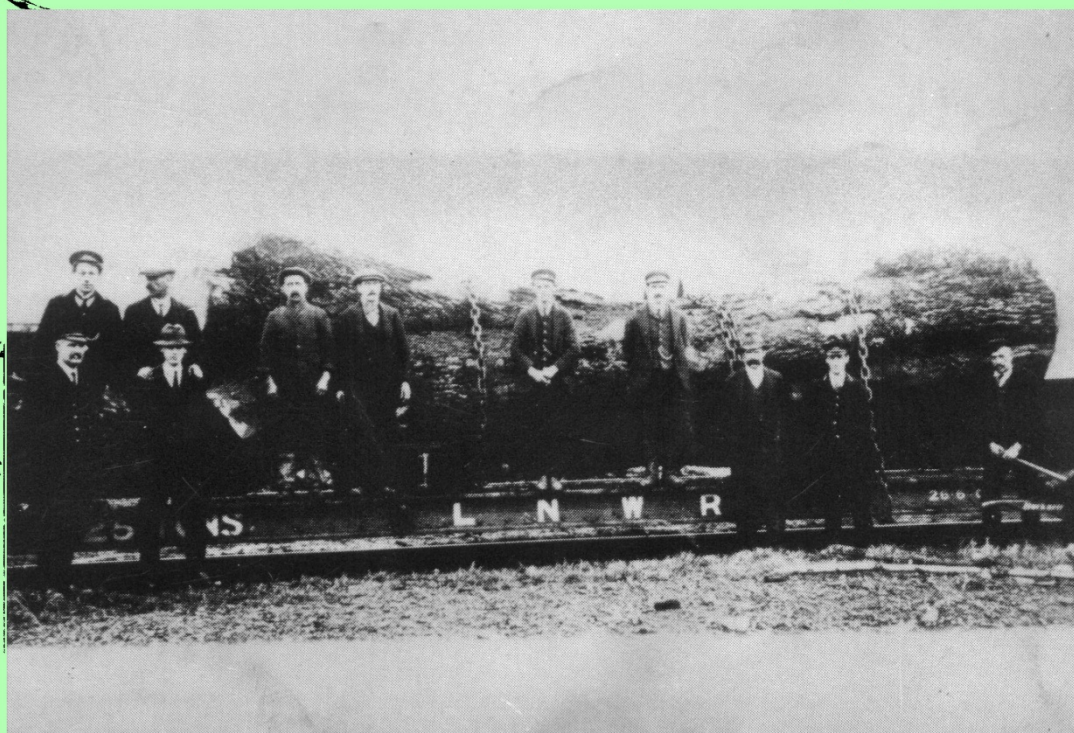
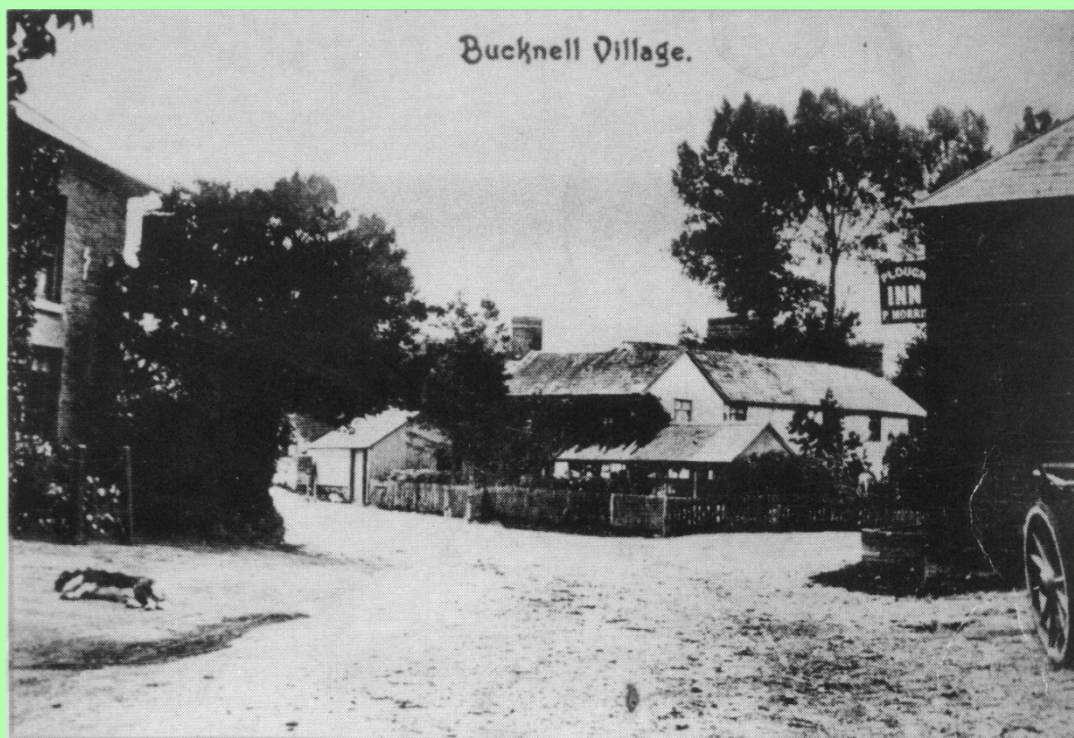


Bucknell In View





COVER PHOTOGRAPHS

Front (Top)

BUCKNELL VILLAGE, C. 1900

Front (Bottom)

BUCKNELL STATION STAFF 1919 ((left to right, back row) Jim Johnson, (signalman), Cedric Wilcox (porter), Bill Wilcox (warehouseman), (front row) Charles Bowen, (Station Master), Oswald Davies (booking clerk), William Stephens (head ganger), Oscar Evans, (porter), Arthur Price, (lengthman)

Back (Top)

RAILWAY TAVERN and SHERWOOD'S BUTCHER'S SHOP, c.1910: Mr C. Sherwood on cart.

Back (Centre)

THE OLD MILL

Back (Bottom)

THE SQUARE, BUCKNELL, C 1900

Bucknell In View

A collection of photographs and postcards of life in Bucknell from the end of the nineteenth century to the 1950's.

Dedicated to the memory of June Turner

Collected and compiled by Pentabus Community Project and Bucknell Village History Group

Nancy Davies, Viv Dodd, Stan Morris, Christine Price, Bill Shaw, Beryl Sharp, Alan Sharp, Martin Sherwood, June Turner who also wrote the text.

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Contributors

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Introduction

When it was decided that we research into the village at Bucknell, we started with what must be a unique advantage. It was discovered that there was a wealth of history to be obtained from a wonderful collection of photographs. These, many and varied, were to be found in almost all the homes of 'old' Bucknell folk, and were largely the work of one man, to whom we must be grateful. He was Mr. Edward (Ted) Picken, whose mother kept the village shop and post office at the turn of the century. A keen photographer, he captured all aspects of village life in Bucknell, and his postcards were on sale in the post-office.

We discovered this treasure trove while talking to villagers and were soon inundated with dozens of views on all subjects. It was felt that a special book of photographs should be published. We hope it will be enjoyed, criticised and argued about by everyone — original inhabitants and newcomers alike.

Bucknell Buildings

The settlement of Bucknell was first mentioned in the Domesday Book, 1066 under the name of 'Buckehale' or 'Buckenhill'. The boundaries of Shropshire and Herefordshire divided the village at this time, then in 1554-55 an act was passed transferring the whole of Bucknell into the county of Shropshire. The following section is a collection of photographs giving a general impression of Bucknell in the 19th century.

The Lords of the Manor at that time were the Sitwell family who resided at The Cottage when in Bucknell.

The population of the village in 1811 was 226. At the latter end of the century this had risen to 546.

Most of the male population were connected with agriculture and timber.

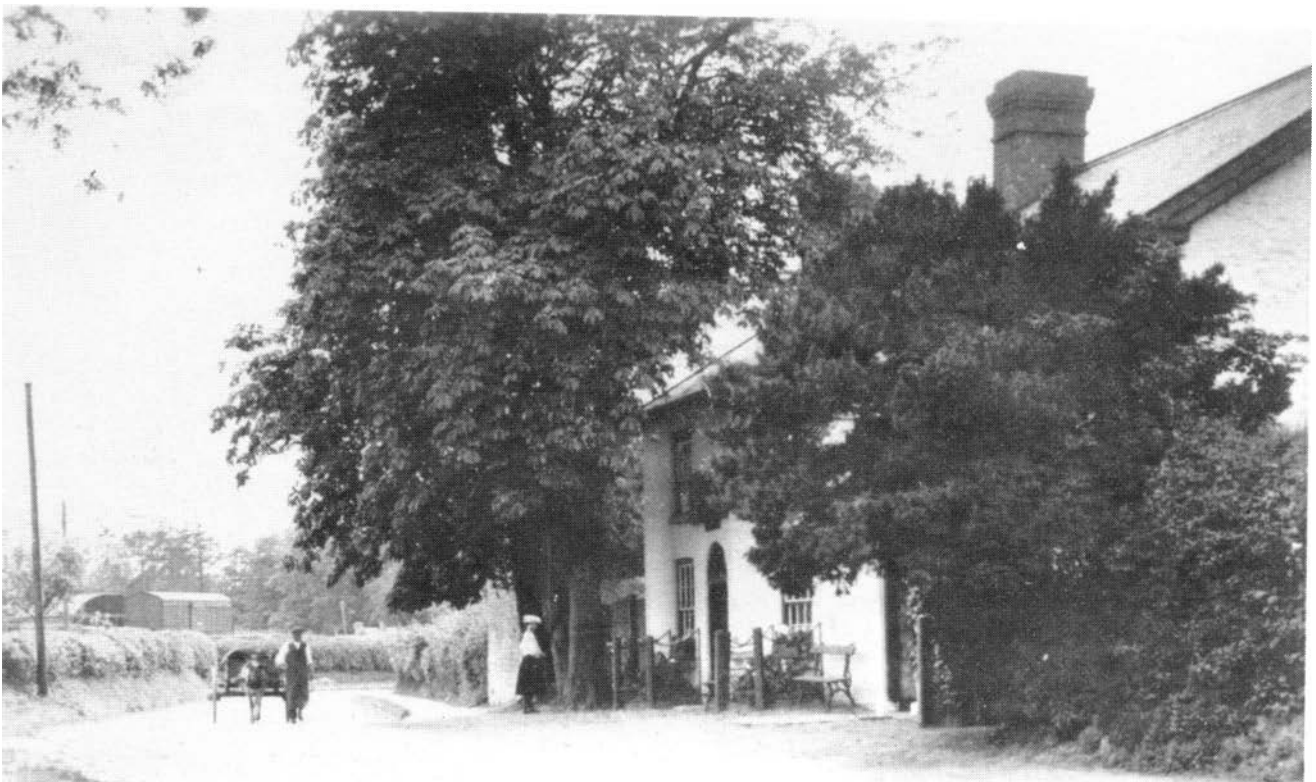
The earliest of the existing buildings date back to the 17th century.

The houses were built in a haphazard fashion near the river, and so had easy access to water. The village depended on water from the river and wells until the 1920's when water was piped into the village from a spring above Chapel Lawn.

The houses at the lower end of the village were very susceptible to flooding, and this hazard continued until the ford was walled up in the 1950's.

Bucknell had four pubs: The Sitwell, The Tavern, The Bridge End and The Plough. The latter three are all now private houses.

The Old School House was built in the 17th century to provide education for those who could pay for it. The school remained until the present one was built in 1865. The Old School House then became a shop and bakery. There are people living in the village today who can still remember the thrill of seeing their birthday cake displayed in the shop window.



THE SITWELL ARMS, Pre 1914: Arthur Whittle (with pony and cart) combined his job as a postman with 'lugging' and selling coal around the village.

Bucknell also had a shop and bakery in the Square and its own corn mill which was situated at the west end of the village.

