

Imagining Brize Norton
A journey through the history
of a village inspired by museum
objects.

This is the story of our project

We hope you enjoy our writing and drawings, and also learning something about what the past was like in our village.

Perhaps you could do some of the activities we did too?



A postcard of Brize Norton dated 6 January 1907. Farm workers with their carts and horses outside the Chequers public house.

From August to October 2014, The Oxfordshire Museums Service and Multi-Arts Practitioner Lizzy McBain, worked with yr 5 and 6 at Brize Norton Primary School to deliver a creative heritage project.

The project focused on a collection of model carts made by Brize Norton resident Eric Faulkner in the late 1970s and they depict the carts and wagons (and through them the people and businesses) he remembered from the village during 1920s and 1930s.

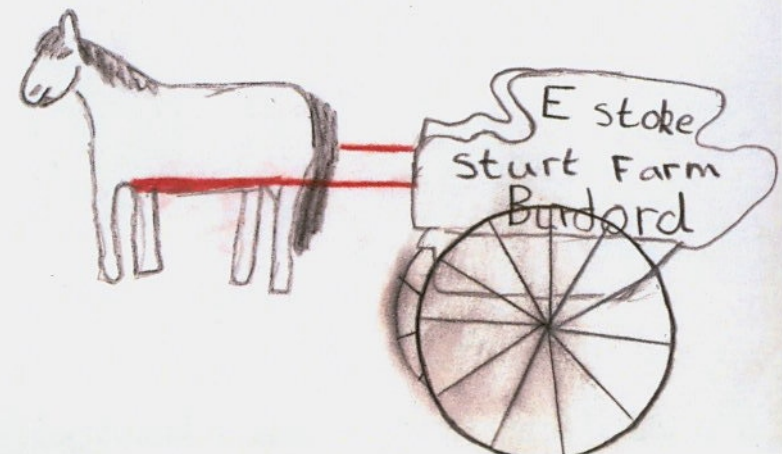
They were donated to the Oxfordshire Museum Service in 2012 by the maker's stepson Peter Faulkner.

The carts were on display at the Summer Village Festival on 24th August, where the people of the village had the opportunity

to see the carts for the first time in 10 years.

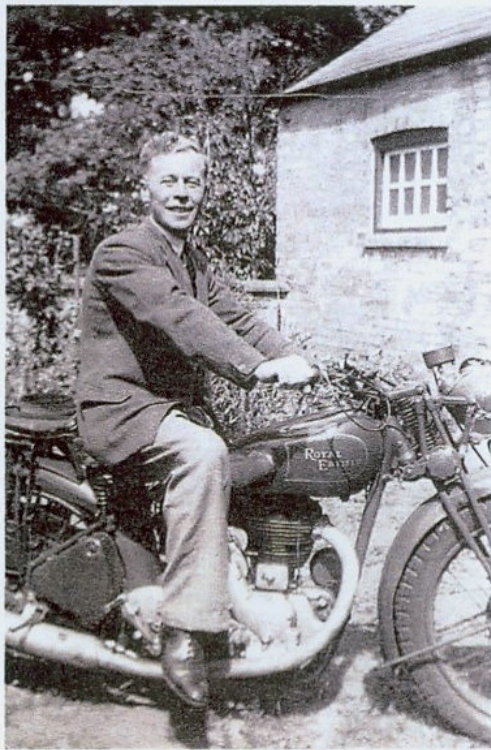
The children were inspired by the model carts and a visit to Swalcliffe Barn in North Oxfordshire, to create art, write poetry, diary entries and drama, which they later read out and acted in a school assembly.

It helped them learn more about the history of their village and the shops and trades that were there in the last century.





