

Gone but not forgotten Church House

Most people who have lived in Dolton for a number of years will be familiar with the fact that a cottage once existed in Church Street right beside the church gate. Nothing remains except the front doorstep in the narrow kerb which is explained in Anne Dunbar Graham's 'Dolton Glimpses' and its history is further explored in Dave Dingley's 'Partners in Time', but for those who are not so familiar with it, below is an article from the *Diary* by Alice Youdle for the April 1977 edition, written at Howard Cottage which is where they then lived. This also explains the recesses either side of the doorstep, which must be where the plant tubs containing the roses once sat. Less well known is that a butchers' shop lay opposite here back in 1932. Perhaps you have memories of Alice & Fred; only recently I was told about when Alice Youdle used to run the youth club, and used a whistle with great ferocity to get the attention of those in her charge. Tough luck if you were stood right beside her when she blew this thing! I don't recall that myself, but I can just remember when she was on Westward Television's 'Treasure Hunt', although I don't know if she won anything. Also I recall Fred Youdle delivering groceries from Church Street Stores to all the outlying farms and houses.

(R.Ed. Roger Dunn)

From the Diary Archives.....

It was 45 years ago on the 30th April 1932, when I came to Dolton as a bride, to the lovely thatched cottage by the Church gate, known as Church House. It was a very pretty cottage with a glass porch and roses climbing over the wall. It faced towards the Butcher's shop. The front door step can still be seen where Fred carried me over (I was much lighter then!!) We were very happy there for two years then the thatch became very bad. The landlord wouldn't repair it so we had to move out. Mr. Barnes, who lived here at the time, got permission to clear away the cottage, for it became a ruin, so it is now part of the Churchyard. We were very upset at the time, but we moved to "Home Lea" in the Square, where we stayed for 21 years. How very happy these 45 years have been for us. I am so happy to say we are as happy now as we were when we came to Dolton in 1932. As you can guess, Dolton has altered a lot since then but nevertheless, it is still the nicest and best village to Fred and me.

A. & F. Youdle