

MEMORIES OF OVERTON

Back Lane (now known as School Lane & Church Road)

The 4 houses known as Deva Terrace were built c1906 on the 5 acre "White Horse field". The field was bought by William Henry Williams in 1903 for £250. Mr & Mrs Woodfine lived in No. 3 and William Henry Williams in No. 4. He kept bees in the orchard behind the houses.



The house to the right was a farmhouse, the farm was called School Land Farm and was part of the Bryn y pys estate. Edward Williams born 1806 was farmer, then one of his sons, James Williams born 1861 with his wife Annie. Their eldest son, Charlie born 1896 was to take over the farm. In 1947 he paid £98/16/- rent for it to the estate. There are memories of the milk churns waiting to be collected at the front of the cottage.

The school



There was free education in the village soon after 1800. The school consisted of 2 cottages converted in to 2 school rooms, one for boys and one for girls. Later the building was demolished and the site used for the new National School, built in 1848.

"a site for erection of school rooms for the education of poor children in the said parish of Overton in the principles of the Christian religion, of a house or

houses for the master or mistress of such schools, all that piece of land situated in Back Lane in the town and parish of Overton, bounded on the north and east by land belonging to the said Edmond Peel, on the south by land belonging to the Rev Lloyd Wynne and on the west by a road called Back Lane"

Over the years many class photographs must have been taken at the school.

This one was taken in 1906 in front of the east facing classroom window seen below before demolition.



The Head teacher in 1901 was William Roberts and his wife Margaret was school mistress.

The school house was behind the school and playground, and can be seen at the background of the previous photo. It was built in 1852 by Mary Ann Bennion of Wrexham Fechan and handed over to the school trustees *“house built by her on land belonging to and adjoining the national schools used for the residence of the school master”*. and was lived in by the head teachers until the 1980s.



*The Overton School teachers in the 1950s
From left- Joe Miles, Arthur Hewitt (headmaster), Joan Pearce and Mrs Ayeliffe*



The school and school house were demolished in 1987 and the houses of Old School Mews now replace it.

The present St Mary's School was opened in September 1986.



The school canteen was built in 1946, and opening early in 1947. Before that school dinners were served in the room which is now Overton Library.

The old school canteen is now the Overton Playcentre.

To the right of the school is Poethlyn Terrace which was named after the race horse owned by Mrs Hugh Peel of Bryn-y-Pys, which won the Grand National in both 1918 & 1919 (*see full details on link from the Overton website History page*). The 8 houses were built in 1926 and were the first council houses to be built in Overton by Flintshire County Council.

More council houses were built on farmland beyond Poethlyn Terrace and into the beginning of St Mary's Avenue in 1947. Those nearest the cemetery were built on a lime pit. More houses were built in St Mary's Avenue in 1952 and Plas Madoc was added in 1954, built for the council by Gittins the builders.

On the far side of St Mary's Avenue is the entrance to the cemetery. This was created in the late 19th century and one of the oldest gravestones that can be read, is dated 1883. There was concern in the mid 19th century about the overcrowding in old churchyards and the cholera epidemics. The Burial Acts of the 1860s gave responsibility to local Burial Boards to open public cemeteries, permitting the opening both this and the Wrexham Road cemetery..

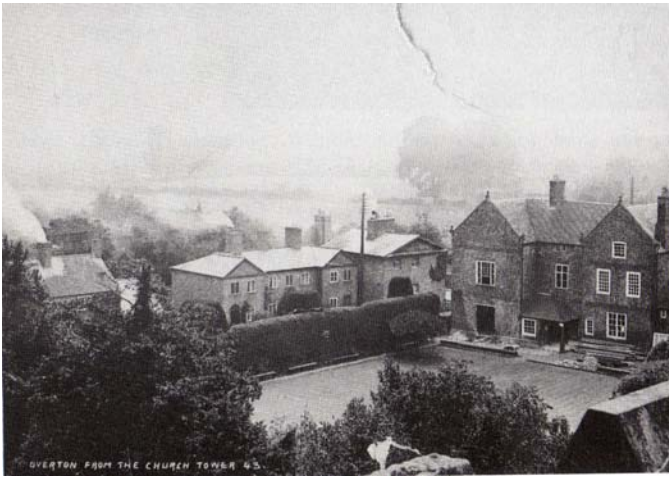
The two cottages on the far side of the entrance to the cemetery were owned by the Bryn y pys estate - in the left one lived Mr Will Moody and in the right hand one (Bryn Cottage) lived Percy Richards who in 1947 paid £5.0.0 per annum rent to the estate. Mrs Richard's father Mr Wilson was a gardener at Bryn-y-Pys and he and his wife had lived in the cottage before his daughter and her husband.