Eric aged 25
in 1939



Eric aged 36
in 1950

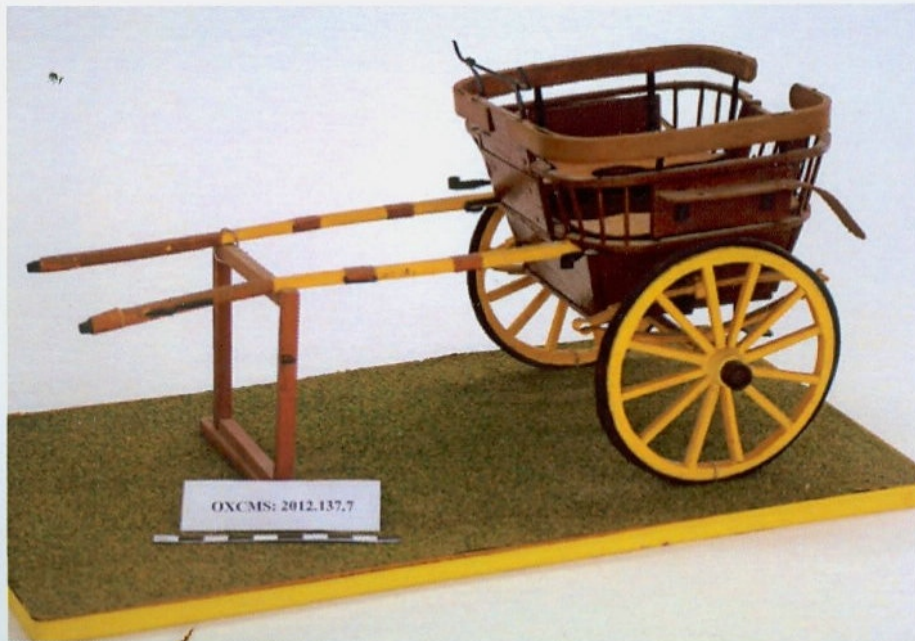


View from the Church Tower in Brize

THE CARTS

These are the different types of model carts that Eric Faulkner, a resident of Brize Norton, made in the 1970s.

He made them from his memory of the carts and wagons that used to roam the streets of the village in the 1920s and 1930s.



A Haywain

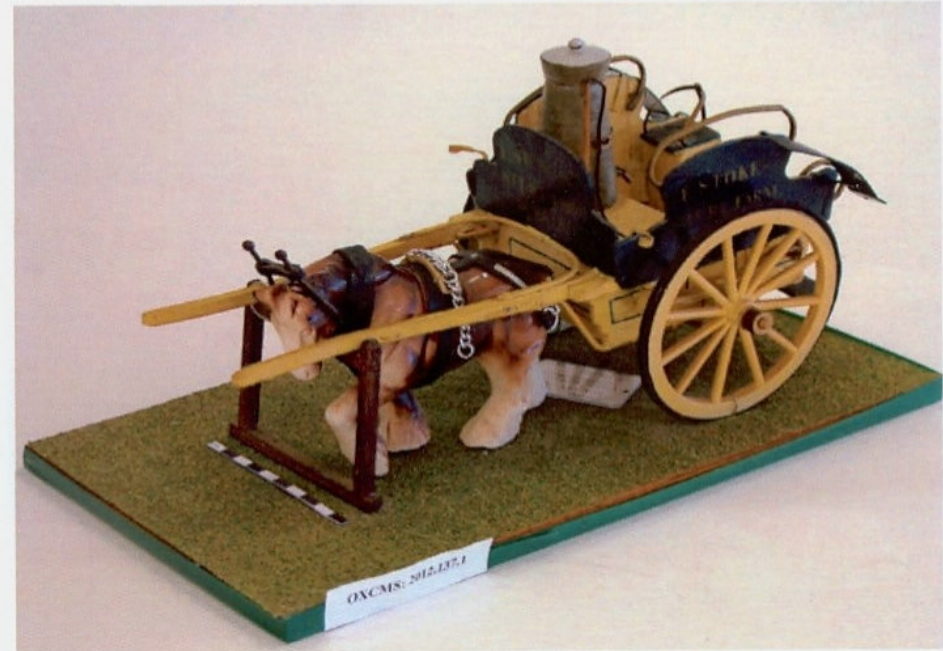
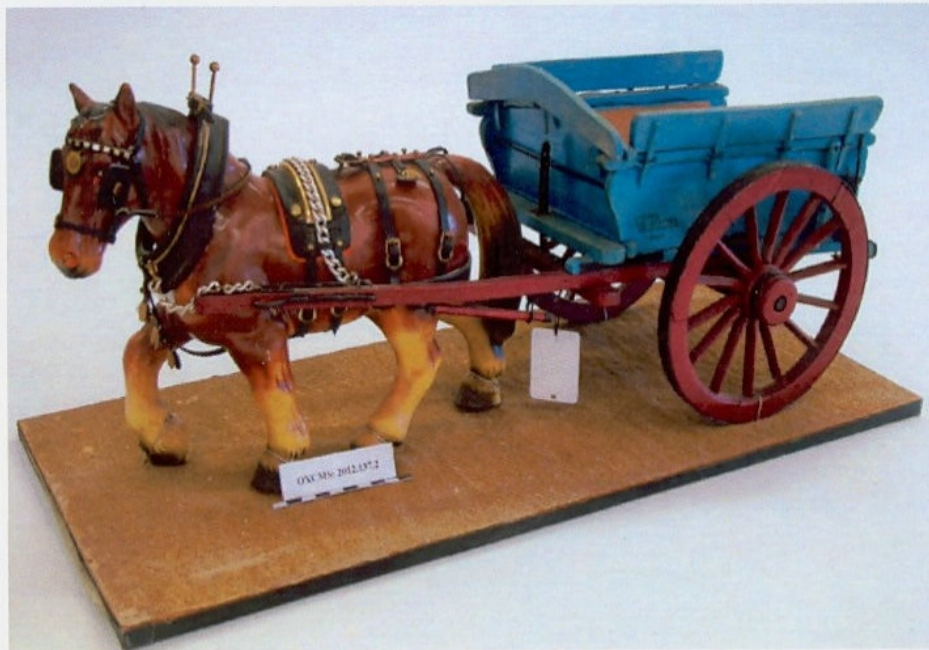
Used for loading hay on during harvest, with two removeable frames on the side to make loading and unloading easier.

