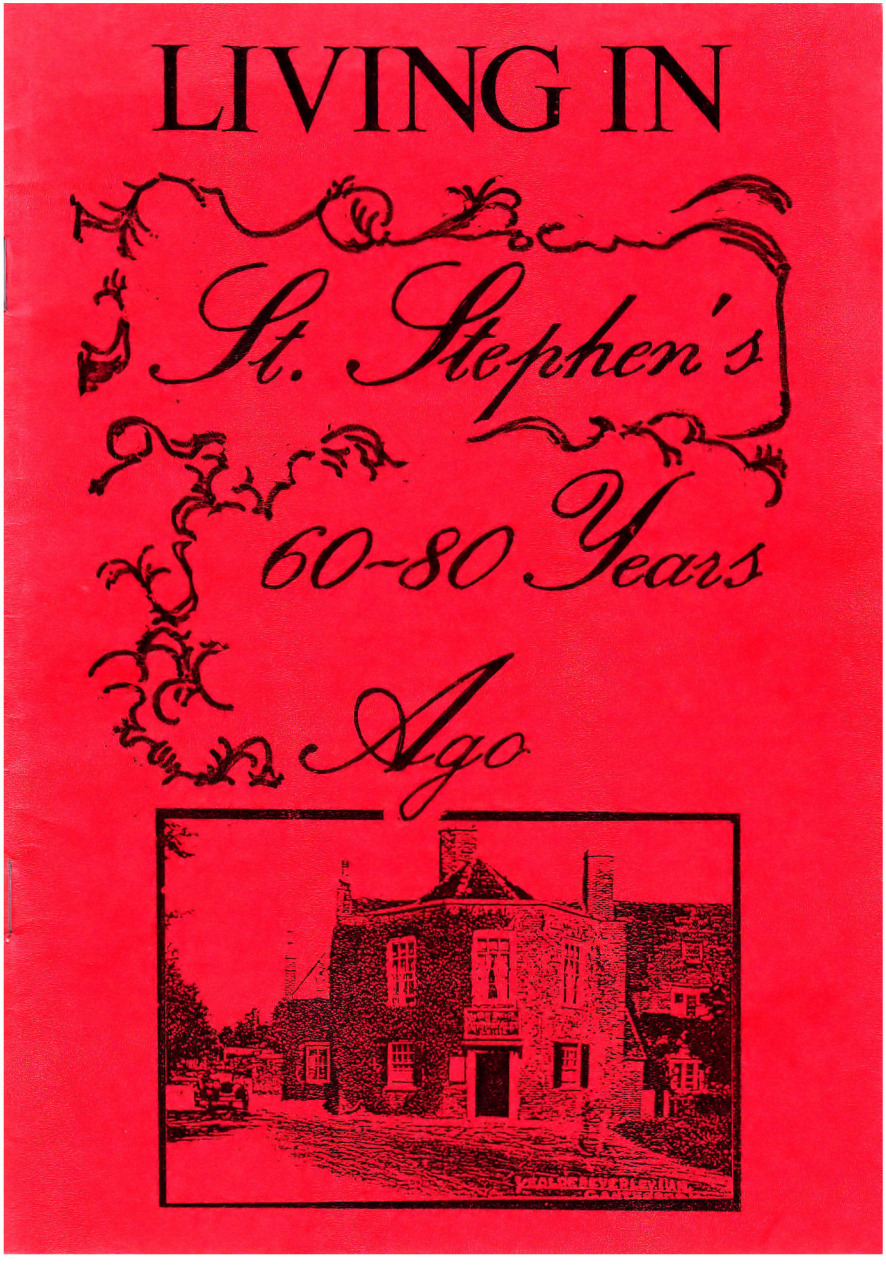

CHAS SCANS

Between 1977 and 2002 Canterbury Urban Studies Centre and Canterbury Environment Centre published around 30 guides and city trails describing various aspects of Canterbury's past. Both organisations were based in St Alphege church.

