

THE FOLLOWING PAGES SHOW THE
CONTENTS OF AN INTERVIEW
DONE WITH MR J WILKEN BY THE
PUPILS AT ABERDOUR SCHOOL IN
1992 IT GIVES A FASCINATING
ACCOUNT OF HOW THE VILLAGE
USED TO LOOK IN DAYS GONE BY

Interveiw with Mr J Wilken.

1992

The Free Kirk hall was where Betty Coull's land is. It was knocked down after the second world war. The stones were taken to Windyheads.

Dundarg was built before the second world war.

The Free Kirk Minister was Reverend Dymock. He died round about 1924.

The person who had the pub in 1931 was James Ferries. The play park belonged to the pub people.

Round the back of the pub there were stables for horses. When the men went to the pub they took their horses to the stables and went for a drink. The horses got a drink of water and then got groomed.

ABERDOUR VILLAGE

FROM 1900

At that time of day, like many other villages, times were hard, housing was of a very low standard. The houses were either tiled or thack 'n' rape with very wee windows and not too many of them. You see at that time you were rated on the amount of light you drew through the windows. Evidence of this is still to the fore today. Above the pub hall you see windows which have been built up for that very reason.

Housing and Employment.

Housing in Aberdour was like any other village pretty low key. There was a few slated houses but most were tiled or thatched. Most of them had a wee back window which was called a Jaw Hole. It was a wee door that opened and people threw out the contents of the (orra pail) into the aice midden - certainly not very hygienic. Later they were made into the back window.

Most of the men and women found jobs at the farms round about. Some went to salmon and other fishing. Some wives went out gathering corn, forking sheaves and gathering tatties to get a shilling or two to eke out a gie sma income.

SHOPS

Coming up High St, first you had Chalmers the Baker where John Skakle now stays, the bake house was in the lane but was demolished a few years back. Further up on your left was a saddlers shop where Jim and Anne Bowie now stay, there used to be a ring in the wall where you tied up your horse when you went to see the saddler.

Up the street a little further on your right you came to Souter Wallace's shop. On the same side you came to Sammy Gerrard the souter where Tibby Rollo now stays. Up a wee bit further on the left was another shop which in turn was a saddler, a fish shop and finally was John Burnett's grocery, it's now the home of Les and Betty Lumsden.

Across the road again to Grant Gauld's grocers shop. Alas it too is gone to a private house now occupied by two people.

Across the lane to the one and only public house, the Commercial Hotel. At that time, in its hey-day when Hugh Fraser was publican, as well as running the Hotel he had a byre full of pure shorthorn cattle and a fair bit of ground to make an extra income.

There was plenty visitors at that time of day for shooting etc.

On the left hand side opposite the pub was Coutts's smiddy - one of three in the village.

Back to the right side again and up a little next to the Free Kirk was Katie Scott's butchers shop in the lane. At the other side of the lane was Bawbie Grieg's sweetie shoppie which is now Alice Watson's coal house. The Butchers shop is now part of Davie Blair's house.

Back to left side again is the shop that is now Charlie Camerons. I am not sure who lived there at that time.

Next to it was Taylor Fowlies
Taylor shop, which was a Butchers
shop now a private house.

Now to Elphin Street where we
come on what used to be Wilson's
Smiddy and again now a private house.

The next I think was Jean Philip's
Shoppie, selling groceries, her
husband Georgie Philip had a Joiners
shop next to Mcleod's smiddy. I
think that is the lot as far as I can
remember. You see at that time there
was plenty folk on farms, apprentices
- a pickin for abody.

By m' J. Milken