A Pony Trap

This was used by a local farmer's wife to go to market and buy produce.

A Tip Cart: Slade the Quarries Brize Norton

Used by Eric's grandfather who worked at the quarries in Burford Rd and used for transporting stone to building sites. The price of a load was two shillings. The cart flipped up to tip the stone out.



A milk delivery cart: E Stokes Sturt Farm Burford

Used to deliver milk. People would come out of their houses with a milk jug and fill up from the churn on top.

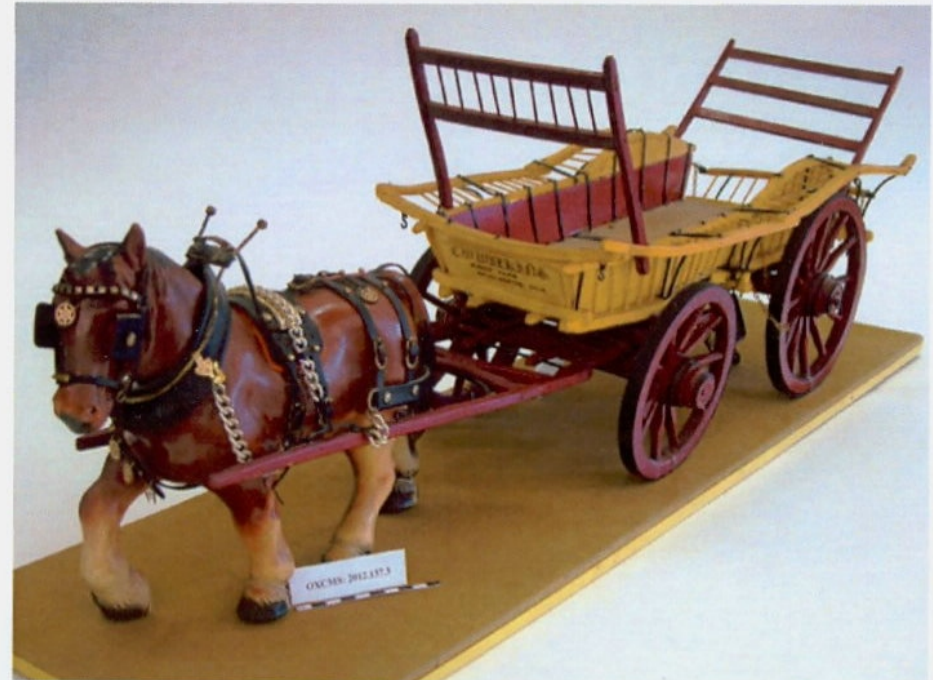


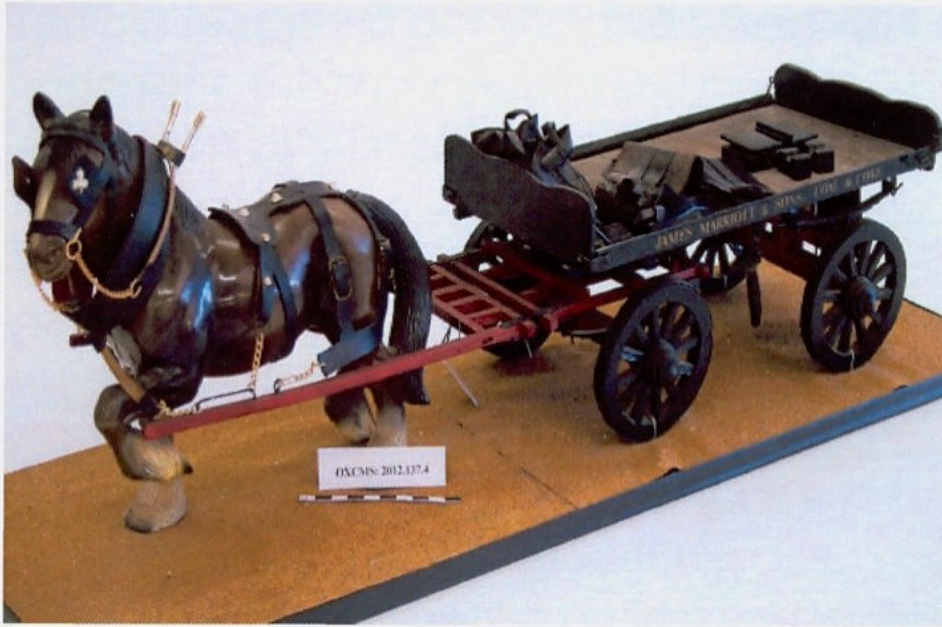
An Oxfordshire Wagon: C W Wilkins Manor Farm, Brize Norton

Every county had a different colour and ours is red and yellow. This was used by one of the local farms to move produce around.