There were three places of worship. St Mary's Church, The Methodist Chapel in Dog Kennel Lane (now a private house) and Coxall Baptist Chapel.

Bucknell Post office opened in the mid 19th century. The original post office was just round the corner and still goes by the name of The Old Post Office.

The butcher shop is still on its original site.

The roads through the village were dirt roads, muddy in winter, and dusty in summer. Every autumn the roads were repaired with gravel from the river.

The face of Bucknell has changed much during the past fifteen to twenty years, mainly due to the rapid building programme which has filled up the open spaces between the houses of yester-year.

Despite more houses, the number of people living in Bucknell has dropped. In the 1981 census the population of the village was 494.

This decline in the population is due to smaller families, the number of people coming into the village to spend their retirement and the drift away from work in timber and agriculture.



THE POST OFFICE: (top) Taken about 1910 when it was run by the Sherwood family. Miss Ruth Anthony stands in the doorway, (bottom) Following the alteration made in 1919, when it belonged to the Pickens family.



THE OLD SCHOOL HOUSE, c.1900: Bucknell's original school, until the mid 19th Century. (The stairs shown on bottom picture led to the schoolroom). Later a general stores and bakery. Birthday cakes were made and displayed in the window before being taken home. Now private housing.



THE CAUSEWAY, c.1906: (above) As seen from Bucknell Church, with Glebe Cottages on the left and Old School House behind. (below) As seen from the Square with Yew Tree Cottage on the left (the roof has since been slated). Later, the present day railings were placed along the side of the pathway.



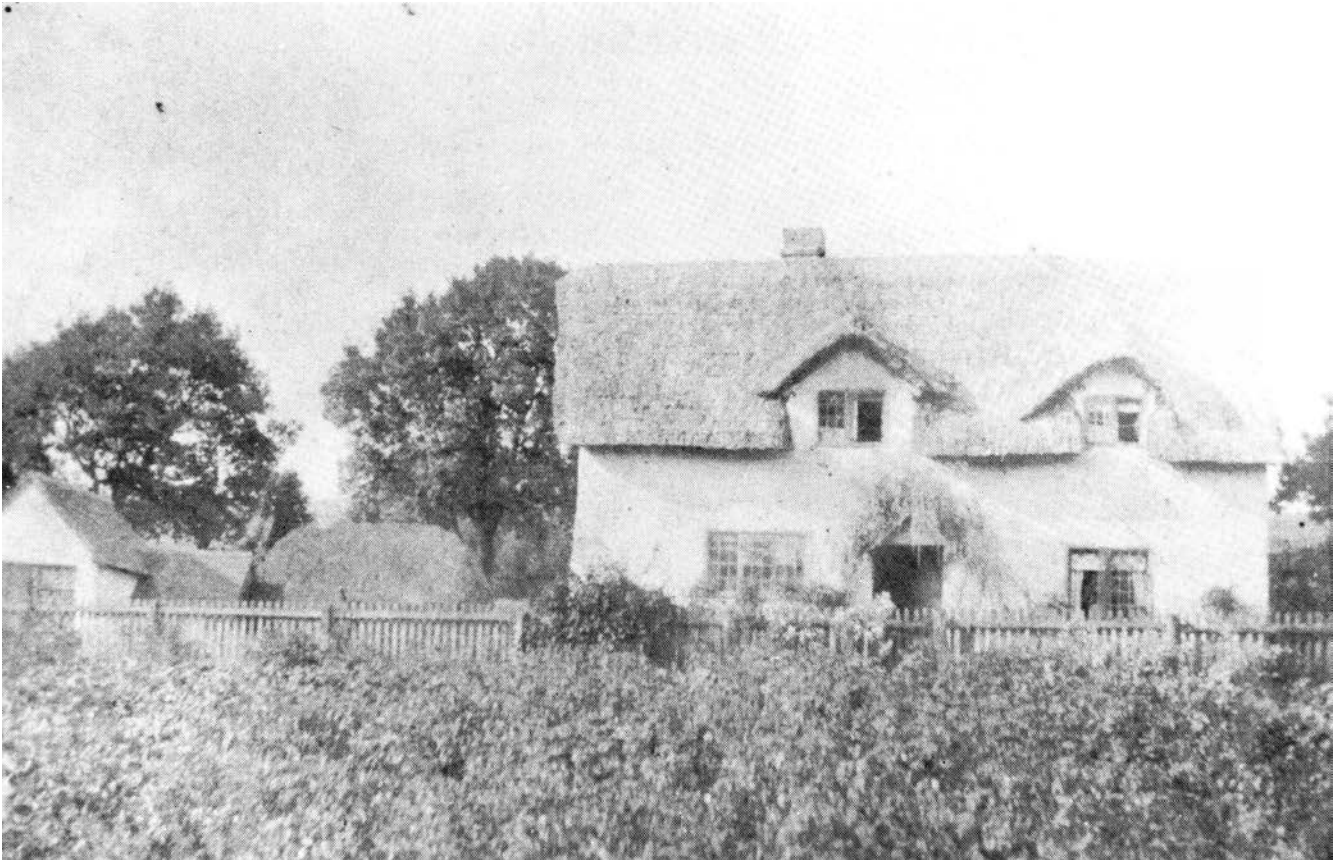
THE OLD VICARAGE, c.1910.



THE COTTAGE, c.1910: This was the local residence of the Sitwell family. The roofs no longer thatched.



WEIR HOUSE, c.1910



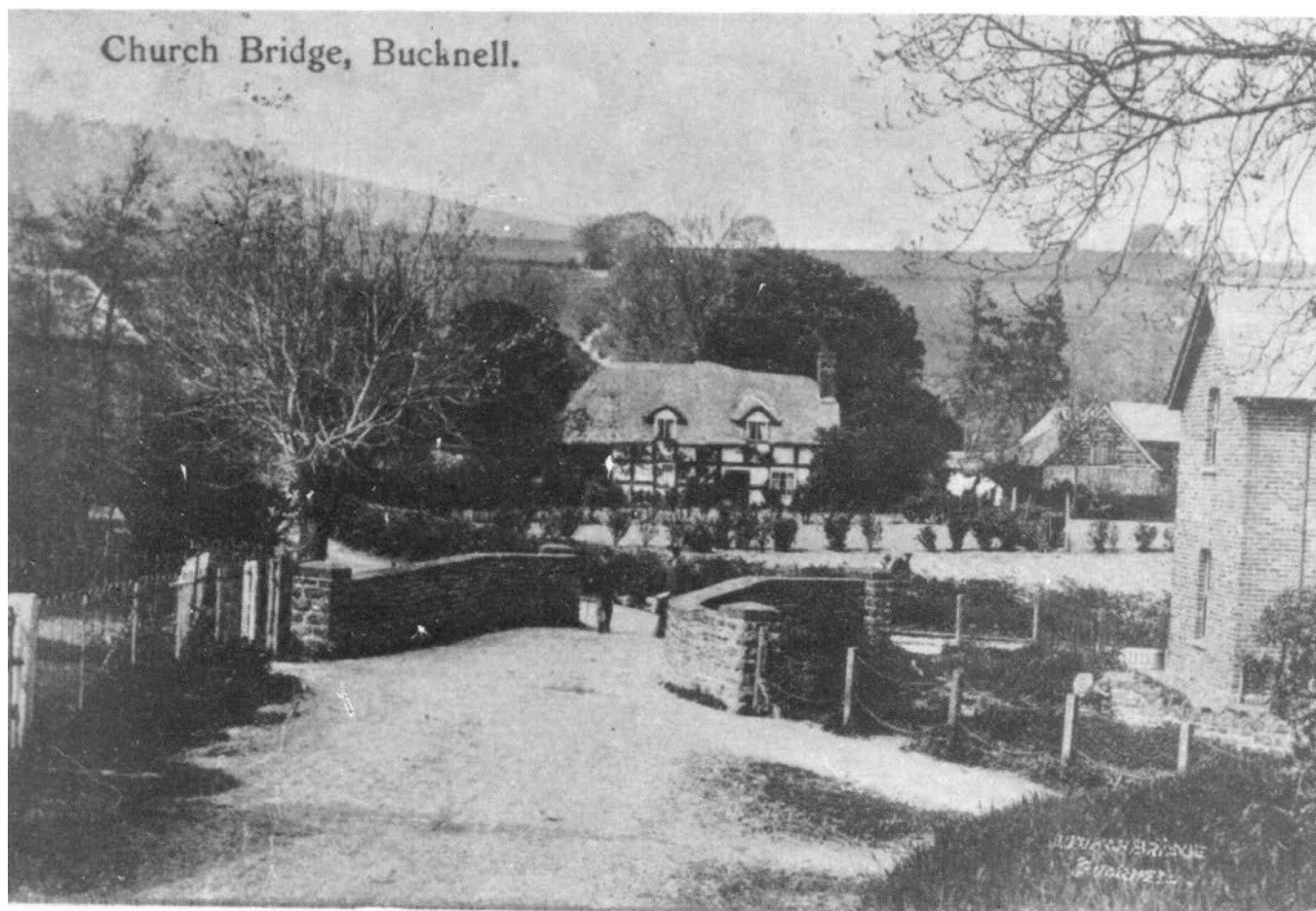
FIDDLERS GREEN: This cottage was demolished some 40 years ago. A bungalow now stands on the site. Once known as 'The Thatch'.



BROOKSIDE, c.1910 The cottage remained as pictured until the late 1960's.



BUCKNELL'S BRIDGES, c.1905: (Top picture) The cottage on the left has been demolished. Behind it stands the Railway Tavern (see cover photograph). Originally a ford crossed the river here. (Bottom picture) Church Bridge, which was later widened after an accident involving a horse and a car. Weir Cottage stands in the centre.



Domestic Life

Feather beds, rag mats, paper spills in the fender (to save matches) black leaded grates and shining brasses.

In most homes Saturday night was bath night for all the family. Water heated in the work furnace and ladled into the galvanised bath.

Most folk kept a pig and chickens in the back garden. The pigs were cured with salt, salt-peter and pepper — when cured, placed on the bacon cratches in the house to be enjoyed throughout the year.

Radios were powered by batteries, a regular weekly trip with the battery accumulator to Mr. Bill Griffiths at B. & F. Davies where for a small fee of about four pence it could be exchanged for a re-charged one.

