

# Memories of Ecclestone



## School Pack & Notes

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# Childhood in Ecclestone

The slides in the Childhood in Ecclestone presentation all feature primary sources and can help your class explore how life and childhood in particular has altered over the generations, with a specific local focus.

All comments in quotation marks are genuine accounts by local people about their experiences of life in Ecclestone and relate to the images they are beneath.

Rose Queen photographs and programme:

- Encourage the class to discuss the idea of a Rose Queen Festival - have they ever heard of a Rose Queen?
- What annual events do they participate in?
- Do they recognise the places in the photographs? (They won't - the fields are on Church Lane and are now built upon)
- What do they think of the costumes? Would they like to wear them?
- Play "spot the difference" between the Rose Queen photos - the first two are from 1933 and 1934 - the Rose Queen in 1933 is the retiring Queen in 1934. Many of the dresses are the same in the first two, only a few items remain in the later image.
- The programme tells us when it was, the route of the procession, the name and role of everyone involved in the Carnival, there was lots of entertainment, a Sunday school sports day, it was a long day for young participants, 2.15-9.00pm.
- The programme could be used in conjunction with a map as a comprehension exercise to follow the route of the procession, and then calculate the distance.
- Pre-decimal money can be discussed via the programme and other memory comments throughout - sixpence admission fee, the written format for shillings and pence, i.e. 2/- is 2 shillings and 1/- is 1 shilling, value of a shilling, number of pennies to the pound, what is a ha'penny etc.

Social events photographs:

- Field Day - have they heard the expression "We'll have a field day"/"They'll have a field day"?
- Look at the area of land between Millbrook Lane and Alder Hey Road on a modern map/online/on Googlemaps/Streetview and compare to the image showing open fields to see how much it has altered.

- The Charabanc trip photo from the 1930s - look at the people's clothing. It shows how formally people dressed for a day out. (In this case, it was organised by Christ Church Mothers' Union)
- How do they dress for a trip to the seaside? How did they get there?
- Have they been to Southport? What did they do there?

#### 1939 Chapel Lane School photo

- Chapel Lane School stood on Chapel Lane opposite Christ Church Parish Hall and was later renamed Eccleston Mere Infants School. Eccleston Mere Primary School was built on its current site at Saleswood Avenue, and the Infants wing at Chapel Lane was demolished.
- Look at the children's clothing - are they wearing a uniform?
- What is your school's playground like?
- Why would the playground be dug up and replaced by a vegetable garden?
- Why is the year the photo was taken important?

#### Almond's sweet shop photo

- It doesn't really look like a sweet shop. They also kept bees and sold honey,
- Almond's is no longer there, it has been demolished
- How much do your pupils get to spend on sweets? What sort of thing do they choose? Are they weighed out and put in paper bags or are they pre-packed?

#### Farming photo and working memories

- Do they think he is too young to be working on the land?
- Do any of the class have jobs?
- What do they think of leaving school at 14?
- How old will they be when they leave education?

# Blacksmithing

The slides in the Blacksmithing presentation all feature primary sources and can help your class explore the importance of traditional crafts and developments in technology, with a specific local focus.

All comments in quotation marks are genuine accounts by local people about their experiences of life in Ecclestone and relate to the images they are beneath.

Reasons to visit a blacksmith:

- Blacksmiths are very skilled metal workers. They could repair metal items, they could make gates, tools, metal rims for wheels, agricultural equipment used for farming and gardening, and of course, shoeing horses.
- A blacksmith that shoes horses is called a farrier. They don't hurt the horses when they shoe them - they alter the shape of the horseshoe by heating it up and reshaping it with the anvil and hammer, then they hold it to the horse's hoof to check it for size. It singes the hoof, making smoke and a burning smell and it helps the farrier file the hoof shorter and to shape (like filing a nail but much tougher) and the shoe is held in place by big nails hammered into the hoof. The hoof is like a very very thick hard fingernail - it keeps growing and the horse doesn't feel pain in it.
- There were lots of horses being shod (having horseshoes fitted) at the Smithy. Racehorses, pet horses, ponies, working horses like shire horses. There were lots of horses working around Ecclestone pulling farming equipment, hauling carts full of crops, walking over different surfaces, so they needed their shoes replacing every three weeks or so, as they would wear out.