From before 1851 to 1883 these two cottages were a nail makers, lived in and run by Adam Povah and his large family. He was a master nailmaker. Also living and working there was his assistant nailor Job Darlington. The nail maker's workshop was on the site of the present hairdresser's salon. Many boxes of nails and horseshoes were still there when the extension was built in the 1980s and nails can still be seen driven into the salon wall.

In the 19th century the last building on this side of the road was 2 cottages and a workshop, a wheelwright business run by George Wright.



Mrs Wallace Edward lived in the left cottage followed in the 1930s by Bill Wright. In the centre cottage lived John (Jack) Woolley, brother of Philip, and his family, and the workshop to the right was a saddlers, run by Edwin Lewis on Ellesmere.



On the opposite side of the road the present car park was the garden of the Bowling Green Inn, known as the bowling green.

Beyond the church yard was a field that belonged to the White Horse inn. It was built on in the 1990s and is now St Mary's Court.

The lodge at the end of the back drive to the White Horse could have been built at the same time as the present White Horse building, which was in 1904. It was owned by the Bryn-y-Pys estate and was lived in by William Bloxham who paid £5/4/0d rent per year in 1947.

Next is Kiln Cottage, its name may refer to its origins as a malt kiln. At the beginning of the 20th century Kiln Cottage and Rose House next door were owned by Mrs Jones. It was one of those village properties which had their own well accessed by a pump in the yard. On her death in 1946 Mrs Jones left instructions that Frank Lloyd snr., her tenant in Rose House, should be given first refusal to buy both properties which he did.

His first tenant in Kiln Cottage was Charlie Hughes, then John Holmes, followed by Bill Roberts. Frank Lloyd jnr, then Frank Lloyd snr. then lived there.

Rose House was tenanted by the Lloyd family. In 1926 Nellie Lloyd tragically died from burns after her clothing caught fire whilst cooking. The workmen building Poethlyn Terrace across the road came to her aid but to no avail. Frank Lloyd snr. bought the house in 1946. In 1950 it was opened as a café and was a regular stop for Cycling Clubs and army lads stationed at Gwernhalod.

Frank Lloyds memories "In 1952 the Lloyds rented part of our yard at Rose House to Derek Stant, who with Mel Andrews formed a partnership doing small jobs around the village. After 2 years they split up and Derek then employed several men. My brother left school in 1956 and joined them as an apprentice bricklayer. I then joined them in 1958 as his joiner. We then built the three Bungalows as you enter Lightwood Green, the police houses at Hanmer etc. In 1961 Derek bought Rose House off my father and moved there from 12, St Mary's Avenue."

In the 19th century Jim Woolley's grandmother, Honor, ran a private school in Rose House.



The two buildings to the right were the coach house and stables for Quinta House which is on the High Street. There is now a new house between them, built in 2006.



Quinta Cottage to the right used to be painted black and white (see in the background of the picture of the school's east window.) Nathan Wainwright and his wife lived there, an uncle and aunt of Tommy Thompson, followed by Mr & Mrs Duncan.

Llanycefn cottages are 4 cottages probably built in the 19th century by the Llanycefn estate for their agricultural labourers. In the 1940s they were lived in by the Hinsleys, Roberts, Mrs Hughes and the Foulkes.

There are 2 semidetached Bryn-y-Pys estate houses before the junction with Bangor Road. The one on the left was lived in by Mr & Mrs Sidney Owen, parents of Den Owen.



The one on the right was lived in by Mr.& Mrs Tom Jones. Their son Tony was in the Territorial Army and was called up on 1st September 1939 and joined the King's Shropshire Light Infantry. (See *picture of Tony Jones left, pictured in Turning Street*)

The houses were owned by the Bryn y Pys estate and in 1935 & 1947 the rent for each of these houses was £6/10/0d a year, which is 2/6 a week.

By these houses was a tap which provided water for the nearby cottages. The position can still be identified where part of the hedge to the garden of Frondeg is set back.