Village Entertainment

When I met my wife we used to quite like dancing with each other and we were well known for dancing old fashioned waltz and it was played by Ken Griffin on his organ, the Cuckoo Waltz. They would always let us do three rounds of the room before anyone else joined in. And the other dance we used to do was the quickstep and it was called the Twelve Street Rag by Peewee Hunt and they also would let us do the circle before anyone else got on the floor. We used to enjoy dancing together and led to a courtship. We used to have dances at the hut at Netton. That was a lovely hall. In fact sometimes my wife and I, with the help of her sister too, we used to put on 'An Evening with the Hazzards,' just to have fun. We would invite people in and have a lovely time.
Monty Hazzard

Over at Netton they had an amateur dramatics society which was quite good fun. We put on plays; they even belonged to the Wilts drama league. They'd send critics down to give you a critic on your performance, the whole lot, front of house, the programme, the set and everything. There was a Brian Riggs one they did – 'Policeman's Lot' I think it was. Agatha Christie they did, before it wasn't politically incorrect –'Ten Little Niggers,' they did that one. They probably put on one a year. In between times to raise funds, they would have a dance. Mrs Penny, she was very good with the piano and Bill her husband was very good with the clarinet. And then they used to get a drummer in so they had a three piece.
Des Dear

Woodford Flower Show before the war was a big event. With the full fairground, galloping horses and everything. It was a real day and a night out, so to speak, when I was a nipper. Flower shows in those days were highly competitive and it could get to the stage where there was hell of a row if somebody else beat them at growing beans or potatoes. In those days it was a real annual event.
George Freer

There was a May Fair every May Bank Holiday and it was wonderful because Michael Penny was the chairman and he was very successful at it. It was wonderful show, they used to have all the old vehicles and motorcycles, dog shows and steam engines - it was wonderful.
Monty Hazzard


Stephen Thies and Imogen Abbott


Thea Cramer. Woodford Fete 1964


Mike Penny. Woodford Country Fair 1982


Great Durnford Cricket Team. 1966



Great Durnford Cricket Team. Late 1970s

Durnford had the Cricket Club and Woodford had the Football Club. My father made the cricket field because he was mad about cricket. He sort of commandeered it out of the field and made it what it is today. And since he's died, they've kept it up and carried on, which has been wonderful. In my life time it was always the Reading Room at Great Durnford and they used to have whist drives there and they always had the cricket teas there. One of my memories is of the cricketers clonking up the road in their studs and having teas in the Reading Room. But, there was no loo and no running water, only a cold tap outside. So, it was a bit of a labour of love.
Pat Powell


Woodford Football Team. Before the 2nd World War


Woodford Football Team. 1949/50

And of course football was a big thing in the valley then. They had an A and B team and Alan's parents were very involved with that and helping doing teas and things afterwards, because you always had a cup of tea after. That was in the village hall with their muddy old football boots because they used to change in the village hall as well. So they would clonk in and out although they were supposed to take their football boots off if it was muddy.
Sally Feltham

Open Day. 1901. Village Club. Middle Woodford