

0460 COCL - Child Okeford Centre for Care and Learning



A record of the building of COCL at the school. The archive holds 75 pictures of the construction of the building which now houses the ARK nursery. COCL for many years put on evening lectures of a diverse nature but sadly has now ceased to exist.

Owner: not recorded.

0465 Compact



Compact is the village amateur dramatic society. For many years it was run by Charles Upton and his wife Sammie. The archive contains a number of pictures from productions such as,

- Allo Allo
- 6 Women
- Cider Compact
- Gypsy Jazz
- Okefordhoma
- Oscars
- Panto
- Sinbad
- Shillingstone Station

This picture was taken at Okefordhoma.

Owner: not recorded.

0475 St George's Day



Each year COMPACT stages a play on St George's day where the eponymous saint beats his proverbial Dragon outside the Baker Arms Child Okeford. This is a short series of pictures of the event in 2009.

Owner: not recorded

0402 Child Okeford Otters' Cycle Speedway Club



Gordon
Paddock

Barry
Brown

Nigel
Curtis
Derek
Holdeman

Gordon
Eveleigh

Terry
Foster
Keith
Curtis

Cyril
White

David
Wingrove

Brian
Gillingham
Peter
Pride

Derek
White

This is the Child Okeford Otters' Cycle Speedway Club. There was at one time a speedway track in the village. Races were held once a week against other villages and the members used to meet once a month behind the Union Arms with occasional social meetings in the village hall with the Youth Club.

The original picture is unlabelled and was taken in the early 1950's. David Wingrove owned many of the pictures in the archive including these.

More of the Otters'



Michael
Drayton

Geoffrey
Diffy

Derek
White ?

Nigel
Curtis

Gordon
Paddock

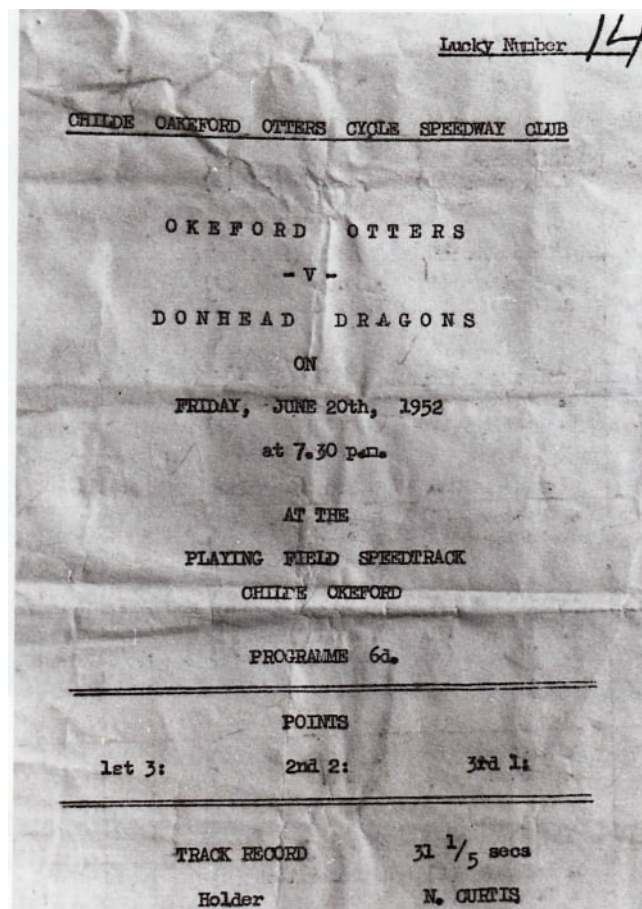
Cyril
White

Taken in the recreation ground the original is unlabelled.

Even more of the Otters'.



Child Okeford Otters' Cycle Speedway Club, 1952



Child Okeford Otters' Cycle
Speedway Club Programme, June, 1952

Still more Otters'



This is the original of COA_0403. There are no details on the back of any of these original photographs although some have been endorsed Child Okeford Speedway and 'Wingrove'. Dave Wingrove is the small boy sitting down in the above picture and these are his pictures.



Otters racing



Final Otters



Owner: Dave Wingrove

0416 Child Okeford Football Club



Child Okeford Football Team, 1999

The earliest reference to football being played in the village is around the time of WW1. The club survived until the Millennium but nobody seems to know quite when it ceased. This picture is unlabelled; does anybody recognise the players?

