

Originally housed in a small thatched building, Whitegate School was at one time maintained by Lord DeLamere. Today, the school is housed in a fine, modern structure, recently altered and improved, and is now officially Whitegate Church of England (Aided) School. With this status, the Church maintains its interest in the school and is responsible for the outside building and pays half the cost of the recent improvements. There are now about 44 children daily going to the school; Mrs. A. O'Neill is the headmistress and Mrs. G. Arthurson the infant teacher.

Reading through the Log of the school, from 1873, it soon becomes apparent that there was through the years, a constant battle between the demands of farm work at home and the need for education. On March 20th, 1873, we read, 14 boys were away from school doing farm work; August 20th the same years, six boys away for the same reason. On March 31st, 1876 there is an entry "Attendance falling off in consequence of potato planting time". Spring and Summer each year relentlessly took the children away from their school work and there is a constant report to the Attendance Officers, who regularly visited the school to see how the scholars were attending. It comes as the end of an almost personal battle to read an entry, many, many years later "Attendance Officer called - Nothing to report." Outbreaks of various diseases also closed the school upon occasions and in 1884, the school was closed for three months from September to November, and in consequence, there was no Christmas holiday break that year. Another three months break occurred from April to July 1886 when a new building saw the official start of the Mixed School, the girls having been taught until then in the building next door, now the home of Mr. and Mrs. J. Dean. Weather also played a part in the school attendance battle; blizzards and impassable roads in the winter and unbearably hot classrooms in the summer. Various social activities, also - Over May Day, Vale Royal fete, Methodist outings - affected the numbers and sometimes the battle was temporarily called off and an official holiday declared for some important event.

The following are some random entries in the School log:

July 23rd 1874. Summary of the Inspectors' report on the school:

"The result of examination in reading and writing are fairly satisfactory. In Arithmetic nearly every boy failed. This subject must receive far more attention during the current year."

July 29th and 30th. Two holidays on account of a fete in Vale Royal Park for the Restoration of Whitegate Church.

July 26th, 1886. Whitegate Mixed School. Staff: Thomas Simonson Certificated Master. Mrs. Newman, mistress.

School resumed work after an interval of three months in the new building on Monday July 26th 1886. The vicar opened the school by giving a short address to the children, and prayers. All the managers were present. School commenced work under the new arrangement, master taking upper standards and the mistress Standard 1 and 11 and Infants. Several scholars have left and gone to another school owing to the prolonged holiday.

August 22nd, 1886. Attendance continues satisfactory. Average over 100.

May 8th, 1888 The impression has been abroad lately that the fourth child of a family comes free to school.. This is not so but a reduction of pence is made. However on it being known that the fourth child was not free, but must pay 1d. instead of the usual fee of 3d., two parents must needs take their children away again until 5 yrs. old, though perfectly able to come to school.