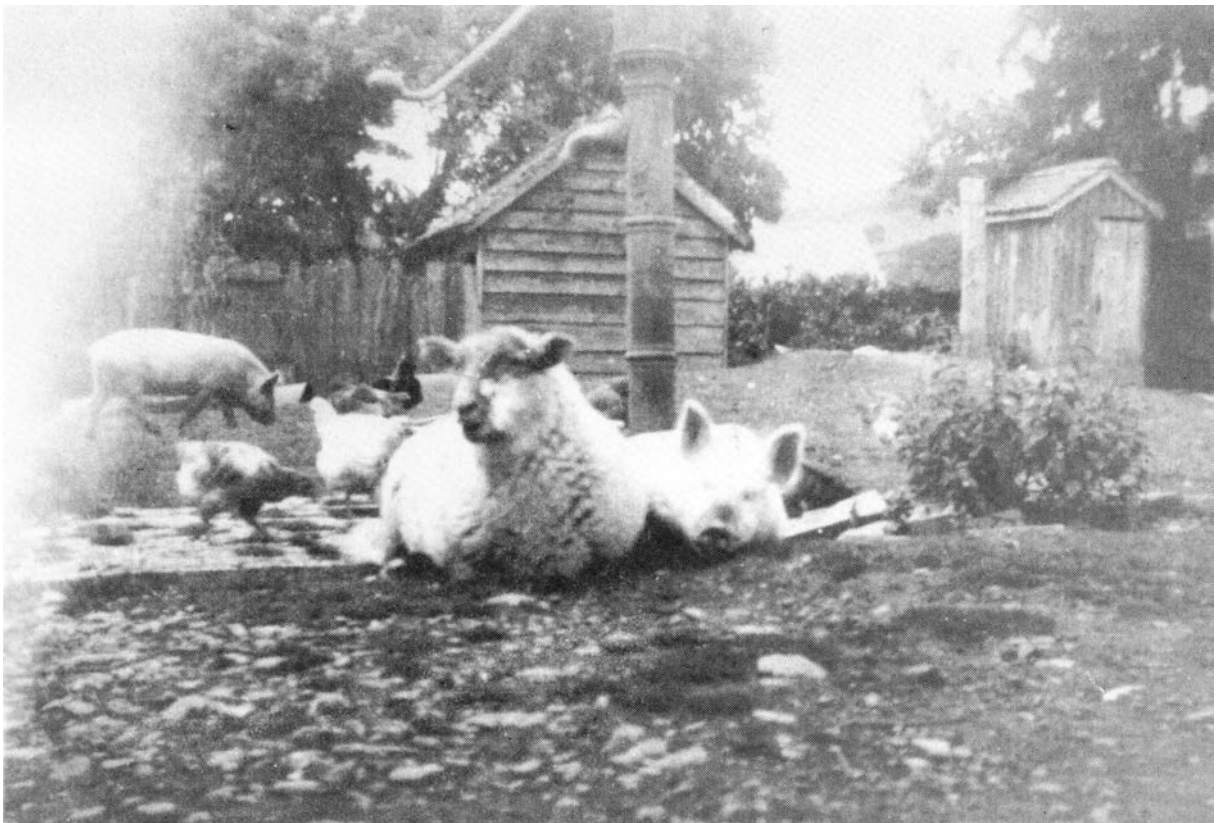
All family requirements were available in the village at Smiths Village Stores or at Mrs. Pickens Post Office and Stores. Mr. Picken took all the local photos, repaired the bicycles and would fix anything that needed fixing.

Oil lamps and candles lit the homes. 'Kindling' wood was placed in the oven to dry for morning.

Most boots and shoes were supplied and repaired by Mr. Oscar Evans in his little shop in the garden of Smiths Stores. To keep the wet cut of their boots, the menfolk would rub goose grease on them.

Monday was washday for every household. Water had to be carried, sometimes a great distance. People living on the Mynde for instance had to carry their water from a slow running spring at Little Mynde. This made a water butt outside every home a necessity. Sticks were cut to heat the furnace, blue and starch prepared then everything in the household that needed washing was washed. When the clothes were all on the line everything in the house was thoroughly scrubbed making full use of the hot water.

Tuesday was ironing day. Flat irons were heated in front of the fire and tested by spitting on them.



CHOPPING STICKS: Miss Crowe pictured chopping sticks, probably for firing the bread oven. The woodpile comes from Bucknell Wood



AFTERNOON TEA, c.1900: The Pickens and Cooper families



INTERIORS: (Above) Mr. and Mrs. Bert Gittens, with son Albert in the doorway of 'Hillside'. Mr Gittens was a platelayer on the railway. (Below) Florrie and Nell Smith on the drawing room of the family shop, about 1912. An early flashlight photograph





TRAVELLERS: (Top) These are genuine Romanies rather than tinkers. Both made regular visits to the area, and made and sold pegs and other items. (Bottom) The tents making this encampment are known as 'Bender Tents'. In the background is a skimmers cart. In the orchard behind 'Sunnybank'.



Childhood

It is generally agreed that during the last hundred years the lives of ordinary folk have changed more dramatically than in any other century. This is especially true in the lives of children.

Before the First World War Bucknell, like most villages, was more or less self contained, apart from an occasional visit to Knighton (by train) to buy clothes and shoes, or for the May Fair. Food was bought at the two grocers' shops and the butcher's in the village.

The children were content to make their own amusements, and seldom left except for places within walking distance. Visits to the 'Whinberry Hill' included picnics, and there were also picnics for pleasure including friends and neighbours, often with music provided by a wind-up gramophone-horn and all! The Red Lake and Teme Rivers were used for paddling and swimming, while some children became adept at 'trout tickling'.

Sunday Schools were a feature of village life. These were run by three denominations — Church of England, Methodists and Baptists — the latter at Coxall. The children attended regularly throughout the year and were given weekly stamps to stick in a book. A tea and games, held annually, were much enjoyed by all. The Sunday School gave an anniversary during the summer, to which all the children contributed. This event was very popular and well attended by all the villagers. Once a year, the children were presented with a book, inscribed with their names, dates etc. During the twenties the Sunday Schools made their annual treat to such places as Shrewsbury — boat rides on the River Severn, etc., with a picnic in the quarry.

Also during the twenties, a couple of local ladies started a branch of teetotalism called 'The Band of Hope', aimed at the schoolchildren, who joined in a body. Meetings were held in the school after lessons, buns and tea were provided, and suitable songs sung. Everyone 'signed the pledge' with enthusiasm, although alas, some farmers' children fell from grace during the cider-making time.

For the most part children made their own amusements, such as marbles and hopscotch, while indoor board games — ludo, draughts etc., were played in the evenings.

With very large classes in pre-war schools, the teaching had to be strictly organised; teachers were paid by results around the turn of the century, so the accent was on the intensive learning of facts. The more able pupils left school first, having gone through all the 'standards' required — a contrast with the present day, when similar children can reach university. Formerly, 14 years was the age for leaving, and all the pupils were taught at the same school.

School photographs show how classes gradually became smaller. The attitude to teaching, especially after the 1944 Education Act, became more flexible.

One highlight of the school year in Bucknell was due to an enterprising Headmaster. During the twenties he began organising train trips to Rhyl. It became a tradition that on a certain day each summer the whole school, having saved spending money since Christmas, their parents, most other villagers, and folk from surrounding areas, fortified by mountains of sandwiches, embarked for the seaside, where they enjoyed the sands, sea and amusements, returning tired but happy.





BUCKNELL SCHOOL, c.1912: The Headmaster (right) is Mr. Lloyd. Fred Hughes (middle row, left) was later killed in World War I. The teacher is Miss Jukes.



BUCKNELL SCHOOL, mid 1930's: (left to right, from back) Shirley Dodd, Cyril Jordan, Ivor Thomas, Bill Peters, Charlie Grimes, Margery Edwards, Dora Edwards, Mary Stedman, Oliver Edwards, Lizzie Dodd, Joan Munn, Gwenneth Morris, Trevor Davies, Donald Jones, Ruth Hints, Betty Parker, Audrey Sherwood, Nellie Grimes, Frank Price, David Price, Bill Jordan, Allen Morris, Cyril Meredith, Eddie Watkins. Teacher: Miss Evelyn Lewis.



BUCKNELL SCHOOL, 1940: (left to right, from back) Miss Powell, Roy Parker, Terry Parker, Cyril Jordan, Gillian Peters, Evelyn Lewis, Shelia Munn, Jim Lloyd, Jim Trayling, Danny Tantrum, Kitty Dodd, Menna Spray, Ethel Taylor, Doris Evans, Grace Marsden, Audrey Jones, Billy Tudor, Bob Powell, Les Powell, Albert Tudor, Eddie Murdoch, Jack Pearce, Jack Price. Teacher Miss Olwyn Powell



COXALL BAPTIST CHAPEL, c.1913: This was probably a photograph of a Sunday School Anniversary.



*BATHERS ON THE TEME, :
Pre 1914*



CONCERT PARTY, c.1908



*DONKEY RIDING: Bill Peters
taken about 1900 at 'The
Desert'. Bill later served as a
merchant seaman during two
world wars*

Working Life

The photographs in this section show the wide variety of work in the village in the period up to the second World War. Many men and women were employed in agriculture — both in the fields and at the farmhouse. Other people worked at different trades in the village.

Mr. Owen and his son Bill ran the Smithy. There was a Wheelwright. Mr. Smith and his son ran one of the local shops, and the other shop and post office were run by the Picken family. The post office itself employed eight postmen who sorted the mail and delivered it on foot over a wide area.

There was also at one time a butcher, a cobbler, a thatcher, roadmen, an undertaker, a seamstress, a village policeman, a baker, and three pubs. In the early part of this century there was a thriving bark industry, and before that thousands of men were employed laying the water pipeline to Birmingham.

Seasonal work offered women and children the chance to earn enough money to buy boots and coats for the winter. Apart from helping with the harvests on the farms, Whinberries and blackberries were picked. These were sent to Manchester for jam making and later for use in dyeing cloth.

Whereas nowadays most work is found outside the village, years ago Bucknell was a self-contained community providing all the work and services that people needed.



THE BLACKSMITH, c.194: Jack Owen (left) pictured with customer outside his smithy. His son Bill continued the family business.



SMITH'S SHOP, c.1906: (R to L) Frank Smith, George Smith, Tom Passant (Baker), Sam Burgoyne (Roundsman), Charles Smith



WINBERRY PICKERS, pre 1900: Taken at the Old School House (see page 3). This work, done mainly by women and children, was essential to the local economy. Winberries were sent to Manchester, to be used in the dying of cloth. Ted Picken, who later took many of the photographs in this book, is the boy in the foreground.

THE POSTMAN, c.1950: Mr Gittins, a popular local character, was one of six postmen in Bucknell. Mail arrived by train to be sorted locally



OSCAR EVANS, c.1944: Seen here at work on shoes, he was also barber, preacher, Parish Councillor and maker and repairer of everything. He is also remembered as a first class singer and entertainer, with a special talent for comic monologues



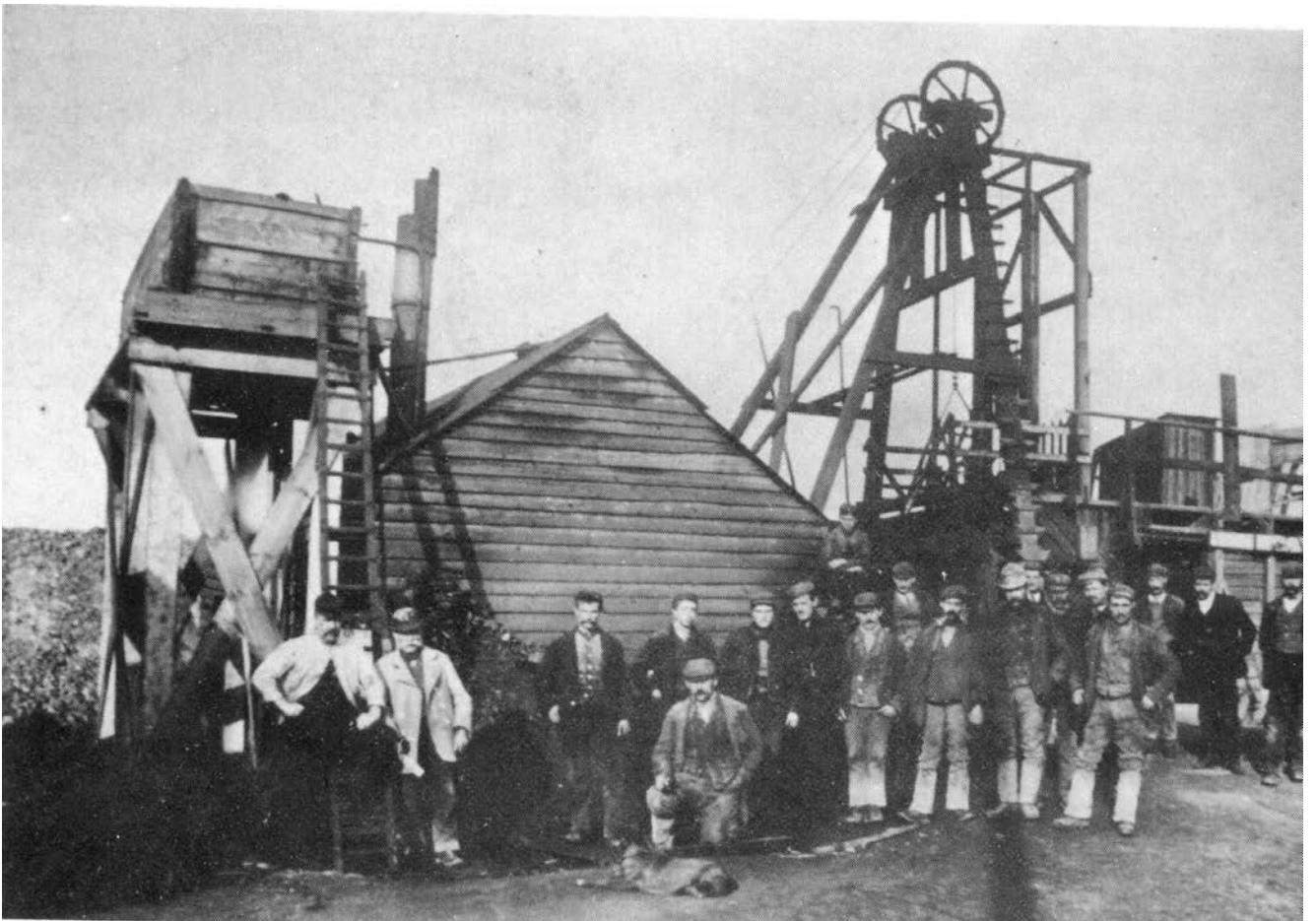
THE VILLAGE POLICEMAN, early 1900's: There has been no local policeman since 1963