Owner: Millennium Book Committee

0422 Child Okeford Union Benefit Society

Before the advent of the welfare state some form of sickness or death protection was available by subscribing to a Friendly Society. For many years the dominant society was the Dorset Friendly Society which had local branches with Child Okeford and Shillingstone sharing a branch [as it were]. By the end of the 19th century though the Dorset Society was just one of the friendly societies available to villagers and annual fetes were held which included the Dorset Friendly Society, The Society of Oddfellows and the Child Okeford Union Benefit Society whose headquarters were at the Union Arms Inn. This society bought a banner in 1868 which was regularly paraded through the village each year as is shown below.

0420 On Parade



Village Band with the Union Banner passing the old barn (now demolished) in The Hollow, before the First World War

The annual 'club' day was a major feature of the Friendly Societies and the format seems to have been fairly similar across Dorset [at least]. Meeting early in the morning the members [all men] processed through the length of village, two by two, accompanied by a band and the club banner. In this picture there is also a Union Jack and what appear to be two paper masks on either side of the banner. The men are all dressed in their Sunday best as after touring the village they head towards the church where the rector will preach to them. After that they enjoyed a convivial dinner in one of the local pub's [probably the Baker Arm's] before parading through the street again. In the later part of the 19th century the afternoon was often taken up with a village fete and sports in one of the local fields.

Owner: Millennium Book Committee

0422 We Unite to Assist one another-1



Most organisations like to have an 'Identifier', some thing that the people can rally around or identify with. Today businesses and clubs have logo's but in the 19th century they had banners and the 'king' of banner makers was George Tuthill of London whose signature adorns the banner bottom right. This particular banner was made for the Child Okeford Union Benefit Society in 1868.

The front of the banner shows a typical bucolic scene ; three agricultural workers plough, sew and reap respectively in a world where there is only ever sunshine. In the background a windmill can be seen. As far as is known Child Okeford never had a windmill and it is presumed that this was an 'off the peg' picture rather than bespoke for Child Okeford. The banner itself was rediscovered in the loft of the Union Arms in 1977 . It was displayed in the village hall in 1987 but was in poor condition and had to be donated to the Dorchester Museum for them to pay for it's restoration.

0421 We Unite to Assist one another -2



On this side a very well looking 'ill' man, recovering in bed is shaking hands with the Friendly Society representative [possibly even the doctor] whilst another representative in the background gives his wife his sickness benefit. The little boy on the left is playing on the 19th century equivalent of a mobile phone or tablet!

0423 Cricket Club



Precisely where this is is not known. Since it is a colour film picture it is probably from the 1950's or 60's. In the 1800's matches between the "Child Okeford and Stepleton" club against local teams such as Sturminster were held in the grounds of Stepleton house but this is not there. In the 1970's matches were played in Child Okeford or at Hanford but again this is neither of these places.

In any event as with so many other village clubs it has simply disappeared without trace and seemingly nobody noticing it's loss. Even the recreation ground has lost it's cricket square.

Owner: not recorded

Guides and Brownies

The first mention that I can find of a Guide pack in the village is in 1918 when a fete was held at their 'training camp' in the grounds of Hanford House. They appear periodically in the newspaper records and in 1926 were fundraising for a guide hut but it is not known if it was built.

'Jo' Watts



'Jo' Watts ready to exercise 'Shannon'

This picture is of 'Jo' Watts who was Brown Owl in the late 1930's and who led the Guides Procession at the village parade on the occasion of the Coronation of George VI. Her father was a farmer and her 'real' name was Dorothy Margaret.

Owner: Millennium Book Committee

0426 Off to Camp



Off to Guide camp in the thirties.
Sid Fudge (standing right)

The annual Guide Camp was held at Kimmeridge. Luxury transport was provided. Here they are about to set off from outside the Baker Arms.

Sidney Fudge, who appears to be driving the lorry was a Baker in the village.

Owner: Millennium Book Committee

0427 At Camp



Girl Guide camp in the thirties

Another photo of the guides having set up camp at Kimmeridge. A rather blurry four legged friend can be seen bottom right.

Owner: Millennium Book Committee

0428 Last picture of the Brownies



Brownie Pack in the seventies

An unlabelled picture of the Brownies pack in the 1970's. It too has ceased to exist.

Owner: Millennium Book Committee

0429 The Brownie Flag



The flag, and last remnant, of the 1st [and only] Brownie pack in Child Okeford. In St Nicholas Church, 2023.

