Childhood Memories of N.V.C.P.School 1942 - 1948

The year was 1942 the Season was Springtime - we were in the midst of the Second World War - a 5 year old starts her first school term.

Miss Catlow was my first teacher. I shall always remember the lovely big light room with baby chairs and tables. There was a big blackboard nearly filling one whole wall with the alphabet across the top in capital letters.

After Infants we moved to Class 2 where Mrs. Spencer took charge. Mrs. Spencer was a resident of Newbold Verdon living with her husband Joe in Mill Lane. Joe Spencer was the village Post Man. Mrs. Spencer taught at Newbold for a very long time. A strict disciplinarian but her knowledge and teaching were first class.

Class 3 for a short time before her retirement our teacher was Mrs. Jordan. A loveable lady - I remember she always had a knack of turning a reading lesson into a marvellous afternoon - she used to read to us many stories but my favourite was The Wind in the Willows. After Mrs. Jordan retired we had a lady called Mrs. Muggleston. Mrs. Muggleston lived on at farm at Twycross - she used to come to school in a Car - this was very unusual in those days - not many people had cars. I remember her taking a party of us one lovely afternoon to visit her Farm. It was a marvellous occasion for us all as Twycross seemed as far away to us as London is now - still it was 40 years ago. Mrs. Muggleston would take us for long nature walks around the village.

Mr. Cadle our Headmaster for so many years took charge of Class 4 preparing us for higher education - we had to take the LL + in 1948. We had a mirror round mirror in the Class 4 Classroom with the words ~~Who am I~~ around it. I often wonder where the mirror ended its days. Mr. Cadle lived in the School House and took part in many village activities.

AM I CLEAN & TIDY

During this time Miss Catlow left us for pastures new and we had another lady for the Infants - Miss Adamson. Miss Adamson was very keen to teach us dancing. We used to dance round the Maypole on May Day - this was one of our main activities of the Year. We had a May Queen with all the pageantry. Maypole dancing, sword dancing, we also had a band with Drums, Symbols, Triangles and Tambourines. I have some photographs of May Day 1948.

When of course during our last year at Newbold Mr. Clinton came to join us. I remember the first time Mr. Cadle introduced him to us and told of his interest in Football. Needless to say we soon had a Football Team. Below is a photograph of the 1948 Football Team with Mr. Clinton and Mr. Cadle.

Another land mark during those War Years was the advent of School Dinners and the building of the new kitchens. I remember this well and the lovely dinners we used to enjoy. We also had a bottle of milk each day brought by Mr. Gilliver who lived at Gilberts Farm in Brascote Lane.

We used to play Shinty and Rounders in the Playing Field attached to the School. We always had a Sports Day. We also had Concerts each Christmas.

As our village was small - a population of around 1200 - we only had around 100 children at School at any time - only 4 classes and 4 teachers. Therefore, we were able to do things which would not be practicable now. We helped with the garden. We also had a fish pond and Bee Hives. Mr. Cadle would look after the Bees and when it was time to collect the honey Mr. Frank Brown the Church Verger would come along to do this for us. Another character of our School was Mr. Emmerson.