Between them they produced 14 titles in the 'Trails' series, and a further 16 titles outside the main series. All are now out of print and many are difficult (a few impossible) to find through normal second hand sources. Many contain information that is not readily available in other printed or on line sources.

CHAS (Canterbury Historical and Archaeological Society) is scanning a selection of these publications for uploading to the CHAS website as PDFs. In this way a new generation of readers and researchers can have access to this unique resource.

A full list of these publications appears on the CHAS website:

http://www.canterbury-archaeology.org.uk

The two people whose early lives are featured in this booklet were interviewed and recorded by the Oral History Unit of the Canterbury Centre. The advent of the portable tape recorder has made it possible to collect a record giving details of life years ago which are stored in the memory of our older citizens. This is a very valuable source of social history in a century which has seen so much change. This information is particularly interesting to children and this particular booklet has come into being because it has been commissioned by St. Stephen's Primary School.

The Canterbury Centre is particularly interested in memories of the City and its nearby villages. so if you have lived here any time before the First World War or have a friend or relative who did so and would be prepared to help in our work by being interviewed please write or ring ANNE POPE at the Canterbury Centre (457009) or evenings (Canterbury 452961).

JIM HAIMES was born in St. Stephen's in 1916 in a cottage on the Hales Place estate. His father was a cowman employed by the Jesuits, a religious order which had bought the estate from Miss Mary Hales in 1880.

"This huge College was a building of four to five storeys high, and almost in the centre of it was this chapel which was in use by the fathers on the estate."

Q. You say "College", did that mean they trained other Jesuits?

Yes, they trained other Jesuits, yes.

Q. How many fathers were there, roughly?

I should say at least three hundred. It was a very big College and a very big estate. It had its own theatre, it had its own kitchens for meals, its own classrooms, it was about one of the finest buildings round Canterbury in those days. Then attached to it was the different workshops for carpentery, plumbers, blacksmith's shop and all like that for doing maintenance on the estate.

Q. They employed people as well as as doing the work themselves?

Alot of them done work themselves but they employed a few from outside. My uncle, three of his sons then worked on the estate, and they had them for cutting down the timber and growing all the food and fruit, haymaking and all sorts of things like that which you get on a big estate.

My Dad had a cottage on the estate which was right over by an old monastery (it was in ruins when I was a young lad) right up Park Alley at the far end of Hales Place. My uncle, he lived in a farmhouse on the bottom part of St. Stephen's Hill on the right hand side. The main entrance into the College, off St. Stephen's Green, there was a wee bungalow, a Mr. Cranfield lived there. He was the gatekeeper. There was two big brick buildings with a gate in the middle which let the horse-traffic through and a small gate in which he let anyone going to the College because they wouldn't have just anybody on the estate in those days. My Mother and sister were living on the estate, of course, but when they had to go to church on a Sunday morning, they used to have to come down round the outside part of the estate through the fields and woods and go up the main drive to where the Chapel was.

Q. Did you have a road up to your cottage then?

No. To get to our cottage you had to go right the way along the Terrace, then we went down an avenue of trees which was called "the Rose Walk", past the little chapel, and there we had to go through the woods. There was no road!

Q. How big was your house?

Only two up and two down, no bathroom or toilet for the toilet was up the garden. The tap was up the garden, there was no tap in the house at all. In the summertime sometimes you wouldn't get any water. We used to have to go with my truck to a field near there and get water out of a spring, or otherwise, right down to the gate-keeper's cottage, we used to have to bring water home from there.

Q. You had a front room and a kitchen?

That's right.