THE THATCHER, c.1900: Mr William Trow, Working at the Old School House (see page 3). (Top left) Using a thatching backer to prepare the 'buckles' which hold straw in place. (Top right) Wooden pegs used to hold thatch. (Bottom) Sickle, used for cutting thatch at the eaves. (Opposite top) At work on the roof

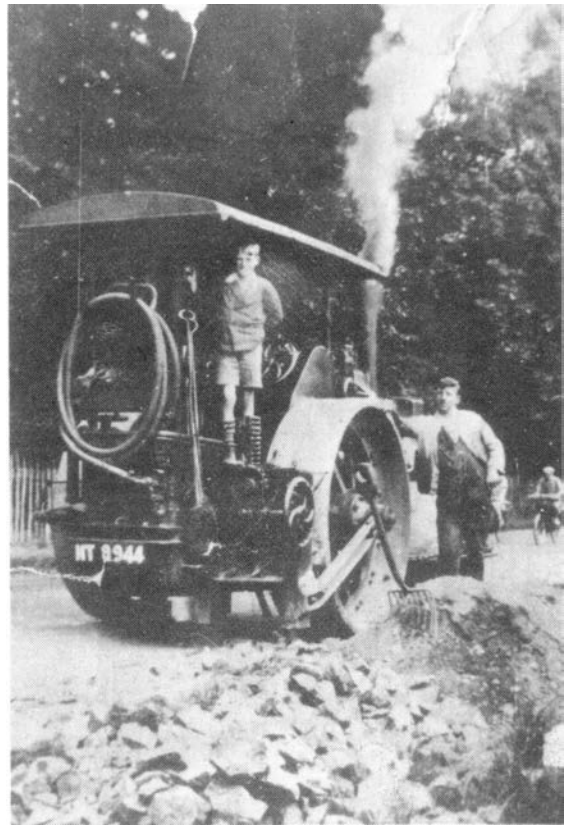


SHOEMAKING, c.1910: Pictured outside 'The Desert', where working boots and shoes were made by Henry Crowe until 1918. Watson Sherwood (right) is the apprentice, and later ran the butchers shop. Note the tools in the foreground, with the last leaning against the bench

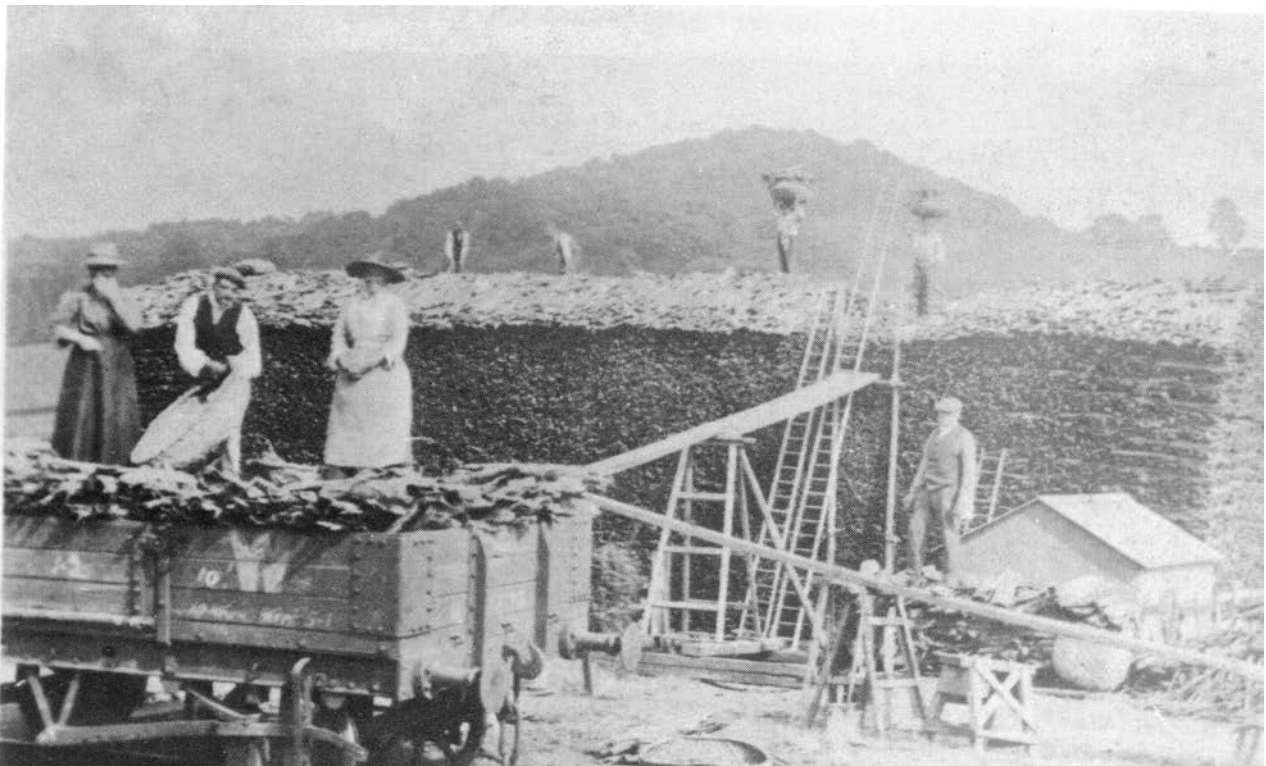


LABOURERS, c.1890: Laying the water mains from the Elan Valley to Birmingham. (Bottom) some three thousand men, with their families, lived in temporary huts near the station for three years. Pipes arrived by rail to be taken to the site by special small gauge railway.





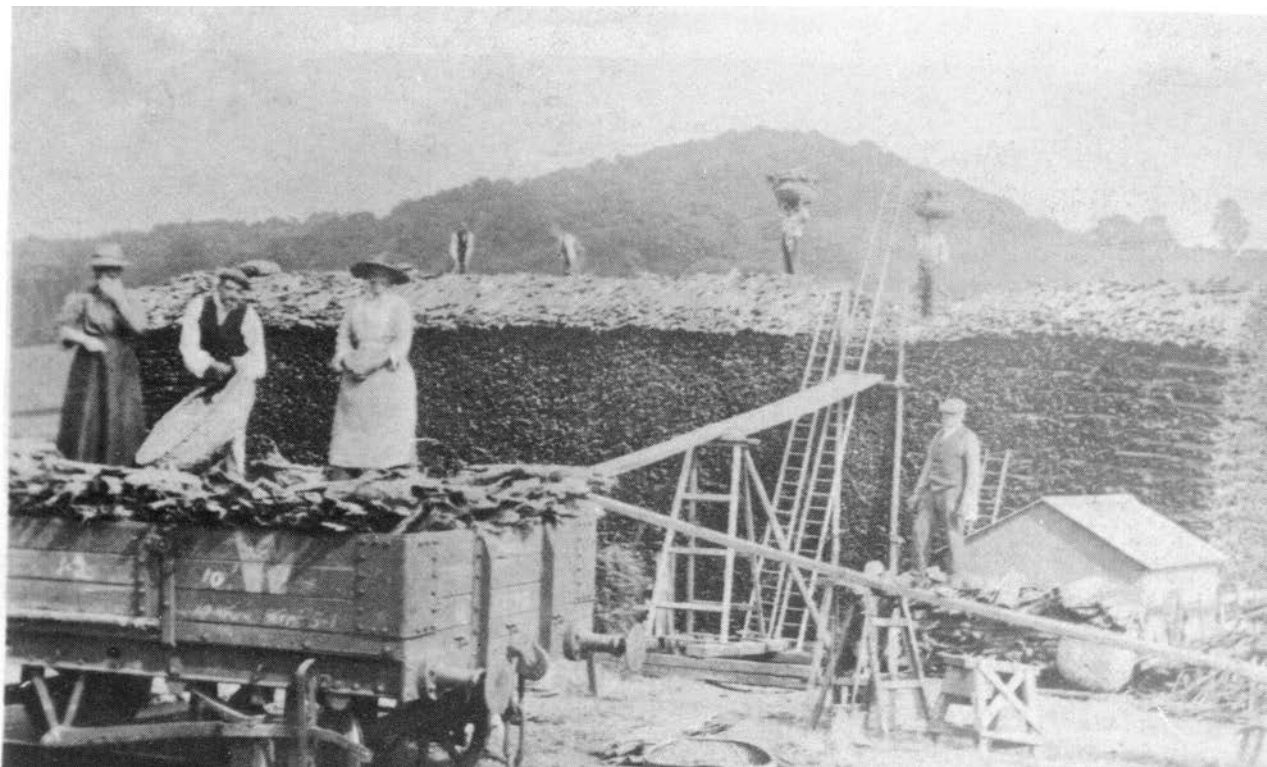
ROADMENDING, c.1930: Jack Jones with his son Billy at work pitching and rolling stone to widen the existing road



SAWING TIMBER, c.1920: The portable steam engine was operated by Mr. Bert Morgan of Twitchen. Taken at 'Turkey Hall'.



HAYMAKING, c.1900: At Brian's Plock, Lower House Farm. A 'plock' is a small field or paddock near the house, often used for herding and sorting stock. The larger wooden rake



BARK RICKS, c.1905: Oak bark was cut and stacked, to be sent to Birmingham and Lancashire for tanning. The 'wiskets' used to carry the bark to the trucks were made of split oak and hazel. This was an important local industry which originated in the earlier charcoal burning in the area.

Timber

The timber yard at Bucknell was established in 1860 by the Davies family, who still own it today. In those days, hardwood was bought as standing trees, felled and transported to Bucknell. The wood was used in cabinet making, veneers, grates and fences and house-building. These hardwoods were later replaced by softwoods such as Larches and Spruces, planted from the 1930's onwards.

The timber yard employed a large number of men, engaged in a wide variety of specialist manual trades. There were waggoners, sawyers, fellers, carpenters, planters and nurserymen. In contrast, the timber yard today is a much quieter place, because of the smaller number of men employed there.

