

ESBIE GASSON / NICK JONES

I can remember when there was no Village Hall.

And the village people were trying to raise the money to build one.

We had several social evenings in the school with some entertainments party games etc. Then we had a new Rector to the village & he didn't approve of such things going on in the school & as it was a church school refused to let it for any more events.

This made the people more determined than ever to have a hall & decided to buy an ex-army hut. My Father Brother & obviously others but I can't remember who went to Holton Camp & bought the

Hut for £100

Mr Bryant of Preston Bissett provided a lorry. Free for transport & a group of men went one Sat. to dismantle the hut & brought it back to Akeley.

Mr Nicholls the farmer who owned the field gave the piece of land where it stands.

As my Father & Brothers were all in the building trade they built the brick piers to get the level. Brick fire places for inside. All labour was given free of charge. Plumbing decorating etc. There was no electricity. Heating by coal fires & lighting paraffin lamps.

That's how the Village Hall very much as it is now came into being. Esbie Gasson (Jones)

Mrs Edsie GAGSON
(Mrs Jones)

I was born in Akeley & lived in the same house at the top of the hill to Chapel End. & until I married in 1948.

When I was a child we had no electricity & relied on Paraffin lamps & candles for lighting & the only heating was a coal fire in the living room.

Water had to be carried in buckets from a pump half-way down the hill.

When we had a tap of running water installed in the scullery we thought that was a real luxury. My father had an allotment & grew all our vegetables we never thought of buying any.

We ate what was in season & stored root vegetables etc. for the winter. Enough potatoes

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beetroot, carrots ^{etc} to last the yr. We always kept 2 pigs one to sell & one to kill for bacon in the house. This happened twice a year Spring & Autumn. ~~My~~ I went to the village school & left at 14 yrs old.

My big regret was not having a better education.

Mrs Hollyoak & Edlie lived next door I only vaguely remember Mr Hollyoak he died when I was ^{a child} very young. Edlie was always different to the other boys in the village & mixed with the girls at play time etc. & when he grew up was always a loner.

But there was one thing he did very well he played the piano & also the church organ.

When the trains ran from

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Buck to Banbury he used to go to Banbury on a Sat afternoon to play the organ ⁱⁿ the Parish church.

The local people got to know about this stranger playing the organ & came to listen & gradually built up quite an audience this went on for a long time with his weekly visits until the Buck railway closed in 19--?

My Mother had 5 children Frederick, Albert, Ronald, Doris, & Elsie.

Albert was drowned when he was 2 yrs old. & Doris died of Diphtheria when she was 10 yrs.

Fred followed my Father into the building trade & was a brick layer. & worked at Stony Stratford, Coventry & then Rochester

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in Kent where he had his own business. He died in 1987.

Ron also was a bricklayer & worked at Stony Stratford, Banbury & Coventry. in 1938 he emigrated to South Africa & eventually had his own builders business also he had a Banana farm & a Macadamian nut farm. He was a very keen business man & did very well. His two sons carry on with the farms but sold the Builders part.

Ron died in 1993. 81 yrs.

~~At~~ I was seven yrs old when my sister Doris died she was at school on the Friday but complained of a sore throat & ~~only~~ Monday night she died. Only ill for 3 days. I can remember it well also the funeral.

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Owing to the nature of Doris's illness I was not allowed to go to school & I went to live with my Aunt & Uncle Mr & Mrs Harry Cooc. only a few doors away from home but not allowed to go there.

This was 3-4 wks & the longest 3-4 wks of my life. No school. no one to play with & couldn't go home.

When I left school I stayed at home for some time helping my Mother. She had been ill with Gall stones & had an operation in Northampton much more serious op. in those days she was in hospital 3 wks & very ill.

Then I went to work at the International Stores in Buck. & stayed there for 13 yrs.

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I was there all through the war years & rationing of food. I remember when we were allowed. 2 oz. of butter, & 2 oz margarine 8 oz sugar. 2 oz of tea per week many other things were rationed but I can't remember the amounts.

Cycling to & from work in the blackout was rather scary we were only allowed a very small shaded light.

There were six young men & the Manager plus 2 young ladies one as cashier & one counter ast. but when the war started they were gradually called up according to their age group, & replaced by women & girls except the manager. Sadly, some of the men never came back several killed in action & others to different occupations.