Q. What did your Mother cook on?

She had a Kitchener, and then we had an open grate where she cooked by an old hanging pot, an iron pot for boiling water, and a big iron pot was always there, a stock pot with all bones and things like that. We used to have coal brought by a Mr. Parker, Mr. Ernie Parker and his brother-in-law, with a horse and cart. Because my Mother got a ton of coal she got it for nineteen shillings a ton - she had a shilling off. They would bring it down near the railway - they would bring two ton of it, unload one ton of it and with the horses they would go up to where we lived. By the time they got up there it was time for them to have a drink and to have a meat pudding which she would have boiling on the old saucepan for their lunch, and they would go back again after lunch and get the other ton. That coal would go the winter because being on the estate we always had plenty of firewood. Mother only burned coal in the Kitchener. The open fire was in the front room where would be iron pots hanging. There would always be an old iron kettle there with water in it for anyone come for a cup of tea. And of course, you've got to remember that all water was boiled. You couldn't drink it like you can out of a tap today. But for drinking water mainly it would be water I'd brought home from the village in stone jars, that was our drinking water. Carry them in the truck, a wooden truck with wheels, a box with two handles and you'd pull it along, there would be one or two stone gallon jars.

Q. What was your favourite meal your Mother used to cook?

Well, anything like steak and kidney pudding, or steak and kidney pie, rabbit pie. Because my Dad was always catching a rabbit, on the estate you could always catch a rabbit and, well, that was main meat meals. We always had plenty of vegetables.

Q. Your Father grew the vegetables?

All the vegetables, in the garden, yes, a big garden.

Q. Did your Mother make her own bread?

No. Our bread came from the bakery of Mr. Warboys in North Lane, Canterbury. He would come twice a week, mainly, in those days, cottage loaves and Mother would make buns and that. If we'd got company coming we'd perhaps have cream cakes, and he would bring small lots of grocery, jam and things like that. We had plenty of milk and cream and things like that, skimmed milk and milk from the farm my Father would bring home. That was part of the 'perks'. Wages was very, very low in those days. My Father's money wouldn't be much over £1!

Q. How did your Mother get things like soap powder? Well, it would be soap in those days, wouldn't it?

It was carbolic soap in those days, and the old scrubbing brush and the old copper. In the outhouse - there was a shed where the old copper would be for doing the washing in, and then she had an arm mangle for mangling the clothes, and for drying them, well, there was a field by us and she'd have the clothes line out there and they got blown - just the job!

I went to St. Stephen's School but when I was what - twelve, thirteen years old, I went to the Blean School.

Q. Can you remember what St. Stephen's School was like?

It was just a little country school with two classes. The Headteacher was a Miss Blackman and it was near the village green at the Beverlie. That was the village school, walked through the woods to the village school!

Q. Have you memories of what you did when you first went to school as a little boy of five?

Well, you had your slate and your chalk for learning words and so forth. Sums! Then you also had a book for learning to write in. It was a very basic sort of thing. At certain times the teachers would take us out for lessons round about on the outskirts of the estate. Nature lessons, mainly for different birds and wild flowers and different things like that.

Q. Did you have a playground?

Oh, yes, a small playground and then, for playing on the grass, we used to play in what they called the Recreation Ground which was by St. Stephen's church.

Q. As you grew up did you play football, cricket?

No, only amongst ourselves at school.

Q. Would you make a guess as to how many children were at St. Stephen's at that time?

I should say perhaps sixty or seventy. There would only be about two or three classes.

Q. What did you wear when you went to school?

An old pair of - well, wasn't old - wooden clogs for one thing for going through the mud, going through the snow. In the winter time you would put some hay in your wooden clogs to keep your feet warm. You'd have a pair of socks and a pair of knickers, well, trousers, like. You had a shirt or you had a shirt and a jersey, and you'd have a coat. I was still in short trousers and didn't have a pair of long trousers until I went to Blean School.

Q. Did you have socks up to your knees?

Yes, up to your knees. Tied with an elastic garter.

Q. Did you wear caps?

A. You had just an ordinary one, got just "S.S." - St. Stephen's School.

Q. What made you go to Blean School?

Well, all children of eleven years old which came from Harbledown, Blean, Tyler Hill and a certain area in St. Stephen's went to Blean. Other children went to Canterbury Schools like St. Dunstan's. More sport there at Blean School, more education there because it was a new school. I was keen on gardening so I had a little garden there.

Q. Did you have the Vicar come in to St. Stephen's?

Yes, quite often, prayers and so forth.

Q. Did you go home to lunch?

No, mainly took sandwiches at St. Stephen's but when we went to Blean we had cooked dinners. It was sixpence a meal in those days.