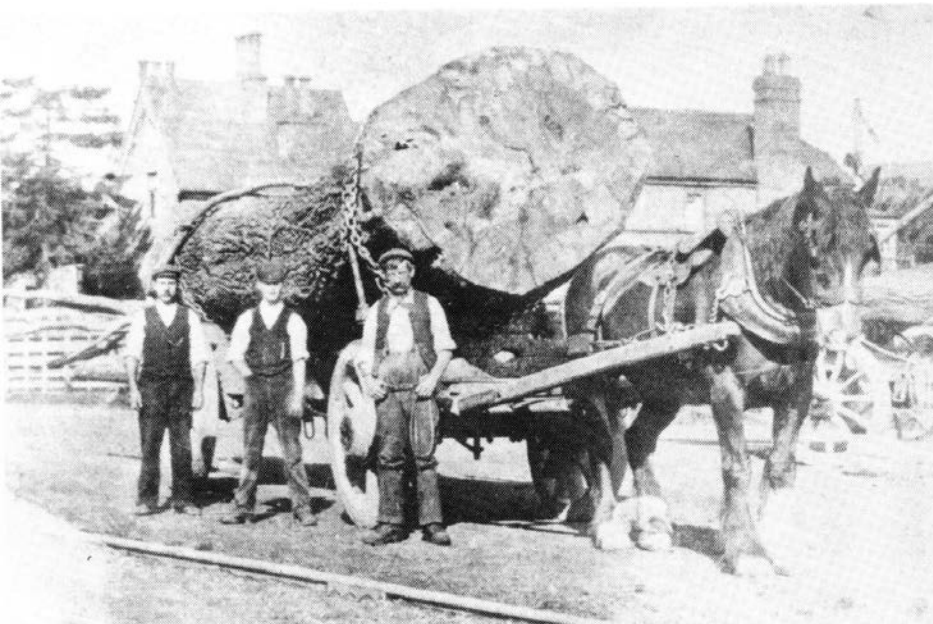


TIMBER FALLING, c.1904: led Picken, Fred Munn and Jack Staley on the Stanage Estate 'rounding out' a piece of timber ready for the sawmill

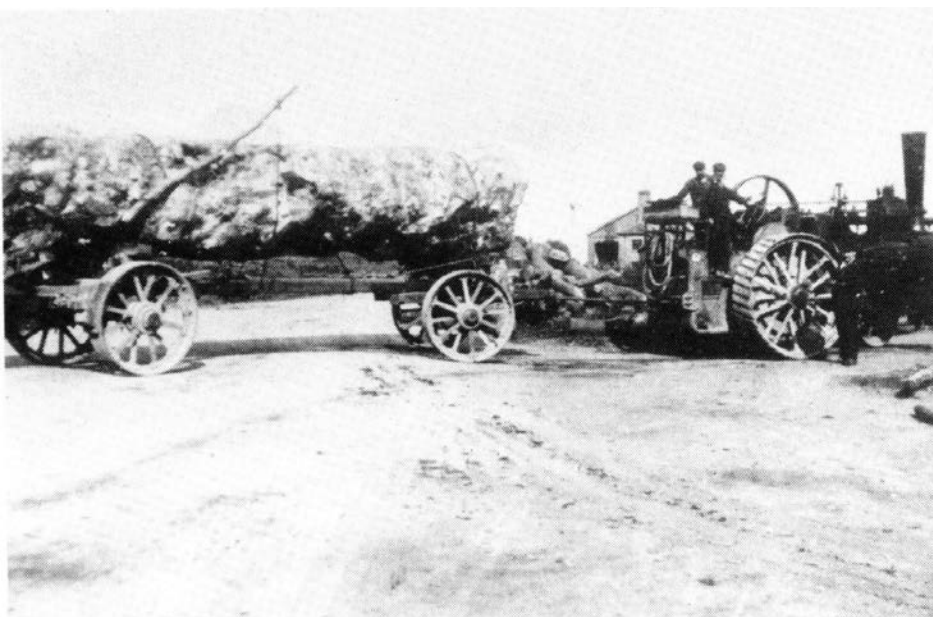


HAULING TIMBER

1900: The Head Waggoner for B. and J. Davies' timber yard using a three horse team to haul poles out of Bucknell Wood



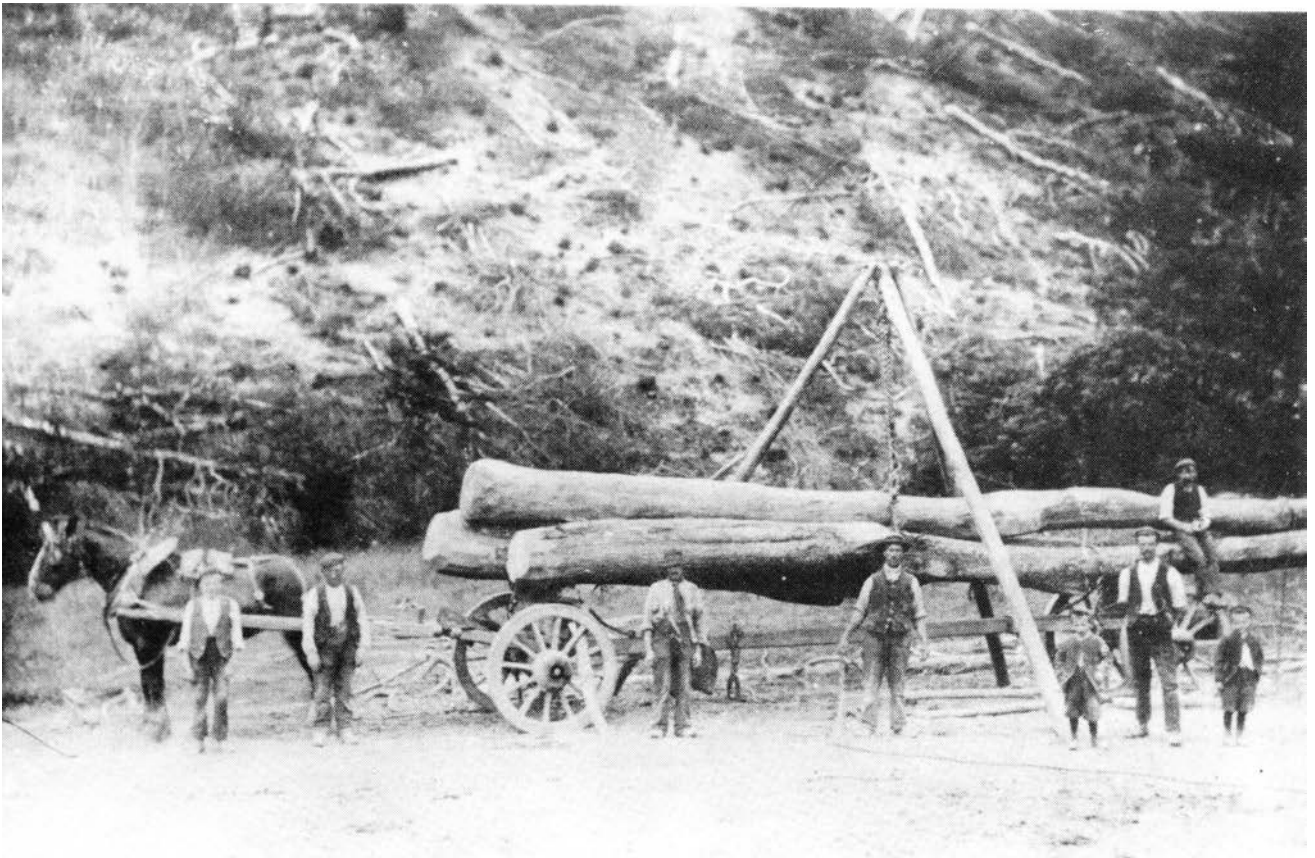
1914: Fred Munn (left) with his son and Harry Jones (the Waggoner), and horse 'Boxer' in the Station Yard. This large oak would have been felled with a two-man cross-cut saw, to be made into planks for stacking and drying. Much oak was sold for fine veneer work.



1912: Old English Poplar being hauled by 'Martha' (Marshall traction engine). To the rear of the carriage is the 'bracer' – a sapling bent across the load to hold it in place



BARK PEELING, 1890: Timber is also being stacked in cords. Children were employed for this task. The forked staves were used in sharpening up stakes for fencing.



LOADING TIMBER, 1895: Using a set of 'legs' with a pulley at the top, the horses were able to lift the timber onto the carriage (adjustable in length). The work of bringing felled timber down from the wood was known as 'tushing'.

The Railway

During the 19th century the railways were developed, and a line was opened in 1863 through central Wales from Shrewsbury via Craven Arms, to Swansea and Carmarthen. This was constructed by various gangs of men. In some places the track had to be pickaxed through solid rock.

The line was in constant use for both goods and passenger traffic after the completion of the project.

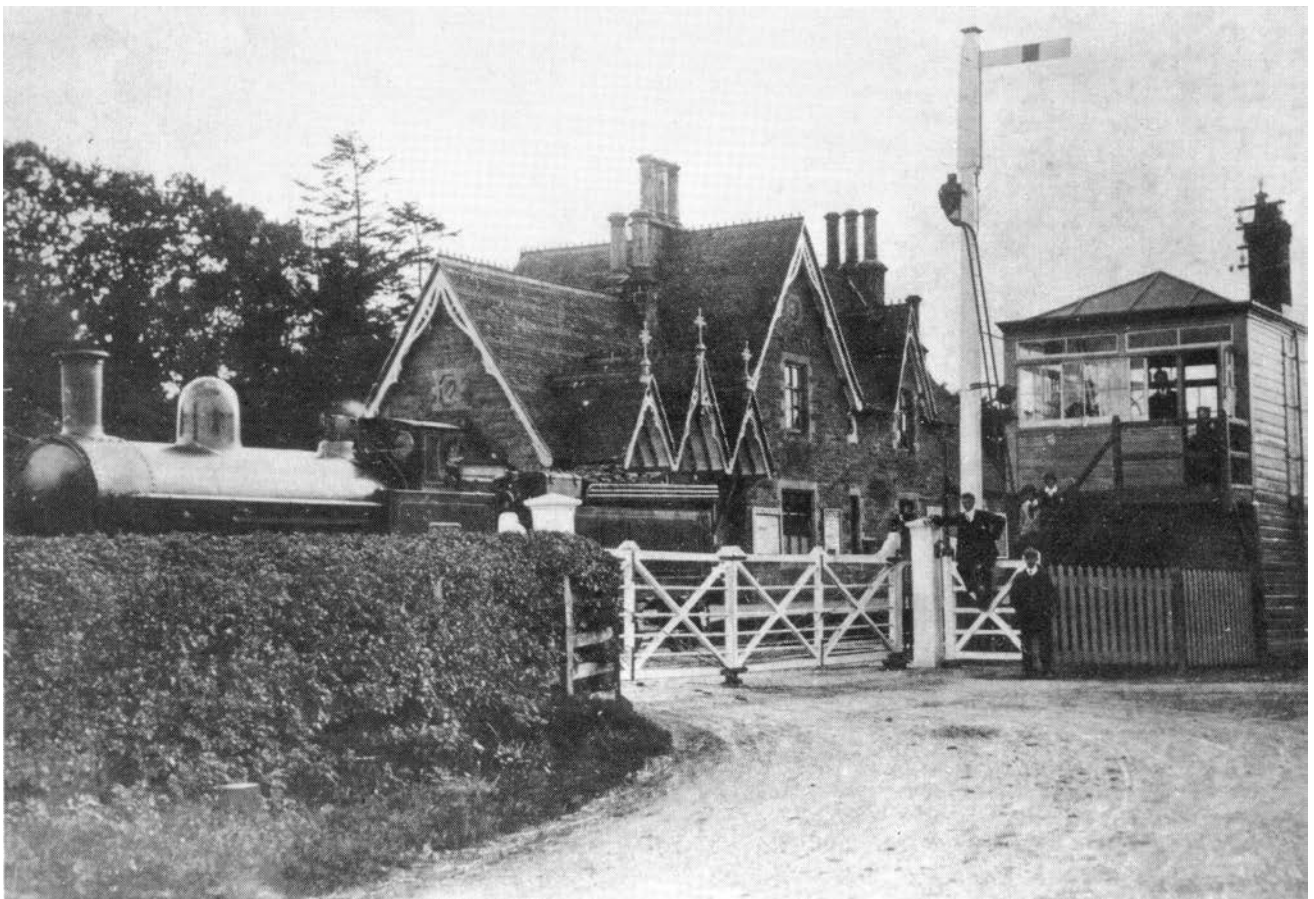
The railway must have brought a very altered life to the village of Bucknell; now there was access to almost any part of the country.

