

Carlton Village School 1938

Some of our senior residents, David Price, Dennis Bream and Norman Oldacres, have been reminiscing about their days in Carlton Village School in the late 1930's and early 1940's. The three of them, along with villagers Eileen Forkhill (nee Bream) and John Lowe can be seen in this photograph. Their memories give a fascinating insight into school life of that era.

All the village children, aged from 5 to 11 years, were taught in one room by two teachers. The children were divided into two groups with one teacher, Miss Smith, assigned to the younger ones while the other teacher, Miss Thompson, instructed the more senior pupils.

At the back of the school there were two small yards, intended as playgrounds, one for the boys and one for the girls. Mostly, however, the pupils played in the road in front of the school, entirely safe with practically no passing traffic. The girls would play skipping games with the ropes tied to the school railings. If weather permitted the pupils were allowed to play in the paddock immediately opposite the school.

On either side of the school building were gardens where the boys were given gardening lessons and learned the horticultural skills that would serve them well in later life. During the war years they were taken on walks around the fields to gather the sheep's wool snagged on barbed wire fencing. This would then be sent off to help with the war effort.

Amenities in the school were very sparse. There was no water supply and pupils used water from a rainwater tub to wash their hands. A large copper in the boy's yard was fired up to supply hot water when need. The school room was heated by open fires, later to be replaced by a couple of coke-filled stoves.

In those days the schoolroom was also the centre of social life for Carlton residents. Wooden benches and trestles would be brought out of storage for functions such as weddings, whist drives and concerts.

The following photograph has on the back row, Miss Smith (Dol) who was a resident of Barton in the Beans, William Lowe, Norman Oldacres, Gordon Price, David Price, Derek Orton, John Mead, Bert Ensor, Joyce Bailiss and Eileen Bream.

On the second row, Dennis Jones, Ronald Meek, Joseph Meek, Iris Jones, Maurice Jones, Winifred Spencer, George Milnethorpe, Peggy Bailiss, Beryl Dickens and Doreen Mead. The front row, Sylvia Jones, Dennis Bream, John Lowe, Jean Ensor, Lucy Price, Pauline Milnethorpe and Albert Price.

