

BENWICK OF YESTERYEAR



● Percy 'Jack of all Trades' Males, busy in his workshop before his death in 1962.

Memories can fade and wear wafer thin like a handful of treasured photographs, curling at the edges.

Each new era brings fresh faces into a community, different lifestyles and ideals, sometimes wiping out years of local tradition.

Nothing much happens in Benwick nowadays and newcomers to the village pride themselves on picking such a peaceful little place to live.

But long before the days of cars and telephones, Benwick boasted seven different alehouses, a butcher, a baker, two blacksmiths and a harness maker.



● The Boot and Slipper and neighbouring butcher's shop in the High Street. Harry Clapham stands by the door of his newly opened shop and grocer Arthur Bedford stands with his horse and trap.



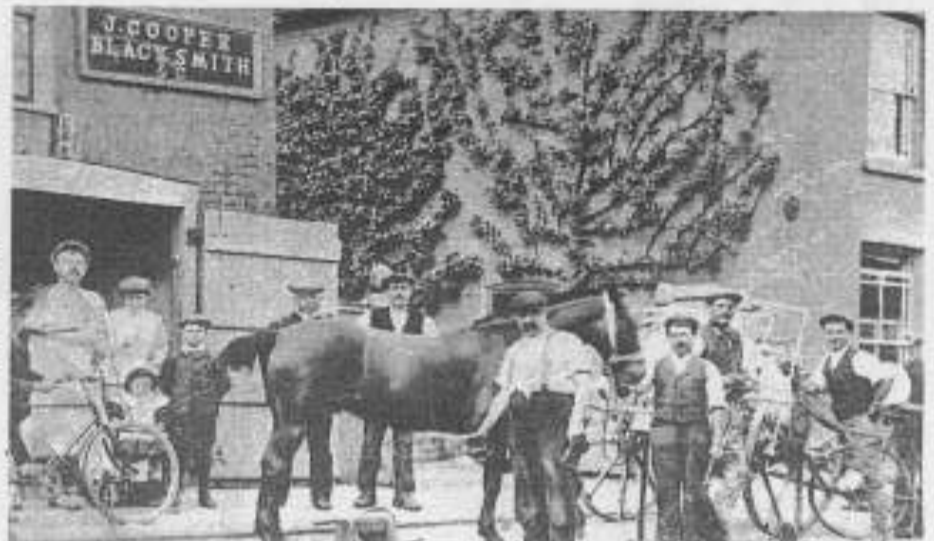
● Scholars attended the village school from the start of their education to the finish. Headmaster Mr Bernard Broadbent stands in the gate with his wife and son.

DISAPPEARED

A carpenter, an undertaker and a wheelwright are other craftsmen who have long since disappeared.

And the parish church and the railway station are lost forever, along with colourful characters like Percy Males, the village cobbler, barber and cycle repairer.

Born and bred in Benwick, Mr Ivor Sutton, has set himself the task of tracking down any old