A Gypsy Wagon

This wagon was lived in by harvesters who travelled to Brize Norton at harvest time to get seasonal work picking fruit and gathering grain.





A Baker's Cart: T J Hardy Baker & Confectioner, Brize Norton

This cart was used for delivering bread to customers.

The baker, Tommy Hardy, was also the landlord of the Masons Arms.

A Coal Wagon: James Marriott & Sons Coal & Coke

This cart was driven by Joe Faulkner, a cousin of Eric's, to deliver coal.



An Imaginative Journey through Brize Norton' past

Ask someone to read this aloud to you. Enjoy lying on the floor or with your head on a table, with your eyes closed, listening and imagining your journey.

Imagine your entire body is very heavy sinking to the floor.

Your toes, ankles, wrists, fingernails, necks, heads, hair, eyelids are all getting heavier and heavier.

Imagine that you are lying on soft, warm ground. It is a long time ago.

Imagine that you are bathed in soft light. You can hear gentle sounds around you.

You are aware of your clothing – you are wearing natural feeling materials, loosely fitted around you.

You have something in your pocket. Something organic, soft, natural such as straw or flour that you play with in your fingers as you lie down.

You are enjoying your last moments of sleep before you have to get up.

It is harvest time and all the village is busy.

Especially you. You have so much to get ready.

You get up. You look all around you. You notice the season on the trees and plants through the window. It is the end of summer and the leaves will soon turn red and then brown.

You look up at the sky and notice the time of day. It is early but the sun is already up.

You get ready and put your working clothes on. You walk outside. You hear sounds underfoot; the crunching of the ground.

You see landscape to your right. You turn to your left and continue onwards.

You are heading towards something, as you have somewhere to be.

Maybe you are heading to your shop. Or your workshop. Or the farm you work on. Or somewhere else.

You open the door once you have arrived at your destination. What is the first thing you smell as you walk in the room? Is it a nice smell?

There are others there. People you work with. What do they look like?

You get ready for work. You put your apron or your overalls on.

You walk towards your tools that you will use today. You pick one up.

You hold it in your hand. You stroke it and smooth it with your fingertips. You look at it carefully. What does it remind you of? Who did it belong to before you?

What are you going to do with it?

Maybe you are baking bread today.

Or perhaps you are going to be on the cart ploughing the field.

What has today got in store?

HARVEST TIME

There were 30 or 40 farm labourers living in the Village in the 30s and 40s. They often lived in cottages in a row facing the church.

Mr Castle, ran Manor Farm riding around the village on his big black horse.

At harvest time, horses and wagons were in and out of the yard all day long.

Straw was made in to ricks, the chaff went to the stables and the sacks of corn were taken to the barn and emptied in to large heaps.

Some of the jobs children did on the farm included gleaning left over corn, thinning turnips, stone picking, and birdscaring.