Q. When you were a little boy in St. Stephen's how did the mistress keep discipline?

Very, very strict! Either a good handslap round your ear, or, some of the older ones, the cane. Had the cane there. One of the favourite ones used to be the ruler - a wooden ruler, and that would be given to you on the hand. If you didn't go to school by nine o'clock, the School Officer would be along to your house to see why you didn't go, to make enquiries. You more or less had to go to school.

Q. Do you remember the hop gardens around at all?

I remember the hop gardens at Tyler Hill which belonged to a Mr. Whiteman. I used to go have to go hop-picking. My Mother never went but I used to go with a family from Tyler Hill named Marsh, and got threepence or fourpence a bushel for picking hops to get enough money to buy a pair of boots or a coat or a pair of trousers to wear for best. Practically all your school holiday was taken up hop-picking because it was the only way parents could get money to spend on their children for clothing for them going back to school.

Q. Where was the sweet shop nearest to you?

At the Old Beverlie at St. Stephen's. A Mrs.and Mrs. Wilson kept the Beverlie in them days and they had a window where they had jars of sweets which was supplied by a firm in North Lane name of Finch. They done minerals, ginger beer and lemonade and they also supplied sweets, mainly boiled sweets. You could buy a farthing humbug or a farthing stick of liquorice, sherbet dabs, all a farthing a time, or halfpenny if you had a big one.

Q. When you were a child did you have toys?

Oh, yes! 'Course, you had a ball, kind of football like, then your Dad would make you a wooden train with wooden wheels or you would have an iron hoop and then, for another thing, you would have a top. Another thing we used to call "puppy dogs", and that was a blacking tin lid on a piece of string and you run along with this along the road, because they were old gravelly roads, there was no tar-mac then, not in the early days of my school life, and you'd run along with these 'puppy dogs' and chase after one another.

Q. It made a great deal of noise?

That's right!

Q. What did you do particularly at Christmas time?

Well, for one thing at Christmas my Dad would go out in the wood and get me some fir boughs to tie round with a piece of string and stick them in a flower pot or tub or anything, to make a Christmas tree. On that he would

put some little coloured lights, not fairy lights, coloured candles, and you'd have one or two chocolate mice or sugared mice and things like that, and then your aunties or your uncle, relations, would give you small gifts of toys and small things like that.

Q. Did you have a stocking?

I could be a lucky one and I used to put up a pillow case. For Father Christmas, on the mantlepiece a piece of cake and a drop of, well, it was wine then. More likely home-made elderberry wine or rhubarb wine. They used to make a load of that along with dandelion wine, and that would be left there for Father Christmas. You'd be up at the crack of dawn to see if he'd been!

Q. Did you ever go away on holiday?

No, no! Our holiday used to be once a year Sunday School trip or school trip to Whitstable on the old Puffing Billy train!

Q. What would you used to do when you got there?

Well, you had sixpence in your pocket to spend, you might have had some more pennies. For a penny a go you would try and win a tin of toffees, Sharp's toffees in those days, for your Mother. If you won a little tin of toffees you didn't have to buy her sweets, then you had some more pennies for a go on the swings and then, just off the sea-front at Whitstable there was a cafe where they used to put on tea for you, and it used to be a real good day out. The railway - it was a narrow gauge railway though Whitstable tunnel and as you went through the

tunnel, being boys and girls, you never shut the window, you stuck your head out! Well, it was a very dangerous tunnel because there wasn't alot of room, and you'd be as black as ink by the time you got there. First stop would be Blean Halt. Just the other end of the tunnel, Tyler Hill, there was a little station there. There was another one, I believe it was South Street. When the train got to Whitstable it left you off at the station, and then it went over to the Harbour to go on a turntable to turn round to bring the train back again. One of the engine drivers was 'Daddy' Pearson, a very old engine driver, and another one was Jack Lowe. They used to drive them two engines regular. There was a proper little place at Canterbury West Station where you could buy your ticket - about twopence or threepence or something like that. It was the nearest seaside place to Canterbury and lots of people used to use it for a day out at the sea. All sorts of children's parties would use it. There was a Goods wagon on there too. In them days there was alot of goods went from Whitstable Harbour. There would be timber, there would be coal coming in there from the coal barges, corn, wheat and barley, besides other goods.

