MR LEICESTER

1937: MRS PORTER'S BIBLE CLASS IN NEWBOLD VERDON

PORTER



THIS old photograph of Mrs Porter's Bible Class, in Newbold Verdon, taken in about 1937, was sent to me by Mrs H F Wilson, of Leicester.

It shows the class of 14 to 17-year-old girls, including Mrs Wilson's late mother, standing outside the Old Rectory.

Mrs Wilson's late grandmother, the well-known local historian Mary-Kate Gilliver, nee Wildman, had been in service to the Rev Hugh Jacques's family at the rectory.

Mary-Kate Gilliver had left the school, which was directly opposite the rectory, at the age of 13. She later married Mrs Wilson's grandfather, Fred.

Mrs Wilson says: "Meanwhile, her future father-in-law, George Gilliver, was running his funeral business at the top end of Main Street in the village."

The photograph shows, back row, from left, Beryl Jordan, unknown, Mrs Wilson's mother Grace Gilliver, Phyllis Preston, three unknown girls and Mrs Isobel Porter, wife of the eccentric artist Frank Porter, who many villagers will remember.

At the front are two unknown girls, Roberta Ball, unknown, Joan Statham and Elsie Ball.

Mrs Wilson says many relatives of the girls will enjoy recalling those years again, as well as the villagers.

Bible class girls named

THE photograph of Mrs Porter's Bible Class, Newbold Verdon, earlier this month caught the eye of Mrs B Taylor, of Barlestone.

Mrs Taylor can name the three "unknown" girls at the back of the photo.

She says: "The first from the left is my cousin Lorna Sindall, next is Mary Preston and the next is Iris Lawrence, my sister.

"Iris died the following year, February 24, 1938, aged 16 years, with TB. She is buried in Newbold Verdon cemetery."

Mrs Taylor thinks that another of the girls on the back row is Midge Plant.