- 7th April, 1896 Half holiday on account of the wedding of the Hon. Miss Cholmondeley.
- June 20th 1902. Arrangements made for the Coronation festivities. Each child will be presented with a medal and illuminated card from the District Council. In the afternoon they will be allowed access to Vale Royal Park for games and pastimes until 5 o'clock when tea will be provided in the schoolroom for the children and old folk. The rest of the evening will be spent in the Park with sports and fireworks. At the close each child will receive a coronation mug as a souvenir from Lady Delamere and the Hon. Mrs. Cholmondeley.
- Feb. 6th, 1903. There has been a lot of "toothache" amongst the children this week, which has affected the attendance. The District Nurse called yesterday, and, with the kind permission of her Committee, she was allowed to take several children to Northwich for free treatment by their dentist.
- Feb. 13th, 1903. "Toothache" seems to have been on the increase this week and the District Nurse was kindly permitted to take another batch to the Dentist this afternoon.
- Nov. 13th, 1903. The attendance has gone down again this week. The first class boys have been "beating" game.
- Oct. 2, 1914 The Girls are making mittens and the boys tobacco and match cases for the soldiers at the front.
- October 16th A case containing 135 waterproof tobacco pouches filled with pipes, tobacco and matches or cigarettes and matches, and 25 pairs of woollen mittens was forwarded to the Cheshire Regiment now at the front.
- Dec. 7th 1914 The children of this school have today forwarded to the Cheshire Regt. at the front the following: 32 body belts; 10 pairs of cuffs; 15 prs. mittens 4 prs. socks; 3 tobacco pipes; 3 ozs. tobacco; 25 pkts. cigarettes; 1 large box mince pies; 1 muffler and 4 bars of chocolate. (Many more throughout the war years.)
- Jun 20th, 1916 The children today picked a hamper of fox glove leaves which has been forwarded to the Manchester Druggists Association for the purpose of preparing a very necessary antiseptic drug which used to be purchased from Germany.
- Sept. 18th, 1918 A half holiday was given this afternoon. Pte. G. Lewis who left this school in 1912 being presented at the school with the D.C.M. and M.M. Medals by Col. Cooke, also with £100 War Savings Certificates and a gold watch.
- Oct. 14th, 1918 The older children were taken out to gather blackberries. 33lbs. were gathered and sent to Manchester.
- May 5th, 1920 School closed this afternoon to allow children to attend a large circus and menagerie at Over.
- June 16th 1922. A collection made by the children for the Winsford Infirmary pound day tomorrow realised 84 lbs. of goods, 56 eggs and 6d.
- May 7th, 1924. Board of Education report - The excellent arrangement made for the scholars mid day meal are to be mentioned with praise. For 10d. per week during most of the year nourishing meals are provided, prepared by the school caretaker. A benefactor has given material for table cloths with which to cover the desks, enamel ware, spoons, etc. The meals therefore, are eaten with more attention to training in social manners and comfort than is customary in the ordinary rural school at mid day. Other friends assist the enterprise with gifts which prevent any pronounced deficit.

- Dec. 17th, 1930 The Children gave a Christmas play entitled "The Crown of the Year" in the Village Hall, Meadow Bank, this evening, the Whitegate children being conveyed to and from by motor bus.
- Feb. 6th, 1931 School closed today on account of workmen being engaged in the installation of electric light.
- Jan 31st. 1940 Severest conditions still prevail. All the water pipes at school have burst. We have no supply of water. Six children who presented themselves at school were sent home.
- Feb. 1s. Village still snowbound. No supplies of water, milk or coal available for school use.
- Nov. 29th, 1940 Only 58% of the children present today, owing to the severe and prolonged air raid of the previous night. The raid continued into the early hours of the morning.
- Jan. 21st. 1949 Miss Lewsi and Mrs. Towers commenced duties in the school canteen this morning.

Mrs. S. Moore, who was the school caretaker for 36 years retired in 1959, when a presentation was made to her. Miss Lewis has been in charge of the School canteen since 1940; Mrs. Towers, Mrs. Tomlinson and at present Mrs. Ogden, have been her helpers. Mrs. Woolley succeeded Mrs. Moore as the caretaker.

WHITEGATE SCHOOL

CHILDREN'S CONCERT

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 8th, 1898.

PROGRAMME.