Q. How old were you when you left school?

I left school when I was fourteen. I left school on the Friday and I got a job on the Monday at Alcroft Grange, Tyler Hill. The master of the house there was Captain Oldham and I got a job there as a gardening boy. There was the Head Gardener and another gardener and I was the boy. I went work there for seven shillings and sixpence a week which was 7 am in the morning until 5 pm in the afternoon. Very, very strict rules there. Whenever you see the master had to stand to attention, more or less salute him, bow your head and you daren't speak to him unless he spoke to you.....

FREDA BALDOCK was the seventh child in a family of eleven. Her father and grandfather ran a steam traction engine business in Tyler Hill early this century. She was born in 1903 in a house in Tyler Hill (no longer there) on the Whitstable Road. Later the family moved to what is now called 'Highland House'.

"I'm actually the seventh but most of them, as they grew up, went about their various ways. My sisters were working in London. One was a companion to somebody and another one was a parlourmaid. They did that sort of thing.

Q. What did your Father do?

He had traction engines, they were great big steam engines. They carried stuff for mending the roads and all sorts of things around. You see, the roads were made up of stone. There was stone put down, and gravel. There were gravel pits at Sturry and I know my Father, he had two or three engines of various sizes and he got the stone and gravel from there and carried it all round. Dropping it along the road in piles all ready. For the making of the roads, you see, was always done in winter.

Q. And they used coal, did they?

Yes, they had coal in by truck from the collieries which they used to collect from the coalyard down at the bottom of North lane and then that was dumped up here, you see, in great piles, great stacks. Steam coal and household coal. Well, steam coal - I remember it referred to as Welsh steam coal.

Q. So he had quite a thriving business up here then?

Yes, I suppose so. I don't think we were well-off but we never wanted for anything. We always had "best clothes" and "weekday clothes" whereas alot of the children that worked in the farms didn't have a shoe to their foot hardly, at that time. No, I suppose we were quite well-off.

Q. And your Mother, she worked in the house?

Yes, only in the house. She'd been apprenticed to a dress-making place but she married very young. She used to do alot of needlework. She'd make frocks and nightdresses, everything of that sort was always made by Mother.

Q. Did she have a sewing machine?

Singer sewing machine, oh yes.

Q. What did she have to cook on?

A big old kitchen range, with the coal, yes. Two ovens if I remember correctly, one either side, a big one and a small one. She used to boil things on the top.

Q. What rooms did you have downstairs?

It was square, you see, so one was an enormous great kitchen, one was a living room and the other was a sitting room, and the other was just a general factotum room, I think. Upstairs for the bedrooms. There was nothing else, no bathrooms or anything of that sort, no.

Q. Did you have water inside the house?

No, no. A pump with a well, in the garden round the side of the house.

Q. Your Mother did her washing in the copper?

Yes, she had the copper for washing. Then when they moved over to the other house there was an outhouse - a separate wash-house. The bigger houses often did have. That was a bigger house, and it was quite a big place, the wash-house. That had a fireplace. It had an arrangement with chains hanging down you hung pots on. She used to boil Christmas puddings out there. They used sort of oval saucepans more. Used to call them fish-kettles, and their handles came over and they hung on these great hooks.

Q. Where was the loo, the toilet?

The loo was outside, of course. It was a bucket thing. I suppose somebody emptied it. I don't know.

Q. So at night times, you had to go out or?

You had a "Jemima" in the bedroom always.

Q. Did you have feather beds or sprung beds?

We have feather beds. Oh yes, warm! You could make a hole for yourself sort of thing.

Q. Did you share a bed or did you have individual beds?

I can remember at one time, yes, sharing a bed with my sister. Then I came over, there was a single bed on this side. I was promoted to that. I don't know for what reason.

