



Cleeve Prior Chroniclers

Growing Up in the 1950's –Lin Hawkins

Food

Breakfast was much the same as we have today. There were the usual cereals and porridge, toast & marmalade and of course eggs and bacon. The only sugary cereal available were Sugar Puffs. We drank tea water or milk.

The main meal of the day would be made with fresh ingredients. Meat and vegetables hotpots stews and fish bought from the fishmonger in Evesham. The butcher delivered the meat twice a week and vegetables and fruit were grown in the garden or bought locally. You only had fresh food that was in season. We sometimes had tinned luncheon meat, sardines and salmon.

For tea we would have bread and butter with different spreads, tomatoes, cucumber and salads in the summer followed by some home baked cakes. At Sunday's tea we might have tinned salmon or cold ham with jelly or tinned peaches for afters.

<p>School Dinner 1953</p>

<p>Spam-Creamed Potatoes-Pickled Beetroot</p>

<p>Tapioca Pudding -Jam</p>

Clothes

We did not wear a uniform at school in Cleeve Prior in the 1950's, just our normal clothes. For winter I had flared skirts with straps going over the shoulders, and wore blouses and jumpers underneath with long beige socks and tie up shoes. For outdoors I had a long winter coat. After the Easter holidays the girls would start to wear summer dresses. I can remember having candy stripes, gingham and flowery cotton dresses. With summer dresses we wore white ankle socks and sandals. Most children had a best outfit to wear on Sunday.



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Boys wore grey flannel or corduroy short trousers, jackets, shirts and jumpers. They might have also worn a Roy Rogers tie and a snake belt. Around 1955 I got my first pair of jeans which I wore with the bottoms rolled up, we called them pedal pushers. I had my plaits cut off and put my hair up in a pony tail. Rock & Roll had arrived.

Play

1950's children on the whole made their own amusement. There were no worries of today and we were free to wander around the village. You either played on your own indoors or called for friends and went off and found something to do outside. It was rare to go and play at a friend's house unless it was for a birthday party. We would ride our bikes, build a den, and play hopscotch, marbles & jacks. Whatever craze was in at the time. At home we would play cards and board games such as Ludo & snakes & ladders.

1950's children had the usual bicycle, three wheelers, scooters and trucks made from old pram wheels and boxes. Most homes had building bricks puzzles, crayons and paint boxes, books and comic.

Boys played with toy cars and tractors, clockwork train sets, model soldiers and cowboys & indians. Most of them had a pen knife and bits of string in their pockets.

Girls had the usual dolls, prams, tea sets and all the things to play house with. I liked to play dressing-up and had a bag of old clothes and high heels and most importantly handbags. I also liked to play post office and had a post office set.

Every week at school the library books were put out in the infant's side of the classroom. Each pupil could take out one book. There was always a waiting list of those who wanted the latest famous five or secret seven.



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The Mill House Tea Rooms

During my last year at the Cleeve Prior C of E School, I became one of the coffee & tea monitors. We would walk to the Mill House Tearoom at the start of the morning break with the coffee pot which was filled with the coffee for the teachers, Miss Garret & Mrs Smithin. After school Dinners in the War Memorial Hall we would go again, this time to have the teapot filled. I still remember the lovely smell of percolated coffee & the peat burning on the open fire. I found out later that the peat was delivered by the lorry load from a supplier in Birmingham.

At the end of the 1950's I joined the team of schoolgirls who worked weekends and holiday times at the Mill House Tearooms. These were run by the Misses Betty & Pat Lloyd, who lived at the Mill House with their parents Mr & Mrs Jack Lloyd. I waited at tables and sometimes helped in the kitchen toasting teacakes. We had to wear awful overalls made from the owners old summer dresses. There were antique tables and chairs and white porcelain china was used to serve the teas.

The tea rooms were very popular with the patients of the Gertrude Myers Convalescent Home. These convalescing ladies would walk to the tea rooms and have their morning coffee & again afterwards for their afternoon tea. At the weekends the patients would bring their visitors along with them for tea. In the summer there would be other visitors from a wide area, often queuing for a table, the Lloyds own dining room would then be used & often the garden. China souvenirs of the village, vases, wade miniatures and other ornaments were on sale and were displayed in the front windows. The lovely cakes made by Miss Pat Lloyd could also be bought if ordered. The tea room car Park was where Walnut House is today , and if it was very busy cars were parked all along Hoden Lane

When Gertrude Myers finally closed, trade dropped and after a time the Miss Lloyds decided to retire. The Mill House & tea rooms were sold and the new owner Mrs Beaumont kept the tea rooms open. She also catered for private



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parties & dinners trying to build up the business. Eventually she had to close and the Mill house and tea room were divided into two houses.