1	Prologue	...	...	Agnes Challinor and Tom Towers
2	Song	...	Now pray we for our country.	Seniors
3	Recitation	...	A sad case.	Frank Williamson
4	Action song	...	The Burlesque Band.	6 Boys
5	Handkerchief Drill	...	...	12 Girls
6	Song	...	Oh the first clear song.	Seniors
7	Solo	...	Nice little Boy Chinese.	Mildred Hudson
8	Recitation	...	The careful Messenger.	Marie Tomlinson
9	Duett	...	Reuben and Rachel.	Eliz. Heatley and N. Bennett
10	Action song	...	The little Housemaids.	10 Girls
11	Recitation	...	The Traces.	7 Juniors
12	Dumb bell drill	...	...	12 Boys
13	Song	...	My Polly.	Juniors
14	Duett	...	The flower Girls.	Alice Heatley and Mary Fowles
15	Recitation	...	Jack in the Box.	Tom Jones and others
16	Action song	...	The nigger Trio.	3 Boys
17	Song	...	Oh Golden glad September.	Seniors
18	Recitation	...	When Papa was a Boy.	Herbert Lyon
19	Action song	...	The new Town Band.	Juniors
20	Solo &c	...	I don't want to play in your yard.	M. Hudson and C. Leggat
21	Dialogue	...	The Irish hedge school.	Tom Towers and others
22	Scotch Medley	...	...	5 Girls
23	Solo	...	Gathering Violets.	N. Bennett
24	Dialogue	...	Tell us a story Grandma.	Fanny Bratt and Juniors
25	Action song	...	The Japanese Fan.	10 Girls
26	Song	...	Another fleeting day.	Seniors

GOD SAVE THE QUEEN.

PROGRAMME.

Part I.

- Prologue Louisa Blake.
 Pianoforte Duet ... "Il Bacio" ... Miss & F.G. Dexter.
 Scarf Drill..... Girls.
 Recitation..... "The Butterfly's Ball" Sarah Lightfoot.
 School Song..... "Before all Lands" .. Older Scholars.
 Recitation "A Trifle Mixed" ... Bert Robinson.
 Duet "The Larbeard Watch" .. Ralph & Geo. Williamson.
 Recitation... "A Rhyme for Little Folks" .. Edith Lightfoot.
 Song & Chorus.. "Won't you buy my pretty Flowers?"
 Mary Fowles.
 Pianoforte Duet... "Beautiful Isle of the Sea." Miss
 & F.G. Dexter.
 Dumb-bell Drill Boys.
 Song "The Flag". ... Ralph Williamson.
 Recitation..... "Poor Dolly" ... Mary Williamson.
 School Song .. "The Whistling Farmer Boy" ... Older Scholars.
 Recitation..... "A Story of an Apple" ... Nellie McFall.
 Song and Chorus... "Poor Old Joe". ... John Tomlinsons
 Recitation..... "Two little Kittens" .. Emma Allcock.
 Duet..... "All's well". . Older Scholars.
 School Song..... "Little Birds sleep sweetly" Infants.
 Sketch..... "Home from the War" Older Scholars.

I N T E R V A L.

Part II.

HUMOROUS OPERETTA "MISFITS",
 or Strange Adventures in a Waxwork Show.
 God Save The King.

Doors open at 6.30 p.m. Commence at 7. Admission 6d (reserved 1/-)
 PROCEEDS FOR CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS TREAT.

WHITEGATE NATIONAL SCHOOL

Children's Concert

Thursday Evening, December 18th 1902.

PROGRAMME.

Part I.

- Prologue..... "A little girl's School" Lilian Emery.
 Song "Cherry Ripe". ... M.J. Fowles.
 Recitation..... "the Seaside" .. A. Woolley.
 Song and Chorus..... "The Sons of the Sea" .. R. Williamson.
 School Song... .. "Dewdrops".... Older Scholars.
 Recitation..... "A new Parasol" L. Blake.
 Song & Chorus..... "Where is Home?" Older Scholars.
 Recitation..... "The Two Blacksmiths" N. McFall.
 Scarf Drill Girls.
 Dialogue..... "Old Betty" F. Dunn and E. Smith.
 Mimic Band..... W. Dodd, R. Brown, T. Fowles, G. Whitley, R. Clarke,
 W. Smith.
 Recitation..... "A Little Boy's Troubles" ... C. Emery.
 Song and Chorus..... "Grace Darling" M.J. Fowles.
 Recitation..... "Mr. Nobody" T. Hughes.
 Song & Chorus..... "The Old Folks at Home" .. E. Lightfoot.
 Song & Chorus.. "Newer Forget the dear ones" .. Older Scholars.
 Sketch..... "the Worried Wife" D. Wooley, A. Jones, C. Emery,
 P. Gerrard.
 Coon Song..... "Sue" R. Williamson.
 School Song. "Swinging" Infants.
 Humorous Song..... "The Sparrow" Older Scholars.
 Dumb-bell Drill..... Boys.
 Hushaby..... "bedtime" .. M. Williamson, A. Robinson,
 M. Gerrard, E. Lewis, H. Bettley, L. Clarke, L. Blake

