

WHEATLEY. The first sale of the New Year was held on Thursday when a capital commencement was made with an excellent supply of stock, a fair trade and good company. Messrs Franklin & Jones brought to the hammer 54 fat oxen and heifers, 5 calves and 260 fat tegs, wether sheep and ewes and with few exceptions the lots were readily disposed of, finding buyers from Aylesbury, Oxford, Thame, Watlington, Stadhampton Stanton St. John and the district around.

The market being closed for pigs made a great difference in the appearance of the sale yard, this class being generally well represented.

Jan. 23 1904.

Population last census	1901	873.
previous		920
before that		1000

F. Smith. Left Wheatley in 1888 ; unemployment was very bad: 30 men might be seen outside the old post office. Mrs Miller started a soup kitchen at the Merry Bells.

List of subscriptions etc. 1890 - 1891. (Mr Sturges.)

' Excellent free dinners were provided at the 'Merry Bells' during the depth of the winter, when many parents were out of work, and it was a pleasure to see effect produced upon the schoolchildren. Many thanks are due to all those who so kindly helped to make the dinners orderly, and supplied willing hands to assist in serving out the soup etc. The "Merry Bells" has never been put to better use. Whatever the sins of the parents may be, the hungry faces and ragged clothes of their poor little children appeal piteously to every Christian heart. "

Voluntary subscriptions were made for the School, Clothing and Coal Club, Mothers' Meeting, Choir Fund, Offeratory Fund. There were Provident Clubs and a Shoe Clubs at both schools. Subscriptions were given towards the upkeep of the Old Churchyard, which was laid out and planted with shrubs - under Mr Broadfoot's supervision.

Add Mr. Sturges's list.

From "Period Piece".

"--- not many people in Cambridge who had carriages, apart from the doctors, who drove about in broughams, in their top hats and frock coats.

---for the most part people depended on flies - four-wheelers - until first the tricycle, then the safety bicycle came in; and then bicycles became the chief vehicles for ladies paying calls.

" -- racing the tram was a Cambridge sport; a running child could beat it easily".

Mrs A. Life.

"Cooper's engine with the man and his red flag walking ahead. ---the great event of seeing a motor car when out for one's afternoon walk. Mrs Miller taking her airing in a carriage drawn by a pair of spanking black horses".

Mrs Hanson says in 1905

" The doctor has a car; he has just had to have a man from Birmingham for a week to put it in order. The cars are costly cattle. I think in England a carriage and pair a more enjoyable luxury than a car."

In earlier days mechanically propelled vehicles had a man with a red flag preceding them, as did Cooper's engine, which greatly excited the children

In that most entertaining book "Period Piece" Mrs Gwen Raverat says:-

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3. ROADS? TRANSPORT? LIGHTING, HEATING, COMMUNICATIONS.

Oxford Times.

Jan. 2 1897. under ' Local cycling notes'

(CARS)

" A motor car attracted a large amount of attention in Oxford this evening. The horseless vehicle was to be observed in High Street making its way towards Carfax at a pace of about six miles per hour. It appeared to be propelled by steam and with the exception of the ~~wheels~~ sound caused by the iron tyres of the wheels coming in contact with the road, was practically noiseless. It was a somewhat cumbersome concern, van-shaped, and evidently built for conveying several persons or a quantity of luggage. The top was covered in, the sides in the rear portion being open. The front portion was boxed in, the mechanism being situated in this part, where the manipulators were also seated. The vehicle excited the curiosity of a number of people, many of whom followed it along the street. This is, I believe, the first horseless carriage that has been seen in practical use in Oxford: the one that came round the streets in a recent circus procession being drawn by a horse.

(signed by "Mudguard")

Mrs Bayley.

" My earliest recollection is of being pushed about in a high perambulator shaped rather like a tin bath with handles at each end and no hood.

Older children were pushed in wooden slatted mailcarts with a centre division and seats facing each way - the children sitting back to back."

" He (Dr Barns) was one of the first people to own a motor car in the village and it was an object of great interest to us all, for a long time and when we heard it coming we rushed to the side of the road to see it pass."

" The Rev. Langdale Smith of Hinton also had a car - a three wheeled one with a very high seat."

Mrs Hanson. " The Dr here has a car; he has just had to have a man from Birmingham for a week to put it in order. The cars are costly cattle. I think in England a carriage and pair a more enjoyable luxury than a car."

Mrs Bayley.

" Sometimes we went to the Chinnor hills by horse-drawn brake."

