

COMPTON

By Marie Chambers

I am writing this as I remember. From approx. 1930's.

Children went to Compton School from the age of 5 years to 14 years, There was plenty of activity and entertainment at the school run by two teachers, Miss Scott and Mrs Pulleen. We had net-ball for girls and football and rugby for boys. A few pupils passed their scholarships and went to other schools. Their names stood out on a board in gold and that hung in the main classroom wall.



Empire Day at Compton School, 1920.

There was always Country dancing, the May Pole especially on Empire day in April. There was also plays and entertainment for the Village Fete and Flower Show that used to be held on the Village Green and sales at Field Place, it went on all day till late evening with dancing on the green in about the month of July.

Brownies, Guides, Rangers cubs and scouts were also very popular and going to camps was good fun.

The Blacksmith Shop was on the corner of the street almost opposite the "Harrow Inn" where the horses used to come to be shod also was the small garage joining the smithy, all belonged to the same family "The Sex Family" .

We were quite well off for shops and Callers. They were well stocked up with all our needs. The "Post Office" was run by a Compton Family, The Challen family. The Green Grocer at the "Withies Inn" end of the Village was run by Mr Wells a Father and Son Business. The Village Store was run by Mr and Mrs Jupp who used to bake the Village bread with the help of the Baker who lived in the 'Baker's Cottage'. Hot Cross Buns were always delivered on Good Friday morning and early at that. Mr and Mrs Jupp lost their only son during the war as an R.A.F. pilot.



Tommy Jupp

Also joining the stores we had our very own shoe-mender who was always very busy, but he would mend your shoes while you sat and waited. I believe his name was Mr Goddard.

We also had a Carrier his name was Mr Goddard and if we needed him we would put a letter (G) on the gate and he would call. Compton had a Potteries and we used to go from school to watch Mr Aubertine make the pots. A small staff painted the pots all by hand. Joining the Potteries is the Picture Galleries with quite a number of Paintings by Mr G.F. Watts. The first Mrs Watts was the actress Ellen Terry. The potteries no longer exist. The Co-op baker called with horse and cart, muffin man, a butcher and many others.

Of course there were no buses at first it was a walk to Guildford Town. There was no other way. Then a Mr Pullen who ran his own little Brown Bus. One day in thick fog down by the bridge, I believe at the end of

New Road, he had an accident and died. Then the Aldershot and District took over and we had our own bus service, seven days a week, a Theatre late bus once a week at 11pm. Of course very few people had a car those days.

There was also two village outings each year has as people did not have many holidays, so these days were very special days, one was run by St. Nicolas Church and the other from the Congregational Church, so that was two Charabancs full and an early start as the Chara's had to rest at the top of Bury Hill as they had a job to make it. Bognor Regis and South Sea were two of the most popular places.



The new Congregational chapel.

The road sweeper used to walk from Farncombe a Mr Smithers. He always swept and done it all by hand in all weathers.

There were five cottages joining the Harrow Inn which had to be demolished, in fact the ground where our Village Hall now stands was the gardens and drying grounds.

The only Hall then was a small building joining the Tea Rooms called the 'Coffee House' which was used for tea's till about the fifties. 'Mission Cottage' at the corner of the street was a little church until the Congregation Church was built at the corner of Spiceall Estate which is now a private house with a tea room.

Then there was Eastbury Manor and the Farm, the Manor now being a Private Nursing Home. The families who lived near the farm had to fetch their own milk from the Dairy, and families used to take their turn in getting their milk at 7am in the morning and take their own milk cans. The milk was lovely from the Jersey cows. My Grandfather was head gardener for Eastbury and lived with the family in one of the Dairy cottages opposite the old post office until he died.



The white horses of Eastbury farm.

The hay-making days were also fun with picnics in the fields and Eastbury Farm always had the White Horses and a grand sight to see them with the carts up and down the Village. Then twice a day the Jersey cows used to block the road when takin them from the fields to the milking sheds. I do not think that could happen now with all the traffic that goes through the Village today.

The men folk either worked on the Estates or for Mr W Jackson the builder at Jackson's corner. Very few people were able to run a car so most People either walked or cycled to work. My Father was the local plumber and I can remember no matter what the weather or time of night it may be he would go off without a grumble to mend the burst pipes which I believe used to happen quite often those days.

I don't think anyone stayed in Summer evenings on Sundays. Everyone went walking and walked for miles. Then of course there was the 'Hunt' a regular Monday morning sight, they used to meet at always at the corner of Spiceall which is now Spiceall Estate.

Not forgetting the New Year's Dancing till 1am. In the Village Hall run by the used to be 'Working Mens Club' and also 'The Harrow Inn' an always very popular place also holds many very happy times The War came and changed so many things some folks went into the Forces and some to other War Work, but memories still remain.

After the War years when Mr and Mrs Jupp retired Mr and Mrs George Ellis took over our Village Store for several years, but very sadly it had to close.