Part II

A CHILDREN'S PLAY - CINDERELLA

with Gladys Lightfoot with other girls

There was a large audience of parents and others interested in the village school at the children's concert given on Thursday evening, under the chairmanship of Rev. H. G. Youard, vicar. The programme was again of a capital order and Mr. B. Dexter (the headmaster) is to be sincerely congratulated on the high standard which the little artistes had reached under his coaching. In this work he was ably assisted by his son (Mr. F. G. Dexter) Miss Robinson, Miss Bevin and Miss F. E. Dexter, the latter also fulfilling the position of accompanist with every satisfaction.

Between the acts of the play, Fanny Bratt and Thomas Jones danced a polka duet. The children acquitted themselves remarkably well and the proceedings were thoroughly enjoyable. Each scholar was the recipient of a bun, orange, and a box of chocolates at the close of the concert.

1903.

CHRISTMAS TREE AT THE SCHOOL.

The children spent a happy time in the school on New Year's Day. With her characteristic generosity the Hon. Mrs. Cholmondeley (Abbott's Moss) gave a Christmas tree, which was erected in the school and loaded with all manner of good things dear to the hearts of children. Mrs. Cholmondeley was accompanied by her two daughters, Miss Cholmondeley and Mrs. Hibberts, whilst the Rev. H.G. and Miss Youard were also present. About 100 children were entertained, Mr. P. Perival (Northwich) catering in his usual good style. Each of the scholars was the recipient of a present at the hands of Mrs. Cholmondeley, who also distributed the contents of the tree amongst them. Games were afterwards indulged in and it was a happy band of children who returned to their homes about 8.30. Mrs. Cholmondeley also kindly presented each teacher with a book as a New Year's gift.

CHILDRENS' ENTERTAINMENT.

The annual entertainment given by the children of the Whitegate National School was held on Friday and a large audience filled the schoolroom to witness the efforts of the juveniles. The programme was a varied and lengthy one, and so complete were the arrangements made that every single item was faithfully carried out, and which reflected the highest possible credit on Mr. B. Dexter (the headmaster) and Miss Dexter, their tutors.

The second part was represented by the humorous operetta "Misfits" or Strange Adventures in a Waxwork Show, the characters in which were charmingly sustained by Marie Tomlinson, Alice Heatley, Gladys Lightfoot, Lizzie Lightfoot, Frances Dunn, Annie Towers, Constance Clerk, Bert Robinson, Ralph and George Williamson, W. Dexter, W. Lewis, G. McFall, A. Gerrard and T. Copeman. Miss Dexter ably discharged the trying duties of accompanist. Before the juveniles separated they were treated to light refreshments, and each was the recipient of a toy, purchased at the expense of the concert fund. Mr. J.P. Jackson officiated as chairman. Miss Robinson also played a prominent part in arranging the schoolroom.

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Mr. G. Shaw copied this photo, loaned by Miss Ikin, to show us members of the Village School, in 1920, with Mr. Forrester Nixon, Headmaster.



Father Christmas (Mr. G.W. Leadbeater) has paid his annual visit to the children at the school, after their Christmas party. 1953.

CHESHIRE EDUCATION COMMITTEE

Whitgate C.E. School

Northwich

13.3.46

I knew Violet Nancy Hodgkinson as a scholar, at the above school for eight years.

During the whole of that time she was punctual and regular in attendance.

