50 years ago

1939

WAR THREATENED Air Raid Precautions were publicised, with particular mention of gas warfare. But social life continued in Chipping.

FOR A GOOD NIGHT OUT come to the

CHIPPING & DISTRICT FARMERS' BALL Next Wednesday, February 1st 10 good prizes for whist in the Parish Room at 8pm. Dancing in the Oddfellows Hall to St Wilfrid's Dance Band from 8pm to 2am. Admission: Ladies 2/6 Gents 3/- (including supper)

At the ball, gold watches were presented to past secretaries of the Chipping and District Agricultual and Horticultural Society, Messrs. R.Ellison, W.Woods, and W.Walmsley.

During the winter, Chipping Amateur Theatrical Society had a season of plays, and the WI met monthly. There were fund raising events for the local A.R.P. units, and for the Chipping children's treat - a trip to Blackpool in June.

Air raid sirens were fixed by late March and tested monthly. An evacuation census was made of habitable rooms. The Women's Land Army was recruiting sucessfully; more volunteers were requested for the Auxiliary Fire Service, Special Constabulary, and the Local Territorial Anti Aircraft Unit.

Despite worries about war, Easter (and Whitsun) brought the usual increase in visitors to the area. Increased car traffic on the lanes was causing problems. In May, concern was expressed about motorists often getting stranded in the narrow road near the Higher Greystoneley Mosses.

In early June, men aged 20 or 21 had to register for military training, and farmers were worried about getting exemption for their workers. Registration was wanted for the Civil Nursing Reserve. The A.R.P. units were regularly training, and there were blackout practices.

Everyone was glad when summer holidays started; mills, foundries and factories had been busy as the war threat increased. In August, the international scene became more gloomy, but the country shows carried on as usual:-

CHIPPING & DISTRICT AGRICULTURAL & HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY. President, Major R.Ord.JP. Chairman, Mr W.Robinson

THE 20th ANNUAL SHOW

will be held on Saturday, Aug 26th in Brick House Fields, Chipping with the Kind Permission of Mr T.Proctor

£350 offered in prize money for Horses, Cattle, Poultry, Eggs, Cheese & Butter, Horticulture, Horse & Donkey Sports, Children's Riding Classes, Leading Calf Clubs, Sheep Dog Trials.

Special Visit of the Cotton Queen, Miss Elsie Kearsley of Longridge, by Kind Permission of the Daily Dispatch and Messrs. G.Whittle & Co. Longridge.

Slaidburn Silver Band Entries close First Post Monday 21st. Dance in the Oddfellows Hall after the show. J.M.Airey, Secretary, Saddleside, Chipping.

Some show results:- Sir William Brass Cup for the best collection in the open cattle section was won by Mr Timothy Procter, Chipping. Other local winners included:- Mr H.Rich for best cow in calf, Mr R.Pye of Thornley for heifer pairs. John Procter took the cup for the best calf in the Chipping Calf Club.

Children went back to school at the end of August and were fitted with gas masks. Then as September started, social events were cancelled "because of the international crisis." Schools and picture houses closed, even football matches stopped. Preparations for evacuees were completed. The WVS made plans to run feeding stations for temporary homeless and invalids in Sunday schools etc.