

Notes from W. H. Tombs' Scrapbook on Wheatley – Acc 2366.

1857: The present church was built from stone from the old church and from Wheatley stone pits.

1858. Culvert laid to carry water under High street.

1858 Two schools built.

1862 Railway brought to the village.

1866 Spire for church decided on. Completed in 1868,

1878 Toll gate, east of Wheatley, removed.

1887 Jubilee church porch consecrated.

1888 'Merry Bells' built by Mrs Miller.

1890s Houses on Park Hill built by Mr Joseph Hooper.

1895 Avery's saw-mills built.

1896 Wheatley Urban District Council formed, Mr Revell 1st Chairman.

1905 Smallpox epidemic.

1905 Dr Barnes (sic Dr Barnes) had 1st motor car in Wheatley.

1907 Sewerage scheme started. population then 950.

1910 Wheatley Flood.

1920 Memorial erected in High Street to memory of 56 men of the village.

1932 Wheatley UDC dissolved. Parish Council substituted.

1932-9. Many men worked at Cooper's brick works at 30/- per week, (av)

1939. Population halved owing to outbreak of war.

Crafts

Smocking-making- now no longer carried on

Blacksmith Sheldon Family

Wheelwright Last one Mr Hollifield

Cooper Mr Frampton

Lead work Chapman & Sons

Tinker Fisher at Blenheim Lane repaired pots and pans

Homemade sweets Mrs Munt in High Street

Industries

Brick works acquired by London Brick Company in 1939. Closed because of 'war.

Fishing bobbins made by Wm. Avery and Sons Ltd.

Faggots supplied to Oxford Colleges by James Munt and his sons Thos and Herbert.

Wagons built by Cullum Bros, before 1st world war.

Lime Kiln owned by Mr Cooper.

Timber Wm Avery and Sons.

Feast started on 1st Sundry after 11th Oct, and lasted for a week. Morris dancing. Village band. (brass)

Flood 12.45 rain came down with great force. By 1 p.m. water 5ft deep was running down High Street. By 6. 50, the street was clear, the rain having stopped at about 5 p.m. (Ald. Tombs)

Schools

Two new schools built in 1858. (Now Infants' and Junior) Dame School at 'Old Mount' Park Hill. 1860

Miss Sadler's Park Hill 20 girls. 1890s.

Secondary Modern. School opened in 1950, greatly easing the situation in which some classes from the Wheatley School had had to be held at the Merry Bells.

Population

1880 1000

1900 950

1915 925

1932 900

1939 1500

1953 1637

1955 1900

CORONATION of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II June 2nd 1953

Special service in Primary School playground followed by marked silence in village, owing to attention to television or wireless sets. In afternoon, fancy dress and games in children's playground. Tea for children in Sec. School, all receiving coronation mug. Sports in school field and dance at Merry Bells. A few days later, party held for elder members of village at Merry Bells,

Sport Cricket and football favourite sports.

1st known record of cricket in inventory of a William Tombs of Wheatley for rent in 1730, which states that he

‘owned a pair of cricket bats’.

1st match within memory played in field in Church Road in 1890.

Later matches played in vicarage field until field in Littleworth Road was levelled by The Millers of Shotover park. This field was lost to the villagers when the Sec. School was built and there is now no official cricket team.

Football was also played on what became the site of this school.

VILLAGE TODAY.

might be mistaken for a town; the whole character of the village has changed drastically in the last ten years.

(in Holton Park.) Wheatley Military Hospital 200-patients.

Old parish pit made into children’s playground.

Youth Club, Men’s Club , Not So Young Club established. Football Club plays in Cuddesdon League . Tennis Club. Parish Council represented on Bullingdon Rural District Council and on Oxfordshire County Council, on which Ald. Tombs also sits. Many entertainments at Merry Bells, including Mobile cinema. Women’s Institute.

Old Tyme Dance Club. Whist drives. Dances. Evening classes at Sec School. Dressmaking, drama, woodwork, ballroom dancing, choral society.

Fair share of shops and factories .40 min. bus service between Oxford and Aylesbury.