Q. When your Mother served meals where did she serve them?

We had it in the living room. She had the kitchen, you see, where things were done, and things were strained off, and we used to have it in the living room.

Q. Were the meals at very specific times?

Well, I suppose more or less to time. You see, Dad wasn't there. He would come home all hours. Sometimes we wouldn't see him for a week. They had the sleeping van which used to trail on behind the trucks of stone if they were going too far off, well, they used to sleep in that. But all the familiy would be there. You see, little Gran Burroughs was with us, my Mother's mother. I was told I was five when she came. I don't remember our home without her. Grannie or Granpa never stayed on their own, they went with one of the family always. She did all the mending, and she had a bedroom. One of my sisters used to sleep in a single bed there but she had her own what we would call bed-sitting-room, and she could go up there if she wanted to, you see. And mend! The piles of socks and stockings! She used to patch - Mother used to patch things on the machine, sheets and things of that sort but Grannie used to darn all these wretched socks and stockings. Well, nobody ever though of throwing anything away, did they? You didn't throw anything away until it was really worn out - you patched and mended. I can see them now, piles and piles. And then, as we got bigger, "Oh, let me help you, Gran" "Oh well, perhaps you can do this".We learned that at school, you see. Oh, yes all those practical things we learned at school. 'Course we did, that was what our school life consisted of, learning. We used to go, when you got to a certain age, so many of you went (about half a dozen of you, I suppose, at a time) used to go down to what is now Kingsmead,

(contd) and that was where we learned cookery. It was a Cookery School there, that was where we went to learn cookery.

Q. What sort of things did you learn to cook?

Well, all the ordinary things, you know, plain puddings and pies, not all this fancy stuff they have nowadays. But Needlework! I remember starting off with a little square of material - I think it was canvas or something, but you learned feather stitching, and herringbone, and then you had to learn what we called a'run and fell' seam, and button holes oh dear! Piece of material with buttonholes and you had to keep on and on. She'd keep cutting a fresh one until you got the wretched thing perfect. Your stitches all around had to be uniform, not the least little bit out. You'd see all these rows of wretched little buttonholes until you got one that passed muster.

Q. What was your favourite meal that your Mother cooked?

Oh, I don't know. We had chops and stews, beef pudding. I think it was beef pudding, Mother's beef pudding! I've never tasted anything like that nowadays. because that used to be put on and stood at the back of the stove, it would be put on at an early hour in the morning to cook and it cooked until - it must have been cooking four or five hours, but it was delicious.

Q. This was suet pastry and a meat filling?

Yes, proper meat and kidney. Oh yes, steak and kidney, it was beautiful.

Q. Did you have plum duff and things like that?

Spotted Dick, raisin puddings, fruit puddings of all sorts, fruit puddings and pies.

Q. And these were basically suet-based, were they?

The puddings were suet based always. As we got older we'd be given the job of chopping the suet, and chopping it fine. Oh, no nonsense, no packet stuff, that's how it was all done. And scrubbing the wretched board afterwards, "no, you haven't got that quite clean!"

Q. Where did your Mother get her groceries from?

Now thats very funny. There used to be a little grocer's shop opposite the Post Office on the corner of - what is that lane, right opposite the Post Office - [Best Lane] .....and there was a little grocer, he was a German, Schlencker. Mr. Schlencker, I can see him now, he was quite a toffee man, but he must have looked like a German. We didn't realise it then - but then, of course, the [1914-18] war came and he had to go, all these people had to disappear. She used to have groceries from there. And there was a man called Mr. Jenner who lived in St. Stephen's Rd. came round with a horse and van delivering goods. There was a baker's shop in St. Dunstan's, one of the shops that are there now, Hadfield's. They were noted for good bread. The chap used to ride on one of those big - well, it was like a box on wheels, and he used to come up round this village with this Hadfield's bread. Of course, at Blean, the mill was there. We used to go round there for chicken feed and flour. "Oh, he'll be grinding today" and we went to get so much flour.

Q. How would you go?

Walk! Everybody walked, you didn't do anything else.