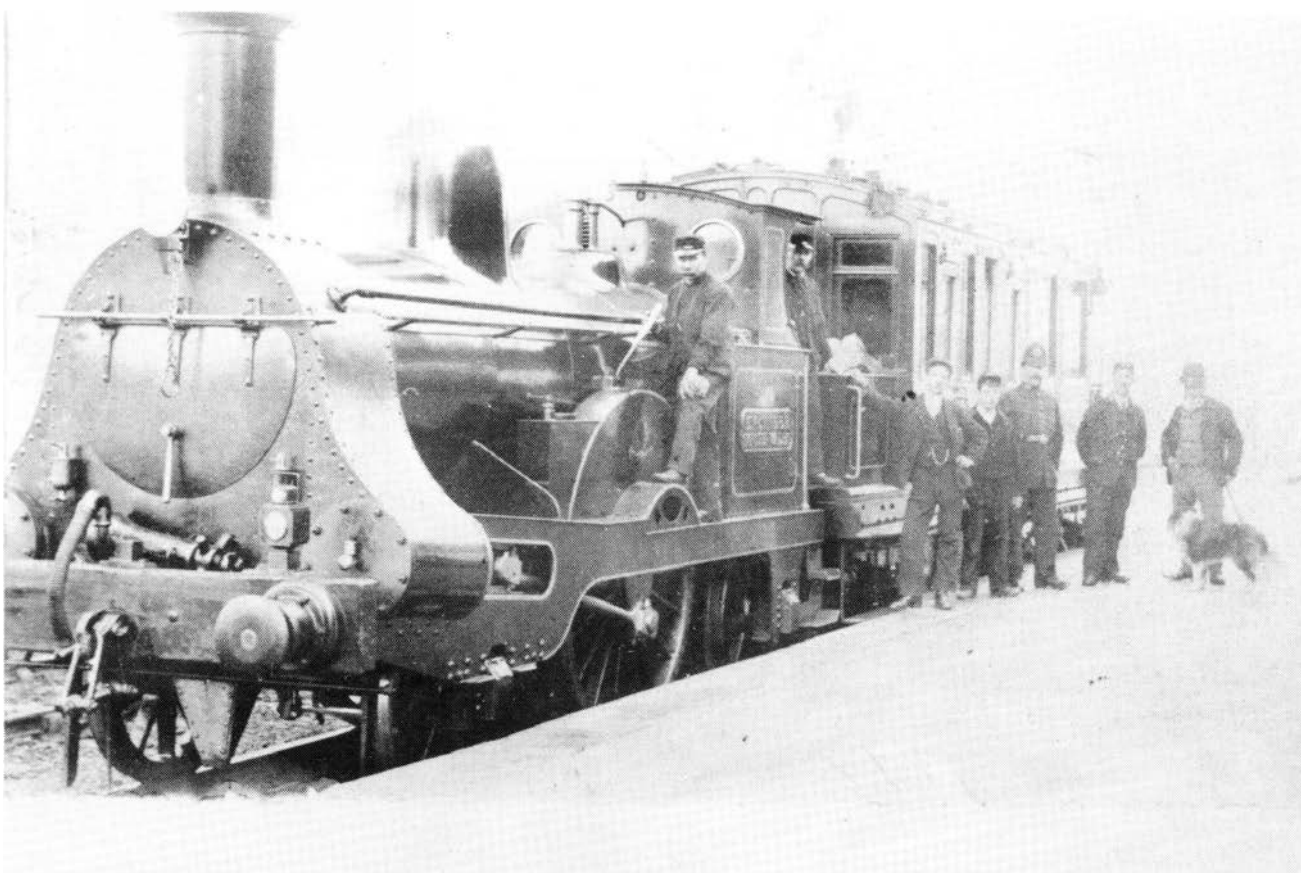
Various industries were started, a bark yard commenced (in the First World War) which later dealt with timber felling and a saw yard. A coal depot was formed in the station yard. Animals were transported, also horses and ponies for the famous Bron Fair.

The outlet by rail was invaluable, giving employment to a village which has been growing ever since.

The Beeching axe in the late 1950's very nearly finished off the railway for good and in spite of many local protests the goods traffic was removed; and although the passenger trains were saved, the line became a single track.

From being a thriving station, with a full staff, Bucknell is now an unmanned halt. However we are thankful we still have a railway.





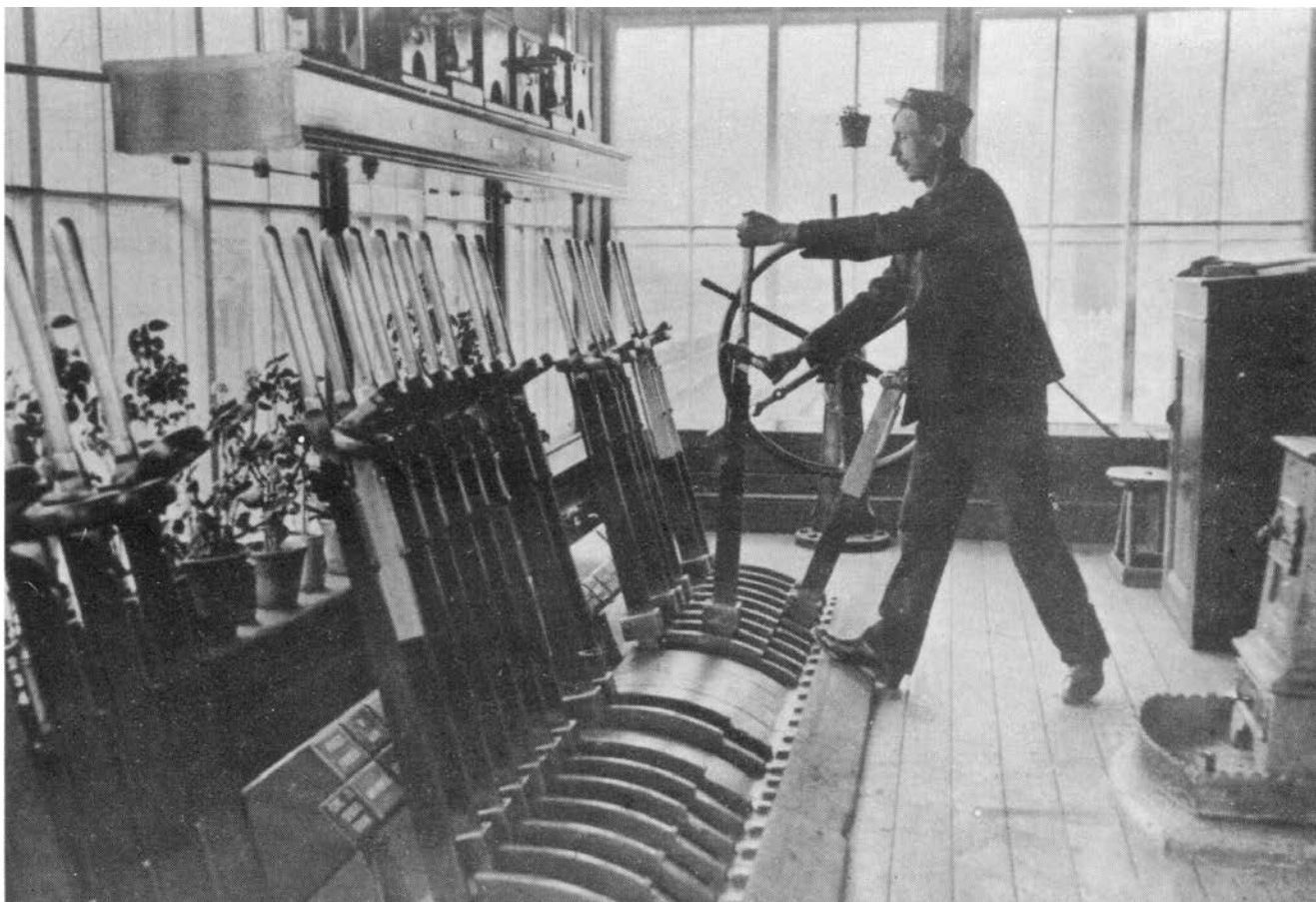
SPECIAL INSPECTION TRAIN, c.1890: Inspectors working from Shrewsbury would make regular (unannounced) visits to check on maintenance standards along the line.



STATION STAFF, c.1910: There were two sets of staff – one for passenger trade, one for goods traffic. The station house is considered by many to be the best architecturally on the line. In the background are the goods depot and Radnor Coal Company.



BUCKNELL STATION, c.1920: A tank engine on a local passenger service. The train is possibly the 'Thursday Special' returning to Builth Road.



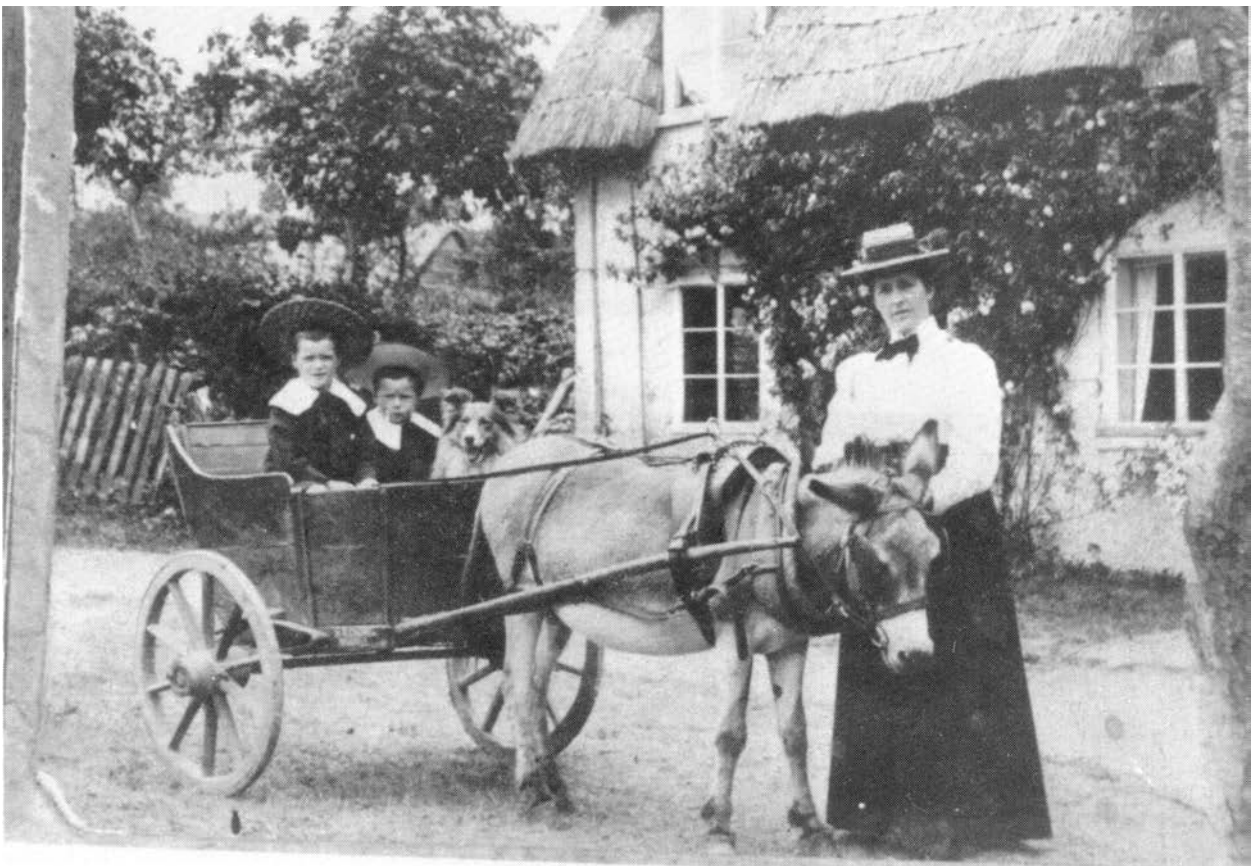
THE SIGNAL BOX, pre-1914: Mr. Jim Evans of Bucknell at work.

