

## Bruce Shepherd's Recollections

Grandfather Charles Shepherd of Ambrose Farm did quite a lot of contract carting work. His horses were let out on hire for stone and coal carting and general carrying work. He even had a 'break' which is a vehicle used for breaking in horses. This could be converted with the addition of a top for transporting people. It was used for Wheatley football and cricket teams to go to away games with local villages. The break was drawn by two horses, the pick up point for the teams was the Merry Bells.

Cows from Ambrose Farm also passed up and down the High Street on their way to graze at Mr Rose's Breach Fields after morning milking.

Cattle were frequently moved up and down the High Street from the railway station and of course from the farms to the station. I remember one fresian bull on the way to the station causing quite a bit of bother even breaking the window of one High Street house.

Kent lambs in late spring were unloaded at the station, the lamb trains shunting off trucks all the way down the line at numerous stations. As boys we had to help with these, standing in peoples gateways, or blocking off a road junction, for where one sheep went invariably all the others went too.

I have seen the shire stallion come through Bell Lane and down the High Street after arriving at the station. It was usually decorated with ribbons in its mane and tail, it was going to either Ambrose or Crown farm and to outlying villages where farms were ready with their mares for service.

Pigs were sometimes driven along the street some of them finishing up in either Mr Thomas White's slaughter house opposite the Merry Bells or Ernest Alden's at the top of the street.