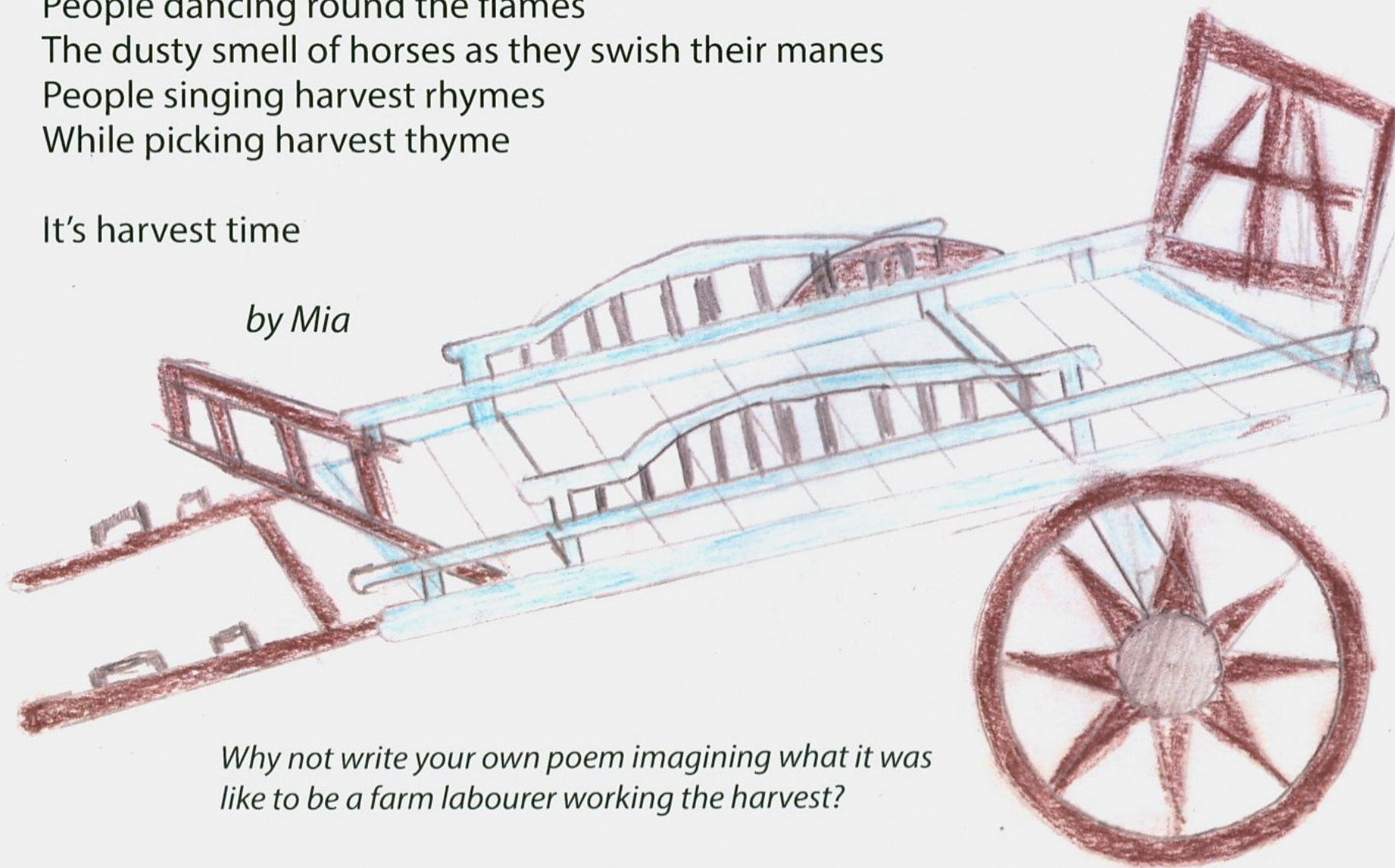


It's harvest time

Time for the farmers to shine
People dancing round the flames
The dusty smell of horses as they swish their manes
People singing harvest rhymes
While picking harvest thyme

It's harvest time

by Mia



Why not write your own poem imagining what it was like to be a farm labourer working the harvest?

VISITING SWALCLIFFE BARN

We spent a morning at Swalcliffe Barn, a fifteenth century half-cruck (a curved wooden framed) barn in North Oxfordshire which houses several agricultural and trade carts and wagons from the county.



When I arrived and saw the barn it was much bigger than I thought it would be. When we went inside there were lots of carts. They were taller than I expected. There were different types of carts; a Dairy Cart, a cart that took blackberries to market. After a little while we went and had a little explore. They don't just have carts, they have a little bit where there were some coins and broken pots.

by Amelie

WHAT DID FARMER'S WIVES DO?

A Day in the Life of an Edwardian Farmer's Wife

5.45 am - Out of Bed.

6.00am - Apron on and start cleaning out the range.

6.20am - Range lit and kettle on.

6.30am - The first warm water is ready.

7.00am - More coal on the fire.

7.30am - Back downstairs and start cooking the breakfast.

8.45am - Breakfast cleared away.

10am - Clean the privy (toilet) and pigsty.

11am - It's time to get the dinner on.

12.30pm - We eat dinner.

2pm - I get on with some paid work such as making hand-sewn gloves.

6pm - Bring in more water and put a couple of large pans on the range.

7pm - Just a few small jobs remain such as darning clothes that need mending.

9pm - Comb out hair, undress and go to bed and sleep like a log!

We used this diary to inspire our own Edwardian diaries, which you can see on other pages.

Why not try writing your own?

PEG DOLLS

Many farmers relied on Gypsies to assist in harvesting certain crops, as there wasn't enough manpower available locally to bring them in on time.

When paid work was unavailable, Gypsies turned their hands to crafting items from raw materials that could be sold from door to door as they travelled.

We learnt how to make corn dolls and peg dolls which Gypsy Harvesters used to make and sell. Peg dolls were made out of pegs that gypsies also carved themselves. Corn dolls were made out of corn husks left over from harvest.

There are some instructions on the opposite page so that you can make your own corn doll.



Take 4 corn husks and tie together close to the bottom.



Carefully fold the husks down like you are peeling a banana.



Tie a string underneath of the husk that you just folded down to make your doll's head.



Set your doll's head to the side and loosely roll up a small piece of corn husk.



Separate the corn husks on your doll and slide the arms in between the front and back.



Tie a string on both ends of your roll to make your doll's hands.