Owner: Kevin Pearce

0431 The Mothers Union



Mothers' Union tea in the thirties

The Millennium Book notes that in 1927, when it is possible that this picture was taken, the annual tea took place on 8th September. After a church service at 3 pm the group moved to the Rectory lawn. Ten women are gathered on this table with others in the background. All are in their finery, all wear a fine collection of hats. Curiously there is also a man, cigarette hanging from his lip, enjoying his tea along with the ladies.

COA_0432



Today the banner languishes unseen in the vestry of St Nicholas Church. No doubt, in time it will go the way of the Child Okeford branch of the Union.

0437 Royal British Legion

Formed on the 15th May 1921 the Royal British Legion needs little introduction. The next sequence of pictures is taken from the dedication of new standard of the women's section, in 1976.



This picture shows members of the Legion marching from the high street past Church Farm to the church itself, before the dedication. The Baker Arms is in the background.

Owner: Nancy Manning

0435 Dedication of New Banner



CARRIED proudly through Childe Okeford on Sunday afternoon by Mrs. A. Hamilton, the new Standard of the local branch of the Royal British Legion Women's Section was dedicated at a service held in the Parish Church by the Rev. R. F. York. After the service it was paraded together with 36 other Standards of branches from all over Dorset and, led by the Shaftesbury Town Band, the parade marched smartly past Royal British Legion President and Lord Lieutenant of the County Sir Joseph Weld, as he took the salute. Our picture was taken as the Standards were carried past the saluting base.

This picture is taken from a newspaper article about the dedication of the new standard of the Women's section of the Royal British Legion. The lady at the head of the parade is Mrs A Hamilton and the man on the left was the Lord Lieutenant of the County Sir Joseph Weld. He was also president of the RBL. This picture was probably taken after the dedication but is included first as we have most details about the event.

The original picture was included in the Millennium Book but is of a similar quality.

Owner: Millennium Book Committee

0438 & 9 Dedication of New Banner



The dedication over the parade marches from the Church through the High Street although to where is not known.



Owner: Nancy Manning

0444 The later history of the banners.



The exact date of closure of the local branch of the Legion is not known but the banners were then set up in the church on some very elegant poppy themed holders. Below is the roll of honour in it's wooden case and a marble plaque dedicated to those who lost their lives in both wars.

Owner: Kevin Pearce

0443 Commemoration 2018



This is a picture taken from a series of pictures taken on Armistice Day 2018, the 100th anniversary of the ending of the first World War.

Owner: Kevin Pearce

0451 & 0453 Women's Institute

Another organisation that needs little introduction. The Child Okeford branch was founded in July 1938. Oddly we have surprisingly few pictures in the archive of the early WI in the village but thankfully this is an organisation that survives in the village today and has it's own website <http://childokefordwi.wordpress.com/>. This picture taken in 1948 or 1949 comes with a labelled version. It is assumed that order of the names is reflected in the numbers.





WI 1948 Fontmell Parva

Mrs Young, Mrs Wise, Mrs Cooper, Mrs Martin, Mrs Bert Douch, Mrs Jarvis, Mrs Jane Pope, Mrs Charlie Street, Mrs E Goddard, Mrs E Gillingham, Mrs Wareham, Mrs Percy Goddard, Mrs Eveliegh, Margaret Short, ?, Mrs Cousins, Mrs Sheppard, Miss Moore, Mrs O' Kelly, Miss Bower, Mrs Bradley, Mrs Crane, Mrs Wilf Gillingham, Mrs Knight, Mrs Lill Cooper. Front Row:- Mrs Gumbleton, Dulcie Wells, Miss Cooper, Rita Jarvis, Gladys Jarvis, Mrs Olive Cutler, Mrs Walters (Manston) Mrs Gillies, Mrs Dot Cross, Miss Phyllis Harris, Miss Hunt, Mrs Jessie Curtis, Mrs Wells, Mrs Henry Smith, Mrs George Goodwin, Miss Airey, Mrs Connie Young, Muriel Goddard, Mrs Bartlett, Mrs Reg Goddard, Mrs Merryfield, Mrs Elsie Wells, Mrs Wareham, Mrs Bill Pride, Mrs Guy, Mrs Short (Manston), ?, Rene Jarvis, Eunice Wareham, Mrs Dulcie Pope, Mrs Doreen Wells, Mrs Wingrove.

CHILD OKEFORD WOMEN'S INSTITUTE AT FONTMELL PARVA HOUSE. 1949



Child Okeford Women's Institute, 1999

Owner: Angie Schwier, Millennium Book Committee