

Enford Bridge

The old Cast Iron bridge over the river Avon in the photo right was a 3 span bridge made by Tasker & Fowle of Andover and built in 1844. There were two brick pillars built in the river and they were sticking out slightly where you can see the two angled iron supports on the river side which provides a small platform allowing a foot to be placed either side.

When fishing with a hand line, we used to drop our lines, and then when the warden had gone, we would reach down from these platforms to retrieve the lines.



We also used to walk along the top rail!!

This beautiful cast iron bridge was replaced by the ugly bridge made of concrete with wooden rails, on the original two brick supports in 1971, it lasted until 2012 and has



now been replaced again. This new bridge is certainly an improvement on the last one. The first bridge lasted 127 years, the second 41 years, let's hope this new one lasts longer. Parts of the cast iron bridge were placed in a museum in Hampshire.

Chapel Lane

The lady looking out of the door of No. 61 is Granny Phillimore. The three cottages are 60, 61, and 62 Enford. Demolished in 1957. The house on the left was 59 Enford, now Allwood House.



The Chapel is further up the lane, the entrance can be seen towards the top on the left. The chapel was built in 1891, passed to WD in 1899 and destroyed by fire in 1959. At the top of the lane you can see 56 Enford which is still there today. The lane went all the way to the A345 at Coppocks corner.

The fire in the Chapel was discovered just after 10pm by Fred Stevens (Bunk), (A relation of mine), on his way home from the bus stop after a night at the Netheravon Working Mens Club, (He lived in the row of houses at Enford Farm which are now demolished, so he had a long walk up the footpath ahead of him). He saw sparks coming from the roof next to a chimney, on his way up the hill behind the Chapel.

Walter (Guv) Holmes was still working in the shop at the time so Fred rushed back down to the shop and Guv phoned the fire brigade. Ron Baillie, Guv's son in law, went out to help and Annie Clarke and her husband, who lived in 59 just below the Chapel, were alerted as all the buildings were thatched.

It was very windy that night, Ron still had an old stirrup pump from the war days and he and Nobby Clarke worked with this supplied with buckets of water by their wives. When the fire brigade arrived it appeared that the fire was under control. However a line of hoses was laid down to the river by the firemen. As soon as the front door of the Chapel was opened, the fire was brought to life again and the situation rapidly worsened. Due to the wind, sparks were flying in all directions, and people were advised to leave their homes just in case the fires spread, but they were luck and the fire was finally put out but it was the end for the Chapel.

The shop and Petrol Station

The shop and petrol station was run by Walter Holmes who was called “Guv”, or “Hummit”. He sold everything and if he didn’t have it in stock he would soon get it, often by Wilts & Dorset bus.



King George had his car filled at this station, and Guv never cashed in the coupons. In his early days, Guv was a baker in the local bakery in the village. His father, Mark Holmes, was a

blacksmith who worked from a thatched building which was on the same site as the shop, but was burnt down, the brick shop replaced it. The family lived across the road at 56 Enford, which used to be 2 houses.



The Guv and his wife in the far house and their daughter and her husband (Barbara and Ron Baillie), in the near house. In more recent times the two houses were made into one becoming 56 Enford owned by Barbara and Ron. Barbara now lives in Chippenham near her son, David.

The bank in front of the pumps has been cleared of grass to allow for the planting of red, white and blue flowers for the Queen’s Coronation. Guv’s van can just be seen beside the shop.

Picture above is snow in 2013

Enford Hill



In this picture, the house on the right was lived in by Stallards and then Tryhorns, (Tryhorns moved to Upavon), Behind Tryhorns there was another cottage, (Sam Dobson's) right on the road, (see below, the cottage on the right). When Tryhorns was being demolished, the roof was set on fire, deliberately as part of the demolition. Sparks jumped across to Sam Dobson's house and that was also burnt down.



The house on the left in the top photo was 43 Enford and used to be the Police Cottage. To the right of that cottage in front of the church were the gardens of Sam Dobson and Jim Maggs who lived in the cottage at the end of the lane. (this cottage is still there and was recently owned by Wheatleys who moved to Shrewton, and currently, owned by the Carson family).

After the fire at Sam Dobson's, the land was sold and later the bungalow, built by my cousin, Graham (Bud) Woodruff and his

wife Suzanne Drewitt was erected. Bud died young and Suzanne has now moved to Scotland with her daughter.

In the above picture the house directly at the top of the hill is Bobby Dear's, and the house on the left was to become the Post Office, where my mother worked with Mrs Webb until it was moved to Drewitts directly in front of Enford Bridge. The house was then empty for some time, there were problems with planning and now it has been restored.

I don't know who the boy with the bicycle is but the picture is looking up Enford Hill and clearly shows the telephone box which was outside the old post office and the cottages that were in that area.



Longstreet

At the village end of Longstreet was the pub and local shop as pictured right.

Originally, just inside the gate by the shop stood a large barn which was built off the ground on the staddle stones which I believe are still there. In my day the shop was "The Stores", owned by Victor Dart and his wife Eleanor, (V. R. Dart & Son).



Victor also had a bakery at the end of the drive on the right hand side, the brick built two storey part of it is still there and the rest was a vast corrugated building. All the local bread was baked there and delivered as well as sold in the shop. When they retired and went to Scotland, the business was sold to Harwoods from Brewood near Wolverhampton, the bakery was closed down and demolished immediately, and then

after a few years, the shop was closed down and sold, never to open again. Harwoods moved to Backwell near Bristol.

The Swan used to be owned by Ushers who were taken over by Watneys and our best remembered landlord, Fred Phillimore ran the pub for 30 years.

The row of buildings on the right were houses, right up to Raymead, but at one time I believe there may have been a shop and Post Office there.

A little past Raymead was what is now Cherrypicker, pictured right, followed by River Cottage, pictured below left.



Further up the Parish Hall stands, followed by a row of houses which used to be 3 and has now been turned into two as shown below.