Tie a string underneath of the dolls arms to make its waist.



Get a new piece of husk and tear it in half so you have two long pieces. Put one piece over each shoulder to make an X on the front of your doll. Tie it in place with a piece of string.



Use scissors to cut off any extra string. Your girl doll is done!



For a boy doll, use the scissors to cut the skirt in half. Be careful not to cut too high.



Twist each leg together and tie the bottoms with string. Your boy doll is done!



These are some of the peg dolls that we made, along with creative writing about the past.

Diary of a Scullery Maid: A normal day in 1895,

5.35am: Got up, wash and dress in my white pinnie and hat

5.40am: Go downstairs, light the fire and cook breakfast for Master Birch, Mistress Birch.

6.00am: Lay the table for breakfast and stoke the fire.

Put a bucket of water to heat on the fire.

6.25am: Take the bucket off the fire and do the laundry.
Master and Mistress Birch come down for breakfast.

6.30am: Master Birch goes to the pub and Mistress Birch instructs me to do her hair.

7.00am: I go out to pick apples and cart the fruit off to the market.

by Tatty



My name is Edith Furlong.

I am eleven years old and help my father with his bakery rounds.

Every day I take out my mothers cart, 'Abby'. After I have loaded up Abby with Father's loaves I get Ditty from the stables. I do this as quickly as possible so that Father can't load me up with any more loaves.

Around the time that I have fastened Ditty on to the cart, Richard comes out ready to head up to Manor Farm. Today, Richard was lucky.

I had a delivery to Manor Farm so he didn't have to walk.

Richard climbed up on to the bench and I vaulted up next to him. As we headed for the end of the village, Richard jumped out and walked off. I turned round after yelling at him to take the loaves to Manor Farm and I worked my way slowly back to the bakery. I saw all Richard's friends heading for the Farm.

When I got back I took Ditty back to the stables.

Brushing and grooming, I feel hungry. It was then that I realised I hadn't eaten yet.

by Holly



SHOPPING IN THE PAST

We heard about all the different shops there used to be in Brize Norton.

Miss Worley's - a little shop on Station Rd, where everything she sold from knicker elastic to sweets, smelt of paraffin because of the fuel for lamps she also sold.

Barnes Stores; owned by two brothers who had a Bakers and a Grocer opposite each other. You can still see the house with the bakery sign on it.

We imagined shops of our own and wrote about our perfect shop.

We also did some drama role plays in our invented shops.

Can you play at being a shop keeper and practise being extremely polite even to difficult customers?



In 1895 there were the following shops in Brize:

Arthur Barnes – Baker, Grocer and Draper

John Matthews – Grocer

Albert Akers – Draper, Outfitter, Boot & Shoe warehouse

Lucy Akers: Beer Retailer & Shopkeeper

James Cox: Grocer

Miss Elizabeth Silman – shopkeeper

Also 2 bootmakers

The Blacksmith in 1869 was William Smith

There was also:

4 confectioners

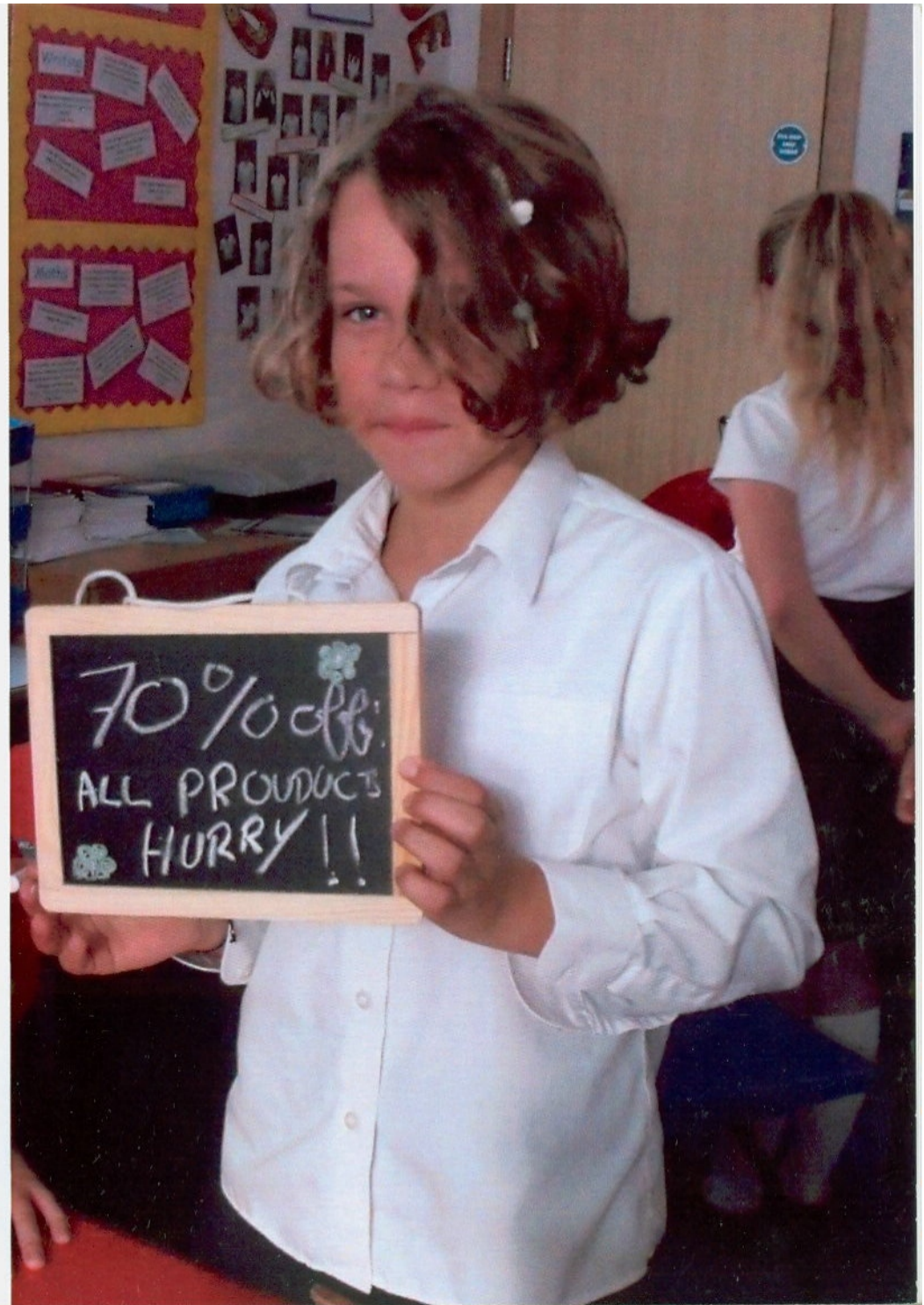
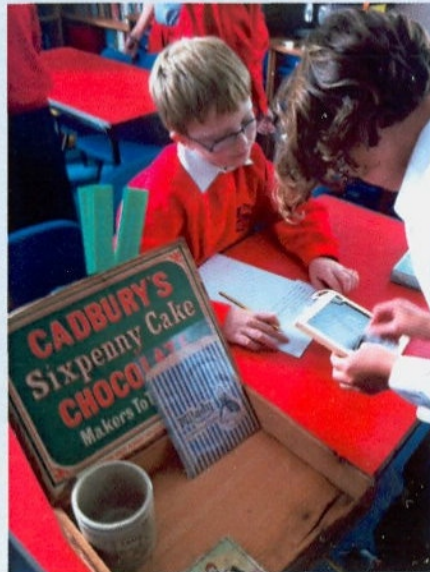
4 shoemakers

1 Tailors

1 Dressmaker

1 Butcher

And a washerwoman!



Bakery loaves fresh from the oven to shelves
Dewey apple pies, spicy pears, honey fresh from the
hive outside.

Here comes the milkman trotting down the lane
Out runs the bakers daughter to gather the milk for
today.

As the door opens I see girls racing around the milk
cart, ready and waiting.

Boys spill in and head straight for the sweets,
Chocolate mice, orange and apple fudge.

When the girls and boys go I hear the silver steam
babbling away and then the bell rings.

As I stood behind the counter the woman ap-
proaches.

When my shift is over I am rewarded for my work,
not with money but with food.

by Holly



Special offer signs are everywhere
Colourful liquorice allsorts draw children in
The smell of chocolate oozes through the air
The clips of hair clips whisper in my ear
The smell of desserts linger in the air
Sweet sticky marmalade attracts wasps through the
door and windows
The dark fluffy chocolate cake draws me in.

by Martha

There was the sign you could see for miles around
All the latest delicacies displayed in the shop window
Shelves filled with Cadbury's Dairy Milk Chocolate
A pot of crumbled biscuits on the counter
Racks of silk clothing and bow ties
Spinning tops in a glass jar
Marbles in packages

by Stuey



OUR TEA PARTY

We had a tea party in our hall and invited older people who had lived in the village a long time to come and have old fashioned cakes like lardy cake and eccles cakes.

We wanted to learn more about their childhoods in Brize.
These were some of our questions:

What was your favourite toy?

What did you want to be when you were older?

What was your first job?

What was your favourite past time?

What games did you play?

What did your parents do for a living?

What was your favourite thing at school?



We were surprised by some of their answers.

There were hardly any cars in the village. Children used to play and rollerskate in the road. When cars passed it was so unusual that they would write down its number plate to keep as a record.

Many of our guests used to help out on the farm and drive farmer's carts around the village.