She was bright and quick at picking up new ideas, and the whole of her work was always carefully carried out, and very neatly arranged.

She was of a pleasing disposition and anxious to perform the work given to her, well, and to the best of her ability.

Since leaving school she has continued her studies, taking courses in commercial work.

She is trustworthy and honest, and I think, whatever position she attains she will work creditably and conscientiously.

Signed.

H. L. Byron

Head Teacher

ST. MARY'S CHURCH, WHITEGATE

VILLAGE FAIR

On Whitegate Green

SATURDAY, 28th MAY, 1960



(The 'Royal' Retinue, May 1959)

Opening at 2-30 p.m. by

Mrs. O. LYON WHITTLE

Admission by this programme

ADULTS 1/-

CHILDREN 6d

AMPLE FREE PARKING SPACE
IN VALE ROYAL DRIVE

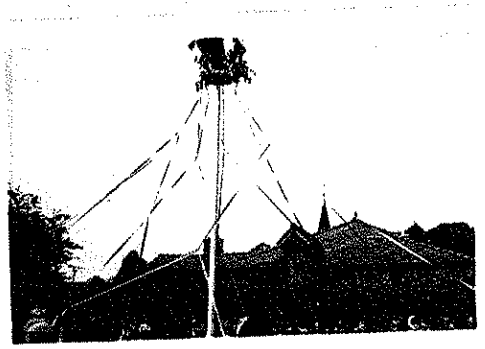
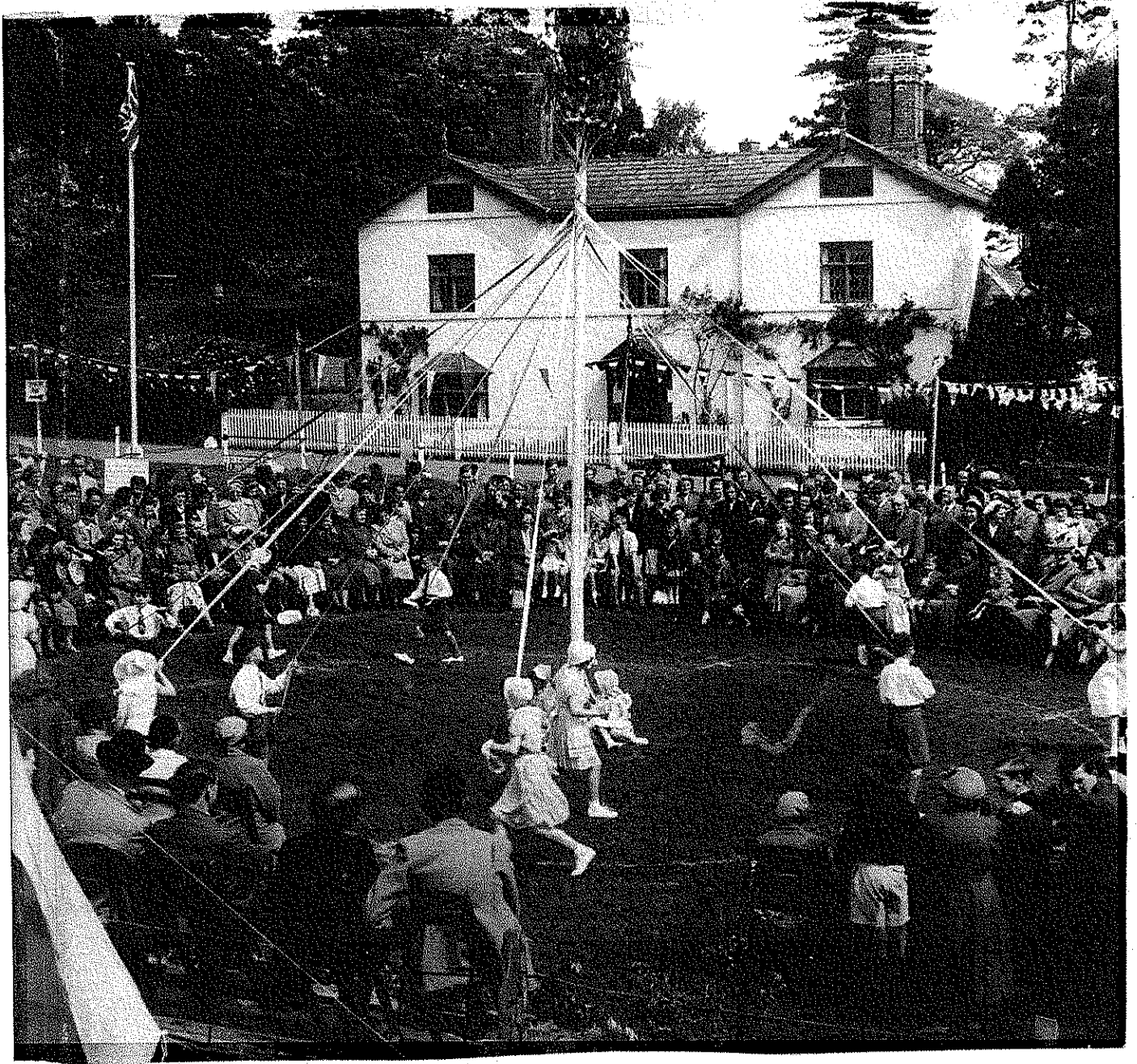