Black and white photographs of the Smithy:

- Compare to photo of the Smithy Heritage Centre. What has changed?
- Also, building to left of Smithy has been demolished and replaced - was the United Reformed Church, now Henbury Court apartments. The building to the right of the Smithy is Ecclestone Village Hall - some of the class may have attended parties, Judo or dancing classes there - it was built as Ecclestone County Library, sign visible in second photo.
- The man in the photographs is call Ellis Hall, he was the last blacksmith to work at the Smithy. He had been taught by his father Peter. They are the blacksmiths the memory quotes relate to.

Memory quotes and other photos:

- Much of the equipment referred to in the quotes can be seen in the photos.
- Bob Rotheram and his horse on Bleak Hill Farm - another example of how much of the area was open farm land - it goes on into the distance
- The final photo shows the replica forge display in the Smithy Heritage Centre. It is much smaller than the original would have been, but all of the tools were used on site when it was a working smithy.

# Wartime Memories of Ecclestone

The slides in the Wartime Memories of Ecclestone presentation all feature primary sources and can help your class explore the impact of World War Two on the local area and the people who lived here at the time.

All comments in quotation marks are genuine accounts by local people about their experiences of life in Ecclestone. There is only one photograph from the local area. The memories relate to wider themes, and could be supplemented with war propaganda posters, original and replica artefacts.

Many of the quotes refer to specific locations, and so a useful exercise would be to create a map of wartime Ecclestone, marking points of interest on a modern map.

1939 Chapel Lane School photo:

- Chapel Lane School stood on Chapel Lane opposite Christ Church Parish Hall and was later renamed Ecclestone Mere Infants School. Ecclestone Mere Primary School was built on its current site at Saleswood Avenue, and the Infants wing at Chapel Lane was demolished.
- Look at the children's clothing - are they wearing a uniform?
- Why would the playground be dug up and replaced by a vegetable garden?

Air Raids:

- Look at a large scale map of Merseyside and look at how far Liverpool is from Ecclestone
- Where could people take shelter during air raids? Large public shelters, Anderson shelters, Morrison shelters, some stood under the staircase, in London people used the underground station platforms.
- What is shrapnel? (Twisted pieces of metal from exploded shells) Would you go and look around a bomb site?
- Why do you think the unexploded bomb was deliberately set off? (To control the blast and remove the hazard)
- Why would enemy planes follow the railway lines if they are in the air? (They are visible from the sky and act like a giant line on a map leading to the next town/city)

### Warship Week etc:

- During the war, members of the public were encouraged to give money to military causes and to buy war bonds (which were a kind of saving bond) to help finance the war effort. What causes do we raise money for now?
- Country houses like Knowsley Hall were taken over to be used for military purposes during the war. Soldiers did their training in the grounds, and there were aircraft there. People were not allowed to tell anyone else what was going on in case they were spies! Road signs were taken down, and sometimes fake ones were put up in case any enemy soldiers got into Britain - that way, they wouldn't be able to find their way around.

### Reserved occupations:

- How do you think people felt about those with reserved occupations? They might be resentful because their father/husband/brother had gone to war, but men with reserved occupations stayed at home with their families. They might have been relieved if it was one of their relatives in a reserved occupation. Those that stayed behind may have been unhappy - they might have wanted to fight for their country alongside their friends.

### Shortages and rationing:

- Why were some items rationed?
- What sort of things were rationed?
- How would you have coped with rationed food/clothes/petrol/sweets?

### Gas masks:

- Why were gas masks important?
- NEVER PUT ON A REAL GAS MASK - THE FILTER CONTAINS A FORM OF ASBESTOS, WHICH WAS SAFE AT THE TIME, BUT OVER THE YEARS IT WILL HAVE DEGRADED AND BROKEN DOWN. If anyone has one, handle it with care and as little as possible.

Loan boxes of replica objects with information packs, images, costume and suggested activity packs are available to hire from the Smithy Heritage Centre for £5 per week. Contact [smithyheritagecentre@hotmail.com](mailto:smithyheritagecentre@hotmail.com) for details.