

MEMORIES OF DINTON SCHOOL DURING THE WAR YEARS.

My husband, Frank and I both attended Dinton school. Frank started in the September 1938 and used to walk from Ford until the family moved to the council houses at Upton. A very long way for a five year old to walk every day. I started school in 1939 and walked from the green in Westlington across the school fields, past Mrs Pratt's field with geese who used to chase us. We would come home for lunch, so quite a bit of walking to do everyday.



My mother and grandfather both went to Dinton School so our family have enjoyed going to Dinton School over a long period of time.

We were both at school during the war years a very austere time. My father was away in the 8th Army based in North Africa for 4 years.

I remember the evacuees coming to the village. In the beginning they used the village hall for a time, with the locals using the school during the morning and the evacuees in the afternoon, eventually integrating into the classes with us.



We had interesting nature walks with Miss Counter, a lovely teacher. At the beginning of each month we used to bring any wild flowers we could find, one of each. I still look for the flowers in the hedgerows today.

An important regular occurrence was to have to stand against the walls for air raid practice and then having our gas masks checked. We had to take a small packet of food, mainly biscuits, in case we were kept in while an air raid was taking place, which luckily I do not remember ever happening.

We also were asked to take in a book or toy we no longer used to be passed on to someone else, I had been away when we asked to bring a toy and came in with my packet of biscuits which got mixed in with the toys, I can still see now someone very delighted with the biscuits rather than a toy.

In the winter we used to stand around the big stoves with a big fire guard around, these were in each classroom. Christmas time we would put on Christmas plays, I always enjoyed the singing around the piano. In the classroom we would make paper chains out of strips of paper and these would be hung from bars across the classroom ceilings. We also made Christmas cards cutting out paper into the shape of trees after which we painted.

In the summer we played the game of rounders in the field opposite the school, though the field did not belong to the school in those days.

Dinton School had very close links with the Church and we regularly had visits from the vicar Rev. Drury. On Ascension Day we would go to the church in the morning and have the rest of the day off.



I remember just as the war was ending, writing small notes about a church service to be held in the church, these were given out when peace was announced to the villages.

Happy days at Dinton School.

Pam nee Hopgood and Frank Jeffrey