Whitegate's first May King and Queen - Robin Slater and Dorothy Carter, 1958.

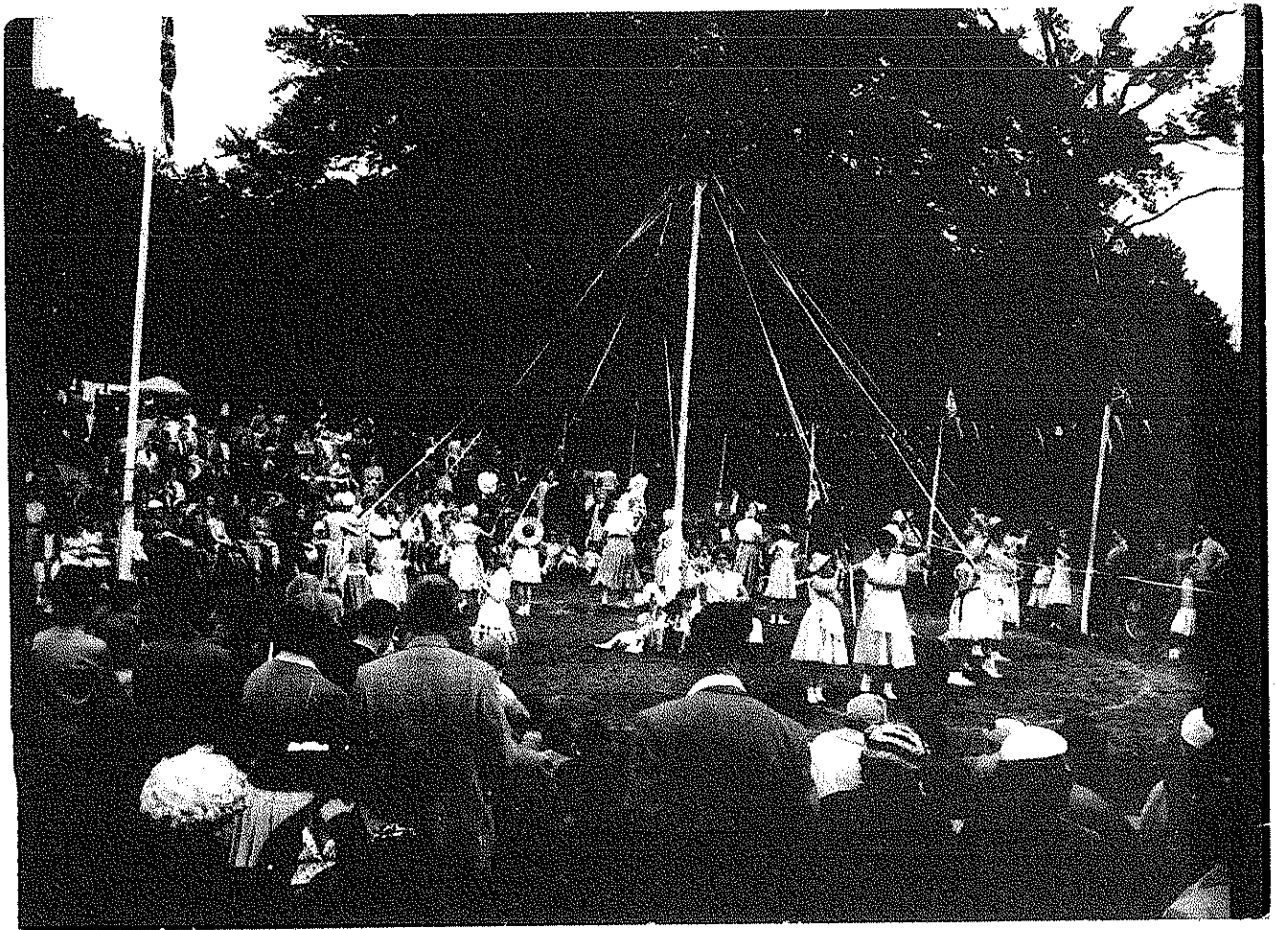