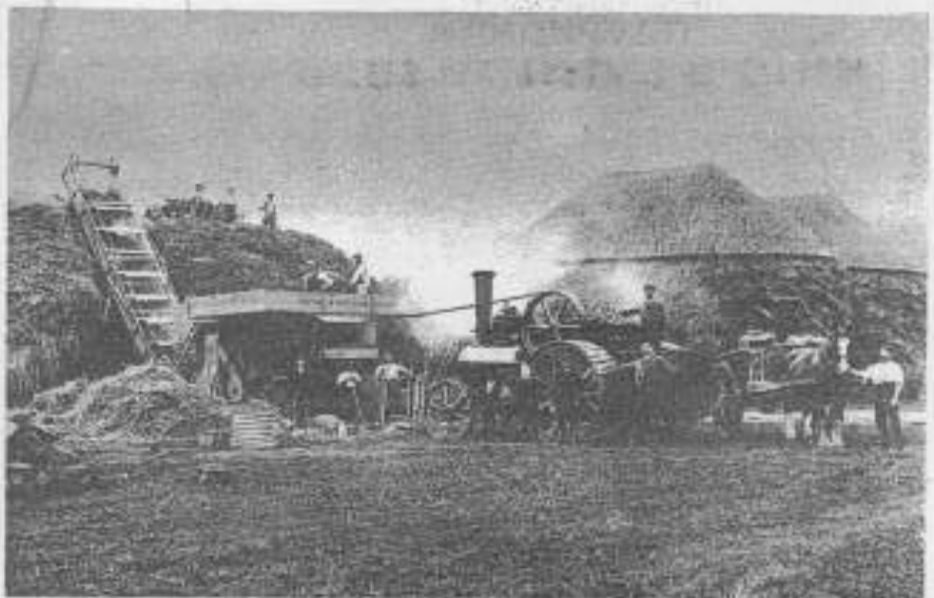
● J Cooper the blacksmith drew quite a crowd as he shod a local horse in the street.



● Everything but the kitchen sink could be purchased at Wayman's grocery, drapery and post office store. Mrs Wayman and daughter Nellie can be seen in the doorway, with Mr Wayman far right.

Time off from his bodyworks business in the village, means building up an impressive record of life in Benwick over the years.

By Frances Parnell



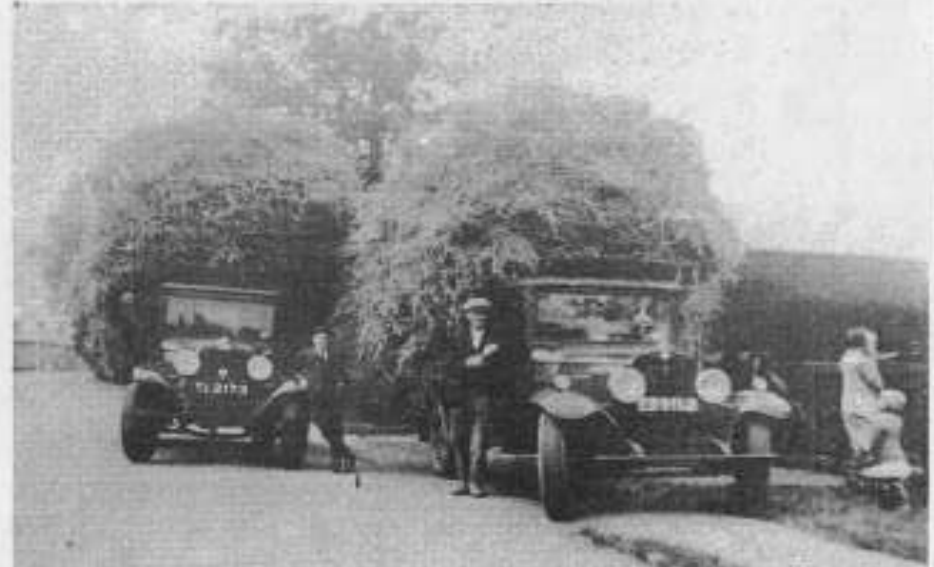
● Threshing at Common Farm, Benwick



● Sunday best outside Skiefs Row, which was in the High Street. Left to right: William Pearson, his wife; Mr Claypole, their son-in-law; their daughter, Mabel Pearson; their other daughter, Carrie Richards and Emma Richards; Jessie Burbridge and Betsy Ann Stratton.



● The village church was built in 1850. The clock was fitted in 1874 and the whole building was demolished in 1986. A baptist chapel and a Wesleyan chapel also stood in the village and frequent visits were made by the church army van.



● Harvest carting lorries owned by E N Sismey: the one on the left is a six-wheeled Dodge and on the right is a four-wheeled Chevrolet. Mrs E Sismey can be seen at the gate, carrying her son Albert, the present chairman of Benwick Parish Council.