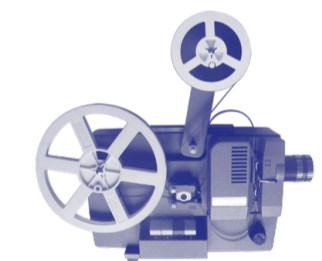
I remember the **embankments near the shooting range**, where we played football, and later we made a football pitch ourselves. In winter we played hockey on the Oława river. **Male neighbour**

The pitch on which the team from the housing estate played was built as part of a community action. In 2000, the team was entered into the C class competition. A year later the team played in the B class competition run by the Lower Silesian Football Association. **Wiesław**

18

The **epitaph of Countess Eleonora Stolberg**, the guardian of the housing estate, who founded the church at the beginning of the 20th century, is located in the cemetery. She was a landowner in the then Księże Małe, who lived at the turn of the 20th century, and was famous for her activities for the Catholic Church and for supporting many charity actions around Księże, but also throughout the whole Wrocław. **Jola**

19



A plaque commemorating a **pre-war cinema** can be seen near the Social Housing Association houses. There used to be an intelligence school there. In a red brick building. There also was the so-called **Kapuściarnia**. At one time, the „Społem” cooperative produced there: cabbage, silage and table mustard. **Jola**

20

On 1 November we always went with the whole class to clean up **post-German graves**. It was a kind of duty. **Teresa**



neighbourhood map
KSIĘŻE



Sąsiedujemy

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, Nadodrże, 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!

200 m

OPATOWICE ISLAND

MEETING PLACES

-  Miejska Biblioteka Publiczna Filia nr 46 Tarnogórska 1
-  Centrum Aktywności Lokalnej Księżę Rybnicka 39
-  Rada Osiedla Głubczycka 3

GASTRONOMY

-  OSADA BAR Krakowska 180
-  Giro Pizza Delivery Krakowska 182
-  Nafta Neo Bistro Krakowska 180
-  Bazar Dawna Pralnia Krakowska 180
-  Remont Bar Siemianowicka 9B
-  Restauracja pod Kogutem Opolska 93
-  Thali Kuchnia Indyjska Curie-Skłodowskiej 5
-  Yuzu Cafe Siemianowicka 9a
-  Pizza Ciao Ciao Księżę Małe Tarnogórska 1

 Green areas

KSIĘŻE

neighbourhood map