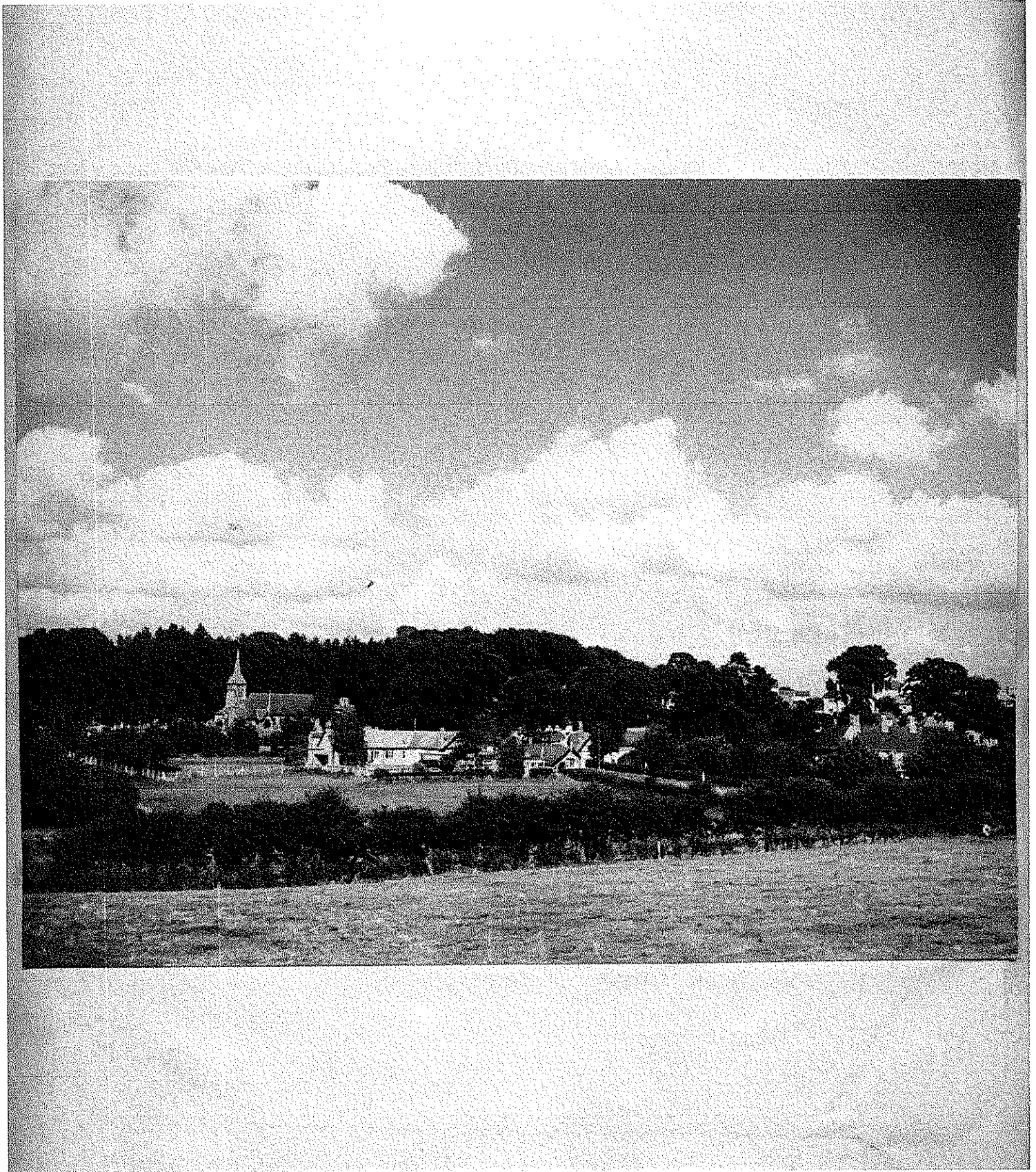
Photos. contributed by Mrs. G. Hunter and Mrs. Dorothy Copeman.











