

# **MAYPOLE DAY IN CARLTON**

One of the events that Eileen Faulknall remembers from her school days was celebrating May Day. On May 1<sup>st</sup> each child took a Maypole to school. The pole was the size of a broom stick and Eileen's was decorated by her father William, with buttercups, lady smocks (lilac), daisies and may blobs - tight yellow buds, which grew by the water.

The teacher gave each child a money bag and then they set off round the village to collect pennies, half pennies and farthings from each householder. At each house the children sang some songs finishing with, "Maypole Day the first of May. If you don't give us a penny, we'll all run away".

The final visit was to "The Gate Hangs Well". Mr & Mrs Lowe (John Lowes' parents) ran the pub and Mrs Lowe provided a tea of cakes and jelly for all the children. Whilst the children ate, Mrs Lowe counted out the money that had been collected and shared it out between them. Money in hand and full of tea the children returned home.

Source: Carlton News, May 2012, p.5