" It (milk) was brought (to the station) in horse-drawn milk-carts"

" In those days the farmers from all the villages round Wheatley used to send the milk to London on the 8.40 train. It was brought in churns in horse-drawn milkcarts and the men used to put it on the train and take away the empty churns. They all went down to the Post Office to fetch the papers for the various villages. Very few people took daily papers and the news was passed from one to another. When any great event took place we usually had a copy of the Illustrated London News to see all the pictures, and this was passed around."

" When I was twelve years old I went to Oxford to school each day by train. Many others went too. We went by the 8.40 a.m. but could not return until the 6.20 p.m. ---"

" There was no electricity or gas in the village and the streets were lighted by oil lamps. The roads were very muddy in winter time and children wore high - buttoned boots. The farm- carts made the lanes very muddy and full of ruts and the mud often reached half-way to the hub of the wheels in wet weather.

The streets of Oxford were cobbled, with tram lines in the centre. The trams were horse-drawn and the seats on top open to the weather. They did not travel very fast and often it saved time to walk!"

" We liked to ride in the farm waggons ---"

" The stage coach used to run from the "Mitre" in Oxford to London. It stopped at the "King's Arms" and at the "Tree Pigeons" to pick up passengers and to change horses and we liked to hear the horn and see the scarlet coat of the driver. "

Mrs Bayley.

"

if they wanted to go to Oxford they walked over Shotover Plain".

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The men wore thick boots with nail-studded soles and the women slipped their feet into "pattens" to keep them out of the mud. These were wooden soles with a leather toe-cap and strap and an iron ring underneath to raise them from the ground. They usually kept them by the door and slipped them on over their shoes when they wanted to go out. On dark nights we carried lanterns to light the way.

Miss Gunn.

"Two-wheeled carrier carts with tilts made 2-weekly journeys to Oxford followed a few years later by 4-wheeled vans."

"No means of getting to Oxford Eye Hospital by 10 a.m. either by train or otherwise. I had to walk from Wheatley to get there for treatment.

The first down train was too late. It used to be interesting to see women start off on Saturday mornings 7 a.m. or before with huge baskets to walk over the Plain to do their shopping returned about noon. Milk carts brought the Churns from the surrounding farms to be sent to London daily by rail."

"I think one of the first motor cars that appeared in Wheatley was Dr Barns'."

Mrs Hanson.

(1904-1906 - Letters to her daughter)

"Herbert chose me some very good sorts of lamps all German "The Wonder" and some that put themselves out if they are upset, but three out of five were defective and have had to go back to Eagleston's.

"--we get most of our supplies from Oxford by carrier."

Mentions that 3rd class return by train to Oxford is 10d.

"I went to Forest Hill by the return cart of B's neighbor, who sends his milk to farm every evening via Wheatley station."

(4)

TRANSPORT ETC CONTD.

Mrs Hanson. She and Bertie invited me to stay the night but I was

glad to walk home after the concert ---by moon and starlight
with some Wheatley ladies who had an electric lantern which on a dark
night must be invaluable. ^{Oxford} Tramps are numerous on the roads - one of our
companions last night said a poor woman with vegetables in a donkey cart
had been stopped at 9 a.m. by 2 tramps and her fortune (2/6) taken from
her lately."

" My freely spending day ordered me a fly for me to go too"
(to call at Holton Park.)

" Trains go frequently from there (Aylesbury) and but rarely from here"
(to London)

" --J. is very good in trailing me every day now: on Friday he took me
all the way to Appleton thro' Oxford and by Cumnor Hill. I walked up the \pm
long hill - it is very hard work trailing ^x up hill: the wind was very
strong against us all the way and at last I took off my great flopping hat."

" There is a large show at Olympia of motor cars; Julius has taken sand-
wiches and is just going by an excursion train (3/6 return) to see it. "

" Mrs Burton's twins are due here this afternoon . J. engaged Spearing's f
ly to take them from the train at 4.23 to Mrs Allen's lodgings at Forest
Hill.

** When being 'hailed' one was seated in a vehicle like a
bath-chair attached to the back of a bicycle.*

" Ed is still bronzed by the sun of Normandy where he spent a fortnight
lately with Blanche - trailing her and fishing. "

" --(from Paddington) we had a pleasant drive across London in a hansom
--motor cars and buses abound now. "

" It takes such a dreadfully long time to get our news of each other -
how much may happen in 5 weeks -- and 5 more weeks before we get an answer! "

" Julius--- cycled to Salter's this morning and returned walking with the
canoe perched upon the trailer also conducting the cycle back".