Living in Whitegate.

Maureen Gibson.

I like living in Whitegate with my two Sisters and Mum and Dad. We have a Shetland pony, two cats and an alsation dog. The pony's name is Tony, the cats' names are Spotty and Cookie, and the dog's name is Judy. Judy will be having pups soon.

We have written off for the dog called Shep. He was shown on Double your money. Dad gave me permission to write for Shep. When Judy has pups we are going to sell them except for one. Josie and I are having first choice. When we get it we might call it Rover.

We have two miles to go to school and we go on bikes, and we don't mind going on bikes. My favorite lessons are Arithmetic and English.

We have one hill to come up, and two hills to come down coming to school, but going home we have two hills to go down.
We live at Spring Bank Farm.

Living in Whitegate

Carole Jones

I like living in Whitegate with my Brother Kevin, my Grandma, Mum and Dad. When I get home at night I am playing with our four pups and our dog. We have got five dogs, two rabbits, a gold fish and a budgerigar. I like the pups best because they are only a month old. If you take your shoe off, they take your shoe and hide it behind a chair and start playing with it.

At School I like doing English best of all and painting on a Tuesday afternoon. I have a long way to come to School. One of my Friends has further to come. I wish I still lived down Mill Lane because there was someone to play with, and it was nearer to School living there. At Beauty Bank I have

no one to play with except my brother, but he wants to play cowboys all the time, and a little girl called Deborah and she is only six years old. Sometimes I play with her and Kevin plays with her brother. Sometimes we play in the fields when my cousins come.

Elisabeth Lowe living in Whitegate.

I like living in Whitegate because the people are kind and I like the country. I would hate to live in the town. I have three and a half miles to come to school.

I have a sister who likes Whitegate as well and she was christened at the church.

I wish I lived further in Whitegate because we live near a busy road and all my friends live nearer school than I do so I can not play with them.

I like coming to school because the teachers are nice and I like the dinners. I would hate to go to any other school.

I like going up Grange Lane because that is where all my friends live. I play mostly with Alexandra at school and she is one of my best friends.

I like school because when we go for nature walks in the summer we go in the woods with Miss Smart and Mrs. Ornell and it is really nice. The only things I do not like are math and spelling. I like English and Research, reading and painting and they are what I like the most.



