

## My Memories of Chipping - Part One

by Arthur Preston

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*I was born on April 15<sup>th</sup> 1920 in the first house in Windy Street up the steps, now No. 13., Mrs Kenyon at No.1 Talbot St. helped deliver me. My father had just borrowed £100 to buy a business.*

*He had a horse and cart & transported goods between Chipping and Longridge and Preston. The local farmers brought eggs, cheese, butter, rabbits, poultry etc..*



On Saturday night the farmers would come for their money. My father took a halfpenny off every shilling they had to draw. On his way home from Preston he bought bread, *The Preston Guardian* and tubs of butter etc. for the shops in Chipping, including ice for the butcher's fridge and the Ice Cream shop. Of course, there was no electricity in Chipping until the autumn of 1933. On Sunday morning I got my week's spending money, two pennies. On Mondays and Tuesdays my father brought coal and other goods from Longridge station whilst on Wednesday and Saturday he went to Preston but worked locally on Thursdays and Fridays. In the 1920s he bought a one-ton lorry. What a change from a horse and cart! Then his job changed to collecting milk from the farms and taking it every morning to Longridge railway station (a busy place with daily goods and passenger trains) for the train to Liverpool.

Now let's look around Chipping, starting at the front of the Sun Inn at Hoyle's Shop, the main shop in Chipping. Edwin Hoyle, the owner, sold all our needs - nails, hardware, bread, flour, fruit, paraffin,

cigarettes etc. Down Back Windy Street, past the first small house, down the steps to No.7 where Mark Seed, the village postman (and also the clogger) lived. Nearly everybody wore clogs in those days and he made, repaired and put irons on them. On the left were two lots of toilets, one for each house in Back Windy Street, and one for my house, No.13.

Under each seat was a bucket about half the size of a dustbin! On the wall a nail, from which hung newspaper we had cut up into nine inch squares and hung on the nail! One day a week Jack Marsden and a boy would come with a horse and cart, and empty the toilets into a wooden box. The smell was not very pleasant! (We did not use the toilets at night but had a potty under the bed.)

Next to the toilets was a wooden shed where Edwin Hoyle kept 300 gallons of paraffin which we collected for our house lamps before electricity came. The bottom house at the end of Windy Street was the Parish Room, used for meetings, whist drives etc.. On the top floor was Chipping Club, where cards, darts, draughts and billiards were played. Not much snooker then! Chipping had two good billiards teams in those days.

St Mary's Community Centre was formerly St Mary's School. Nearby is the old vicarage, where a Rev. Gibbons lived. He used to drive fast so his wife sat beside him with a hand-operated horn which she blew - 'Pom, Pom'. There were no houses between the school and Town End until some were built in the thirties. I started school at Brabin's at five and left at fourteen. We boys used to play marbles, top and whip, bowl a hoop, and football. The bowl, a thin round metal wheel, was made at the blacksmith's, and we ran around with it. The girls played hopscotch and skipping and stood in groups admiring us, or disliking us! We always had a holiday on Pancake Tuesday when we would go around the houses and say, "Please we have come a pan-caking", and we got an orange in our basket. On a good day we could get up to seventy oranges!