One of Fred's first jobs was helping out in the bakery. His favourite job was filling doughnuts with jam. He didn't get paid but got give cakes as a reward. He later trained as a blacksmith.

Joy went to our school, then taught here and then became a governor!



JOBS IN THE PAST

We learnt about the different types of jobs that people did in the past and invented our own characters and wrote some scripts to perform.

The Doctor and the 1800s

We arrive in the 1800s, right next to a rushing river. I go in to grab some more suitable clothing for this period and then I cover the Tardis - you wouldn't find a telephone box here! I come out with a top hat and then I see Rose talking to a fisherman asking if he could trade something - he'd never seen a watch before.

We walk in to town and there is a stall saying 'horses for sale'. I open my case with all kinds of old money in it. I take a handful out and buy a horse. I ride the horse out to a local farm and spot milk carts, farmers carts, wagons, you name it and it is there!

Excited, I take out my money (I have a lot!) and pay the cart owner - he sounds very much like a farmer. Rose thinks its hilarious and bursts in to laughter. The cart I buy is red and yellow and made of oak. It is very new because it was only built yesterday.

By Dylan



We are two scullery maids who have run away because we were about to be sacked.

We need to take shelter for the night, but all we've got to survive on is jam and scones!



Stuey: Today I started my new job as a blacksmith making the tyres of a bodcart.

Alex: It's very hard work and the spokes occasionally catch fire when we fit them on.

Stuey: But we've just finished the cart and it looks amazing!

Alex: It's going to be the best cart in Brize!



I'm the village milkman, who rides the milk cart around delivering milk.

He's trying to learn how to make corn dolls to impress the local beauty, Ocean, who makes the best corn dolls around.

Shut up, no I'm not!

SHARING WITH OUR FAMILIES

"I really enjoyed writing the diaries. I like things like that and really enjoyed it. I also liked making the peg dolls because I love art so that's probably why I enjoyed it so much. The role play was fun and I liked performing the scripts even though it was a little embarrassing. I really liked the assembly and I've learned so much more. The acting was great and I liked it a lot. I enjoyed having Lizzy and Gill teaching us and I enjoyed over all and can't stop talking about it."



"I really particularly liked writing the poems, diaries, scripts and drawing the horse and cart plus drawing our imaginary villages. Including everything else. In fact I enjoyed the whole topic because you made it so enjoyable. Come back again please."
Daisy.



"I enjoyed all of it, but my favourite bit was all the drama which I thought was very amusing! It was also really fun to do as well. It was the best 5 weeks of school I have ever had! The assembly was very good! Very well thought out. I know that all the parents loved it, especially my Mum! I am going to miss not having you teach us on Thursdays. Thank you for all you have done." Finlay.

"I really enjoyed writing all of the poems, and doing all of the acting. I loved listening to all of the old stories from the interviews. Overall I enjoyed every single last bit. Especially the art. Thank you." Martha.



A BRIZE NORTON QUIZ

We have enjoyed learning about the past of Brize Norton so much that some of the boys in the class wanted to create a quiz to inspire you to learn more too.

1. How much did Brize Norton School cost to build?

- a. £100,000
- b. £800
- c. £50

2. What was the name of the sweet shop and emporium in Brize Norton?

- a. Miss Twizzles
- b. Miss Worley's
- c. Miss Sworley's

3. What would children do if they saw a car whilst playing in the road?

- a. Text their friends
- b. Take a photo
- c. Write down its number plate

4. What colour was the Oxfordshire Wagon?

- a. Yellow and Red
- b. Purple and Green
- c. White and Black

5. What do blacksmith's make?

- a. Horse shoes
- b. Gloves
- c. Bread

6. What is the name of Brize Norton Church?

- a. St. Barnabus
- b. St Jonathan
- c. St Britius

7. What did children and gypsy travellers make dolls out of?

- a. Pegs
- b. Broken broomsticks
- c. Sticks

8. In Mr Akers, the drapers shop, what could you buy?

- a. Food
- b. Trousers
- c. Just a general store

9. What was the population in Brize Norton at the turn of the century (meaning early 1900s)?

- a. 537
- b. 1583
- c. 789

10. (The last one) Which family originally owned the village of Brize Norton.

- a. Higgins
- b. Forster
- c. Rae
- d. Bruns

*Answers can be found throughout the book.
They are also on the back page to check.*

Thank you to the staff and children at Brize Norton School and staff at The Oxfordshire Museums Service

Book designed by Lizzy McBain, www.underconstructiontheatre.com

"A fantastic project which the children really enjoyed because it was so relevant to them. The drama was a particular highlight – they were all engaged and having fun. It was also lovely to see children who struggle with creative writing, have a go and enjoy it! Thank you very much."

Claire Musgrave, Year 6 Teacher

Quiz answers:~

1. c, 2. b, 3. c, 4. a, 5. a, 6. c, 7. a, 8. b, 9. a, 10. d



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