Q. You used to go to Whitstable? You would go there as a treat?

Yes, go to Whitstable, Bank holidays, yes. The train would, very often, by the time it got to Tyler Hill, be full, so you just stood in the Guard's Van. They didn't leave you behind. We used to think it was fun! "I bet we'll have to get in the Guard's Van." We thought it was wonderful. The highlight of Whitstable life used to be the Carnival, and the Carnival was really something. Oh, the road would be thronged with people walking through to the Carnival on Carnival Day. Yes, it was a most jolly occasion. Everyone went to town, everyone was happy. It was a lively do, and I'm quite sure afterwards, after the Carnival was finished all these fun and games going on, confetti being thrown, we were knee-deep in it. Now you mustn't spill anything of that sort....That was the highlight, Whitstable Carnival was wonderful.

Q. And people would actually walk from Tyler Hill?

From Canterbury! You'd find children and people walking through to get a good position to watch the Carnival. It was lovely, Whitstable Carnival was really something.

Q. What sort of lighting did you have indoors?

We had paraffin lamps. In the living room we had one, it was quite a big one, a big brass lamp, with a huge white

(contd) globe. We had small lamps upstairs. Small ones, they were heavy-bodied things so they didn't turn over.

Q. Did you have any heating upstairs?

No, you had stone hot-water bottles in the bed but, no, we didn't have any heating.

Q. Where did you used to wash if you hadn't got a bathroom?

We had the washstand. Big old washstand, double washstand in our room, two basins and two jugs.

Q. And you took your water up?

Yes, you'd be given some hot water and for the cold you took the jug round to the pump.

Q. What about a bath, did you have a bath?

Oh, yes, we had a bath in the old zinc bath.

Q. In front of the fire?

Yes, or out in the kitchen where it was warm.

Q. You went to school when you were five?

I went to St. Stephen's School. There was the three classrooms. The two main ones where the big windows are (they are there still, aren't they?). There was a partition used to come along and it folded as it went, into big panels. So that was put back. Then through to the back was a small classroom, the Infants, and the girls' cloakroom

(contd). was there. The boys' cloakroom was down the other end. The Infants used to stand along the side, and the Headmaster said a prayer, we sang a hymn, and repeated the Lord's Prayer and then went to the different classrooms. The partition was put back and everybody was there for a start. I don't suppose there was that number then. It seemed alot at the time. They came from Beaconsfield and over there, St. Stephen's Road, and the outlying farms and Tyler Hill. I suppose there was a good number but I don't know how many.
But then we got down to business. The Register was called and that sort of thing. In the Infants you started to learn letters and figures. They were put up on the blackboard, and you had an exercise book that was marked off into tiny little squares, and the thing was to keep your numbers and figures in the squares. There were some fierce old things on the first pages or two but you learned eventually, and that was how you learned your alphabet. And the Tables, that was a great thing. You had to learn Tables straight away. After you'd learned to do your figures, you learned your Twice times. You used to go through them, gradually over the years, to the Twelve times table, and you had to be able to say them.

Q. Did you repeat them out loud?

Oh yes, very often. If somebody had made some awful bloomer in their Arithmetic or something, then we was given "now you'll say them" and you used to have to go through all the Tables without any blunders or else you copped it.

Q. Did you have pencils?

Yes, we did have pencils, and pens with an inkwell, yes.

Q. Did you ever have slates?

In the Infants, yes. I think, there again, we had some that were marked in squares so you could keep the letters and figures small before you did joined-up writing. Writing, Reading - we learned to read. Then, as I say, in the afternoon the boys used to do Woodwork and the girls used to do Needlework because there was all this to be learned. When you started you knitted a vest which was a long straight thing. And when you'd done a vest you'd do black stockings...Four needles, black stockings with a seam stitch down the end.

