

## **Ruth Vernon`s recollection of life in Tetcott.**

Ruth was christened in Luffincott church. At that time Mr Wickett was the tenant of Luffincott Barton. Mr and Mrs Hawkins lived in the cottage in Luffincott lane and Mrs Hawkins was the organist in the church. After leaving school Ruth went to work at Belland for Mr Budge. Belland was not a large farm at that time as Belland moor had not been drained. In 1962 the winter was so fierce that the only water available for the farm and the house had to come from a well in the garden called Butterwell.

Ruth lived at Fernlake which was a couple of cottages just passed Luffincott shop on the way to Tetcott. The cottages are no longer there, but every spring you get some idea where they were by the daffodils and snowdrops. One of the cottages was a shop run by Mrs Doris Heard. She was licenced to sell tobacco. The bright shiny brass scales Mrs Heard used to weigh out herbs and spices sticks in Ruth's mind. This was the only shop between Clawton and St Giles, so life was busy people coming and going and chatting. At the time the pub in Tetcott was run by Mr Sluggett. The pub was where the old post office is now.

The school in Tetcott was run by Miss Milly Body, daughter of Mr and Mrs Body. Mr Body was the water bailiff on the estate. Milly was engaged to a sailor who found someone else after the war and Milly was so distraught she shot herself. Everyone in the village heard the shot. Mr and Mrs Body had already lost two son in the 1<sup>st</sup> War.

All social activities took place around the church, chapel and village hall. Ruth remembers two clergyman of that time who had a big role in village life. Rev. Mares had lost two sons in the war and he was a very angry man. Rev. Nesbit was a much happier chap. A youth club of sorts was held in the garden of the Rectory in the small building at the corner of the garden beside the road, where they were able to have a fire.

At Christmas there was a party in the village hall and every child under 15 got a present from the WI, an orange and some nuts. There was a Christmas tree with candles on and it was someone's job to make sure that tree did not catch fire. The DJ was Phil Colwill and Mr Tucker the Estate manager.

Between them they changed the records and turned the handle of the record player.

The WI played a big part in village life. Holsworthy WI organized the hirer of a canning machine. One day in the summer it was Tetcott's turn to borrow the machine. All the women in the village would bring their fruit and tomatoes to the hall to put them into cans which were sealed by the machine and taken home to be boiled and stored for the winter.

The piggery in the village was a gift from a local lady to the villagers. Pigs were kept in one end and they were slaughtered and processed, butchered and salted in the other end. This must have been a great help for the people in the village.

Chapmans well held a weekly and then monthly livestock auction in the field behind the Arscott arms. It closed in the 60s as the transport of livestock became easier.

The local butcher in the 40s and 50s was Mr Budge at Blagdon across the road from Nethercott. At that time Blagdon was part of the estate. There was a shop, slaughter house and a weekly round in a van.

The coronation of the Queen was a big event in the village.

There was a service in the church followed by a dinner in the hall.

Everyone marched from the church to the hall in the wind and rain. Every parish had agreed to have a beacon which was to be set light when the light from the next village was seen. It was decided that the honour of lighting the beacon should go to the eldest person in the village. Ruth recalls there being a big dispute between two senior ladies as to which was the more senior. Mrs Morrish was one of the ladies. So serious was this that Birth certificates were involved. It was agreed that both ladies should jointly light the beacon. However at the appointed time the ladies were getting ready, but the torch holder dropped the torch as he was passing it over so neither lady lit the beacon.

Ruth remembers being told that 'Stop a little' and 'Rushybank' were used as places to rest the ponies used to haul the barges by the Bude and Launceston canal company. Hence the name 'Stop a little'.

There was a track through the woods to the canal at Eastcott bridge.

The Mill acted as a post office for mail from Bude to Launceston.

Luffinacott shop/Black Smith shop would have been used by the canal company. Ruth can remember it closing as horse became replaced by tractors. People then had to take horses to Mr Horrel at Boyton.