

Hello Heritage...

The National School and Church St Shops

Local History Café Extended group is based at the Sir John Moore Foundation www.sirjohnmoore.org.uk



The postcard shows this building, then a National School. It was built to educate village girls (who were excluded from the Sir John Moore school). It opened in 1845, funded by then Squire George Moore.

National Schools were founded in the 19th C by the National Society for Promoting Religious Education. They provided elementary education, in accordance with the teachings of the Church of England to children of the poor. During this period education was first provided to almost all children.

Now a Church Hall it provides facilities for the Church and a social meeting place for the village.



In 1934, the girls were joined by the younger boys from the English (village) school to create a mixed Primary School.

Numbers of pupils proved too large for the facilities. In 1935 an inspector reported 96 children registered, with 3 classes, 2 taught in 1 room. Additional space was found in the Baptist Chapel on Church St (now demolished) and a temporary canteen. In 1947 water supplies to all 3 buildings were declared unfit to drink.

These arrangements continued until 1957! This picture shows Leaving Day after which the children moved to a refurbished SJM building, where they remain today.



Before supermarkets and widespread car ownership most people shopped locally. In the 1950s there were many village shops including, on Church St, a butcher, a baker and an ironmonger. None of these remain but you can still see signs of a shop window and of Bates general store (opposite Bowley's Lane), both now private accommodation. There was also a Co-op, demolished when Wren Close was built.

Additionally, retail vans visited the village, either on a regular basis or to deliver a specific order. These included paraffin for stoves and lamps, more extensive groceries and pots and pans.

Heritage on your doorstep...

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