Transport

Before the First World War most people walked if they had to go somewhere. A trip to Knighton — to buy something special — could be done by train or, if you couldn't afford the ticket, by foot. The better-off people would perhaps take their pony and trap.

Gradually more people began to use push-bikes and horses as a means of transport. In the early thirties the Thursday bus service to Knighton began, and has continued to the present day. Some of the familiar names for horse-drawn vehicles were: carriages, wheelcars, tubs, gambow, tip cart, waggons and dreys. During the Second World War the cart-horse gave way to the tractor.

There were few cars in the village between the wars, but since then their use has rapidly increased and that of public transport declined accordingly.



DONKEY and TUB, c.1905: Mrs.Peters and her sons outside 'The Desert'. The owner's name-plate (H.R.Crowe) was attached to the side of the tub and would be transferred when the vehicle was replaced.



PONY and TUB, c.1920: The Sherwood family, pictured on Hope Bank. Mrs Baldwin leads Tiny the pony. The dogs are Nell and Pedlar.



HARVEST DRAY. Martin and Kathleen Sherwood with horses 'Jolly' and 'Dragon' at Lower House Farm. The 'dripples' (wooden supports) have been fitted to the cart for the hay harvest. The dray would also be used for general farm duties at other times of the year.



RIDING PONIES, c.1928: Mrs. Sherwood (left) and Mrs. Baldwin on 'Silvereye' and 'Tiny' at the Lower House Farm.



CYCLING, c.1920: Miss Page (left) and Miss Jones. The cycles have a dress guard over the rear wheel.



MOTORCYCLING, c.1918: Early belt-driven machines – probably made by Triumph.



THE MOTOR CAR: Mrs Sherwood pictured in an early Morris Oxford at 'The Ark'.

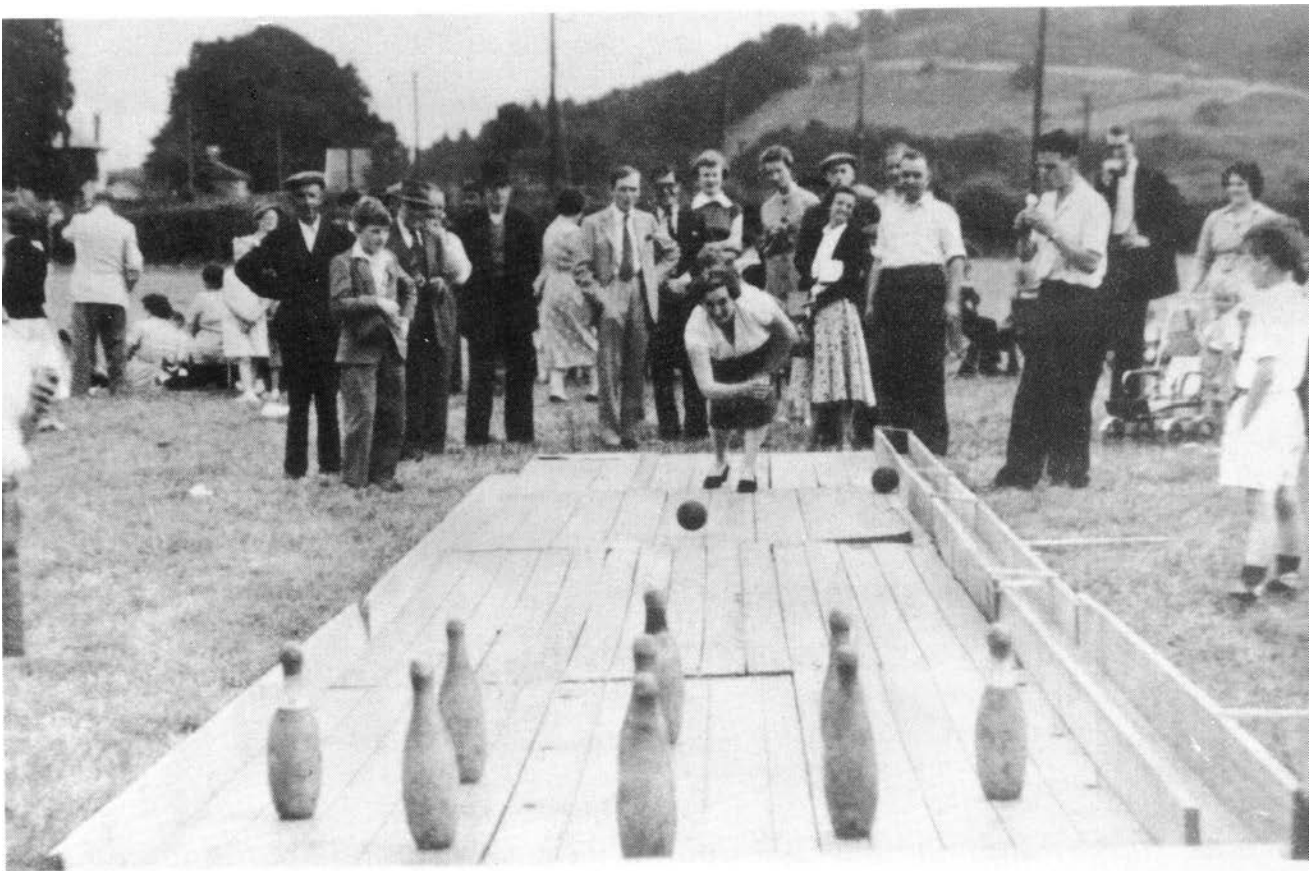
Leisure

Many of the leisure activities remembered by people in the village are still enjoyed today. For example, there are the Church Fetes, W.I. meetings, outings and picnics and entertainments at the Village Hall. Dances and whist drives remain as popular as ever.

Others have gone. The Bucknell Show was a major event which flourished during the 1930's. Also between the wars, itinerant professional players regularly performed their popular plays at the Village Hall. In a marquee in the orchard at 'The Sitwell Arms' films were shown. There were travelling fairs and circuses, flourishing hockey, tennis and bowls clubs and the annual train trip to the Shrewsbury Flower Show.

The present Village Hall was built after the end of the First World War. Prior to that concerts and other events were held at the school.

More recently the car and television have had a major effect on the way people in the village spend their evenings. There are less opportunities to meet and talk informally whilst watching the Blacksmith work, the football team practicing or to meet in the village shops which kept long opening hours.



SKITTLES AT THE CHURCH FETE, early 1960's: The alley was made by Gerald Davies at the timber yard, and purchased for the village by the Vicar. In the crowd are Ted Morris, Rosemary Tantrum, Marion Dodd and Mrs. Reeves (bowling).



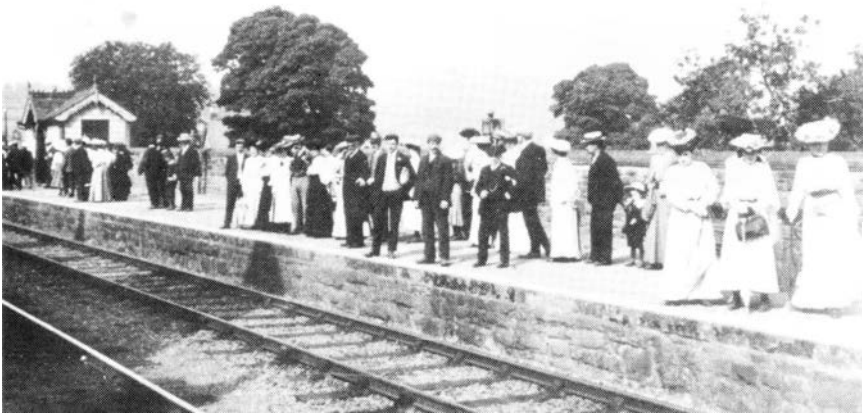
TEME VALLEY HUNT, c.1923: Pictured at the Green, Bucknell – looking towards the Mynd. Cuthbert Dodd in smock (with hounds). The Master is Captain Hibbert and Sir Henry Ripley is centre (wearing top-hat).



TENNIS PARTY, c.1920's: Pictured (left to right) are: Elsie Tantrum, Lucy Maughn, Mrs. Sherwood, Margaret Maughn, Mrs. Challoner and Gwendolne Crowe.



CONCERT PARTY, c.1909: At Bucknell School. These entertainments took place once a month. There was no public hall until after World War 1.



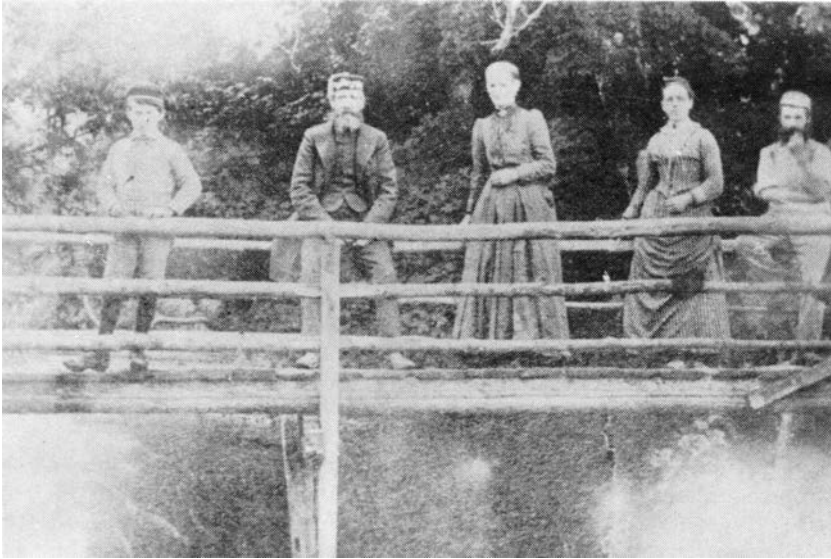
OUTINGS: Waiting to catch the train to Shrewsbury Flower Show, before World War 1. This was a major event in the year.



BUCKNELL SHOW, c.1920: Arthur Whittle (left) with the donkey and cart he used to fetch coal and other goods from the station (see page 1). He was also village postman. Holding the fiddle is Sam Whittle.



BUCKNELL SHOW: The show took place on the second Friday of August and ran for twelve years through the 1920's and 30's. In the crowd are: Dorothy Davies, Mrs. Bright, Mr. Jones of Llanfair Hall (who opened the show), Mr. Matthews of Turkey Hall, Charlie Woodhouse and Stanley Harris.