Q. What did you wear when you went to school?

We wore long black stockings, and boots. Button boots, and you had a button hook. Then I remember, after button boots came - you had studs. Oh, that was wonderful, you had laces so far and then you had things to cross and cross round it. That was wonderful. But always boots. I don't think any child had shoes. Plimsolls just for P.T. and that sort of thing. The rubber plimsolls, but not otherwise, no. You had a vest. You had a Liberty bodice. And your knickers were on a band and they buttoned on to your Liberty bodice. There were buttons on your Liberty bodice to button your knickers on, the back came up like a trap door. There was a frill round, probably a bit of lace or something round.

Q. What were the knickers made out of?

(Contd.) Flannel or flannelette, something of that sort, cotton in the summer. Then you had a flannel petticoat and the other one [petticoat], it would probably be flannelette in the winter and cotton in the summer. Two petticoats, full-length, yes.

Q. What did you wear on top of those?

Well, our frocks. Long sleeves. Serge or merino. Then you wore a pinafore, a long pinafore. Mother used to make them, they were mostly on a yoke with a frill over the shoulders, and gathered in.

Q. What was your hair like?

Pigtails, yes, two pigtails, with a ribbon on the end.

Q. What sort of toys did you have as a child, do you remember?

Well, dolls and different things, I don't really remember. You see, we used to make our own fun. We used to go over the wood and play "Kick tin". That was a sort of hide and seek. You'd got to get back and kick this tin, kick the tin and then everybody came out. We used to play all sorts of games over there in the woods. 'Wood tops', whip tops, and 'nip-cat which was a form of - well, what they play at the Beverlie. Bat and trap.

Q. Was there any sort of P.T. you used to do?

Oh, yes, we used to do exercises, up and down and round and round, and bend.

Q. Did you tuck your dresses or pinnys up or anything?

Oh, no, you didn't do things like that, no. The boys might have been looking!

Q. Did you ever go help in any of the farm working?

Everybody used to go hop-picking. Tyler Hill was full of hop gardens. There used to be alot of people come down from London, stay in the huts. Everybody in the village went hop-picking, oh yes. My Gran used to come with us. You picked the hops. You provided your own baskets and stools and they would be collected. The waggoner would come round with the wagon and collect them [the baskets] or perhaps, if you weren't very far off you had to carry them down the hop garden. There were crowds used to come down to the hop huts from London because I think, it was quite a thing! Because, you see, six weeks in the country was heaven to them. The farmer used to bring them down, and they'd pay their own transport home because they'd earned the money. They could draw so much on their money on a Friday, a 'sub' to live and they took the rest back with them. Hop-picking was good fun!

Q. Did you get on with the Londoners then?

Oh yes. There was a hurdy-gurdy used to come up to the pub, Saturday evenings. There would be forms put outside for the children to sit on, and if we were very good, Mother would let us go up there. There was fun and games, laughing and dancing all over the road, oh, it was a wonderful to-do! And then on Sunday evening there was the open-air service, parson used to come out in a field, and we used to sing.....Half the village would go, yes.....

JIM left Alcroft Grange after six months and got a job in a nursery, S.D. Cripps. He worked there for three or four years and then went in to private gardening in St. Stephen's. In 1940 he went in to the Army.

When she left school at fourteen years old FREDA went "into service" as a 'mother's help' in St. Dunstan's Terrace. She was there some years. After another job "in service" she married in 1925, and moved away. She came back in the 1930s and spent part of her life as Postmistress in Tyler Hill where she still lives.

Some Average PRICES and INCOMES 1901 - 1910

INCOMES

Labourer	£1	per week
Railway clerk	£1.50	" "
Foreman, general	£2.25	" "

PRICES

flour	4p per 7lb	ham, thick, back	4p per lb
jams	2½p " lb	oatmeal	½p " "
sugar, gran	7p " 7lb	sweets,acid drops	2p " "
tea, best	11p " lb	cream crackers	2p " "
candles	4p " lb	boot polish	4 tins for 7½p

RENTS. Cottage	£18 per year
double fronted house	£42 " "
Tooth extraction by a dentist	5p per tooth.

Reminder: one shilling or 12 pence = 5p today.

INDEX

The Canterbury Centre

The Canterbury Centre, St. Alphege Lane, Canterbury, Kent CT1 2EB
Telephone Canterbury (0227) 457009