*VIEW FROM THE
BRIDGE: The Pickens and
Cooper family on the bridge
at 'The Old School House'.
Ted Picken is on the left.*



*WHINBERRY PICKING:
Pictured (left to right) on the
Mynd are: Mr. and Mrs. Arthur
Baldwin, Kathleen Crowe (with
Diana), Mrs. Tantrum, Mrs.
Sherwood, (with black mourning
band on arm), In front: Doreen
Baldwin, Martin Sherwood,
Jocycelyn Sherwood.*



*W.I. OUTING, 1950's: Standing (left to
right): Miss M. Mantle, Mrs
Humphries, Miss H. Burgoyne, Mrs.
Morris, Mrs. Johnson, Mrs. Price, Mrs.
Challoner, Mrs. Plaistow, Mrs.
Pleasant, Mrs. J. Mantle, Mrs. Evans,
Mrs. Davies, Mrs. Smith, Mrs. Prince,
Mrs. Shaw, Mrs. Griffiths. (Sitting)
Mrs. A. Moris and Valerie Griffiths.
The driver is Alf Wright*

Bucknell Football Club

The date of origin is a little vague but at the end of the First World War there was a flourishing team who called themselves the Bucknell Comrades. They played in the green and white colours that later earned them the nickname of 'Snowdrops'.

Playing in the South Shropshire and border area they visited places like Onibury, Cardington, Hope's Gate, Leintwardine and even Radnor Valley and Dolyhir.

The pitch has always been on either the 'Goatians' - now partly covered by Redlake Meadow housing estate - or the 'Closs' - where it is today. After the Second World War, before football could resume, the team had to bring machines in to help clear the remains of the search lights that had been set up on the Goatians.

Local bus owners - Powell of Hopton Heath, Joe Sherwood of Bucknell and Albert Morris of Leintwardine supplied transport for team and supporters. With leisure facilities at a minimum in Bucknell Saturday football provided a 'day out' for locals. At one time during the 1940's, three buses set out for a cup match at Radnor Valley and even a fourth had to be 'commissioned' (The latter being so dilapidated that several people had to sit on upturned beer crates).

Dressing room facilities were spartan - at the Sitwell or Railway Tavern pubs. At the Sitwell there was a zinc bath in the old coach house and water was heated over a fire in the old wash house.

Perhaps unlike recent years, earlier teams were truly 'Bucknell' teams. Most of the men would work until 12.30 on the Saturday and Tom Passant, the old baker was often seen in his apron, out in the moonlight, at practice with them.

Bucknell now has two teams, one in the Mid Wales League and the other in the South Shropshire League. Spectator numbers have declined but there is undoubted interest in the club that has already survived well over 60 years.



BUCKNELL FOOTBALL TEAM: A very early picture, from around 1900.



BUCKNELL FOOTBALL TEAM, 1920-21: (Back row) Jack Morris, Jack Tantrum, Jack Owen, B. Davies, Harry Matthews, (Centre) Ernie Sherwood, 'Fuzzy' Jones, Bob Bradford, Jim Jones, Bill Lugger (Front) Frank Munn, Bert Bevan, Bill Thomas, Charlie Griffiths, Bert Edwards.



BUCKNELL FOOTBALL TEAM: In action against Onibury at 'The Close'.

Celebrations

The photographs in this section represent a continuing tradition of village celebrations of both national and local events and festivals. Just as the more recent Jubilee and Royal Wedding have provided opportunities for communal festivities, so the Coronation of 1902 was celebrated by everyone in the village.



HARVEST FESTIVAL, 1907: At the Coxall Chapel.



CORONATION DAY, 1902: The celebration bonfire for the Coronation of Edward VII.



CORONATION DAY, 1902: Part of the village procession. The village women processed separately.



*WEDDINGS: (Above) The Marriage of Miss Wood, around 1910. Taken outside 'Orchard House'.
(Below) Elsie Tantrum's wedding party at 'The Close'.*



The Great War

Bucknell like other small villages suffered tragedy and loss in the Great War.

When the men were called up they went to Shrewsbury to sign on, then to Swansea for three months basic training before crossing the Channel. The men then joined their battalions and were moved up to the front. The men were paid a shilling a day. After they had been fighting for twelve months they were sent home for fourteen days leave, then returned to the front for another twelve months.

Some men in Bucknell were not called up at the beginning of the war, so they joined the Shropshire Volunteer Regiment which had its Headquarters at The Drill Hall, Shrewsbury. Drilling and training took place in the school yard.

In the event of mobilisation every man was to report to the Drill Hall wearing Great coat and Uniform (or good suit), a good pair of boots and socks. Also taking with him one blanket, spare shirt, pair of socks, brush, comb and razor, also knife, fork and spoon and one day's rations in a haversack.

The girls of the village went to the munitions factory and army pay office at Shrewsbury.

The wives and mothers stayed at home keeping the home fires burning. They received 12/6 per week from the government with extra for each child. The children were kept busy at school knitting balaclavas, scarves, gloves and socks for the troops.

The Memorial Hall was erected by Public Subscription in proud and loving memory of the under mentioned inhabitants of Bucknell who laid down their lives in the Great War, 1914-18.

Reuben Baldwin
Clifford Edwards
George Evans
Jack Gittens
Frederick Hughes

Harry Hughes
William Hughes
Henry Hudson
Joseph Keeley
Robert Morgan

Thomas Morris
Edgar Sherwood
Alfred Staley

One man was lost in the second World War — Richard Hudson.



Mr. and Mrs. MORRIS. They lived at Mill Cottage. After the war, Charlie Morris worked for the railway.



WILLIAM CORBETT DAVIES: He later worked in the bakehouse at Smiths shop.

WARTIME COMMUNICATIONS: The erection of a telephone pole to link up with the exchange at the Post Office.



WARTIME SUPPLIES: The lorry which brought regular deliveries to local shops and to soldiers billeted in the area.

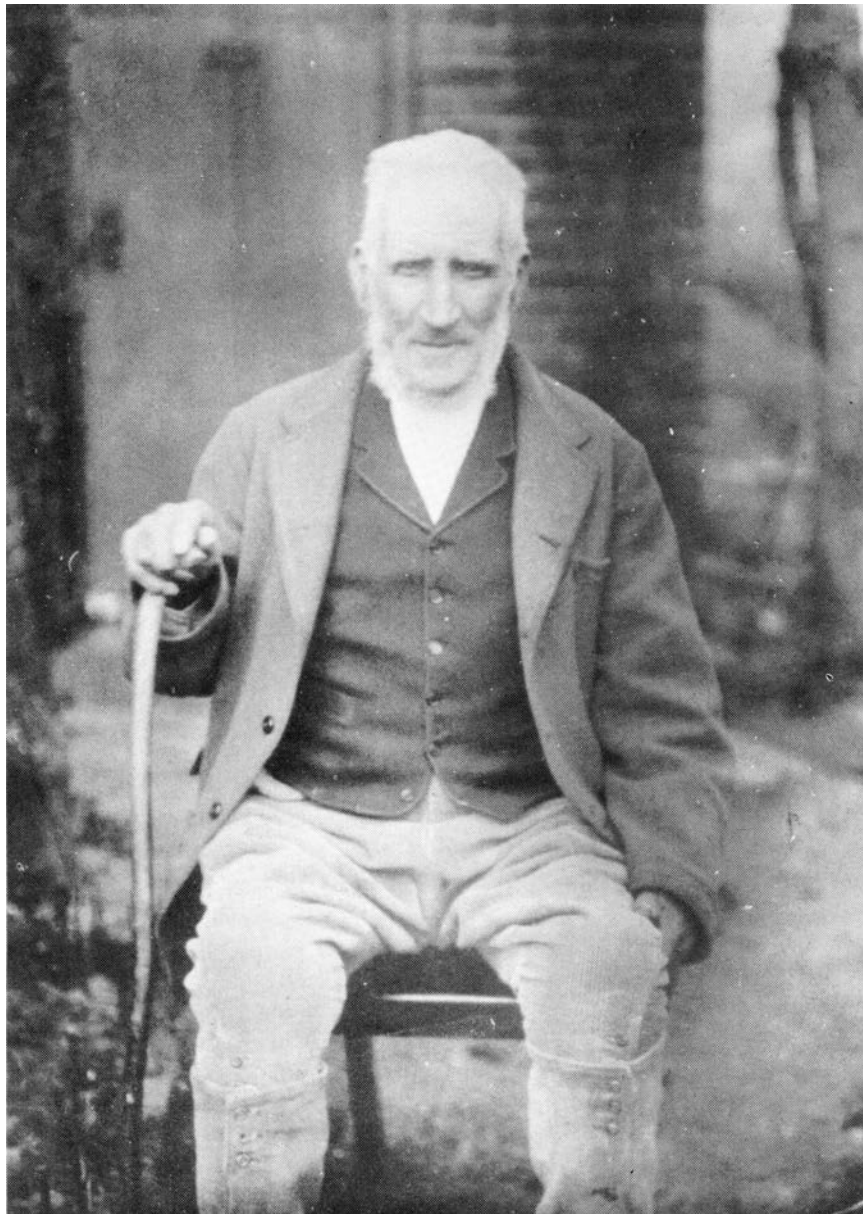
Old Age

At what age does one reach 'old age'? — the 'pension' probably provides a well defined marker. Today's pension is a far cry from the first tentative moves to provide state pensions by Lloyd George around 1910.

Life expectancy, of course, was generally lower in the earlier part of this century and there is no doubt that if one was able one worked up to the last. Examples of local people working into their 80's are well known.

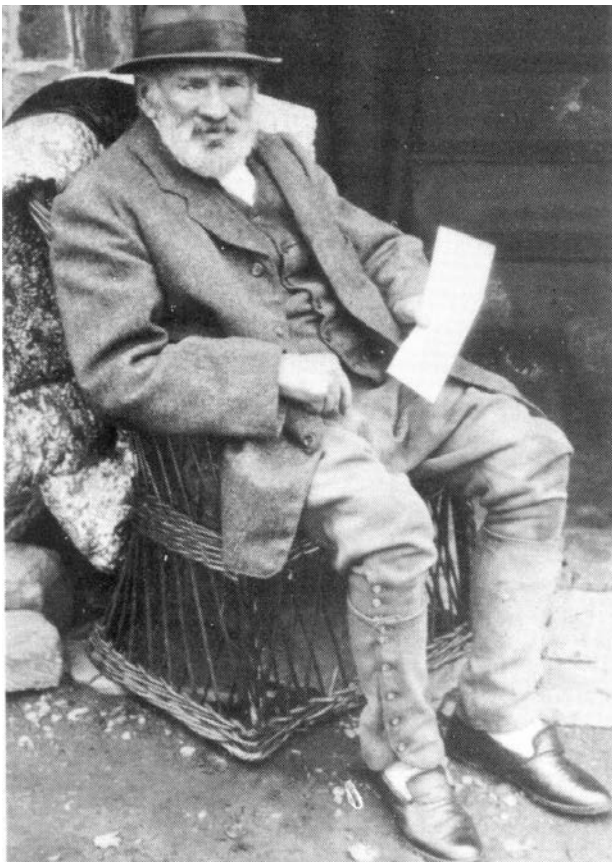
The care of the old would have rested with their children. Those alone and unable to manage would probably be taken in by the workhouse at Bishop's Castle. In these institutions husband and wife are separated.

Earlier in the century, in a community as self-sufficient as Bucknell, great dependence and use would be made of the knowledge of the old people. The expertise and lore handed down to them from those before would have been something that could not have been gleaned from any book.





HELEN EDWARDS: Known as Helen 'Tripe' Edwards, she sold tripe in the village and also did 'feathering' (plucking poultry), sold 'chittlins' (pigs innards) and took in washing.



Mr SCUTT: Formerly gamekeeper on the Stannage Estate, with the Royal Telegram on his 100th birthday. He was warned to give up work at 61 because of a heart condition.



MRS BURGOYNE; c.1920: She was married to the village undertaker.



WATCHING THE WORLD GO BY: On the left is Mr. Jones of Hagley, a farmer. Right is Mr. Sherwood, farmer and butcher



TEA PARTY AT THE VICARGE, c.1928: Included in the party are the Rev. Woodhouse, Mr. Burgoyne, and Mr. and Mrs. Gittins.



FUNERALS, The funeral of Mr.. Charles Sherwood.

