

“EVA AXSON – reminisces.”

Eva Axson – Born January 1899
No.4 Astbury View

Dear North Rode,

The Estate of North Rode was owned by Mr Daintry of “The Oaklands”, North Rode. The rent for the cottages was 2/- per week. We had a very large garden, so we had to pay 2/6- per week.

Every year on October 10th all the ‘Park’ gates were locked for a day, this kept it private, although all the people living in North Rode were allowed to go through the ‘Park’, (as they called it). It was fields with a beautiful lake, running down to the brook below. Primroses grew on the banks of the brook, a delightful picture every Spring and in the wood on the other side of the road from the lake, anemones grew. The brook then flowed into the River Dane.

Mr Daintry was responsible for the upkeep of the roads; they were always very well kept by his staff of workers. North Rode School was a delightful one, I went to it when I was 5 years old, starting school on the Monday nearest to January 17th. Mrs Howard was my teacher – a nice lady! Mr & Mrs Howard came from London to North Rode. Mr Howard, ‘Old Dan’, as the rude boys called him, was strict but an excellent teacher.

North Rode Church (St.Michael’s) is a lovely church. We (my two brothers, Joe and Ted, and myself) always attended Sunday school every Sunday. There was a service every Sunday morning and evening, the Reverend Julian Harvey was the vicar. He also taught in the school every Tuesday and Thursday morning, he was a very good man.

There are 4 large houses in North Rode:

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| 1. The Manor House | Sir Tootal Broadhurst |
| 2. The Grange | Mrs Norma Mendwood |
| 3. The Oaklands | The Daintry family |
| 4. The Vicarage | Rev. Julian Harvey & his wife |

North Rode was a very lively place in the years I lived there from 1899 to 1918. They were all young people with big families, now it is very quiet. I remember very well the year King George & Queen Mary came to the throne. They travelled the country, and even came to North Rode, or at least they passed through it! We had to sing a special song for them, but they did not even stop. We had all gathered on ‘Ethels Green’ where they proceeded slowly along, waved and were gone!

A True Story

Sir Edward and Lady Broadhurst went out visiting one day, the parlour maid at one house had not been there long and she announced them as “Sir Edward Tootal Broadhurst and Mrs Tootal too!

Betts (Mr Harvey’s coachman and gardener) used to live at No.3 Astbury View. The vicars horse, called Admiral, came to Betts’ whistle years after Betts had left the vicars employ, leading to ‘hard’ Mr Betts sobbing like a baby.

Ethels Green was planted by Ethel Hogg from Oaklands. The shop was at Ethels Green, a black and white house next to the brook.

No.4 Church Lane was a shoe repairer and postman, also the first Post Office. Percy Lancaster cycled from Congleton with the mail and Eva’s father delivered it in North Rode. A 6 mile round in the morning and 8 miles in the evening. Percy got drunk every Christmas from drinks offered en-route, he played football with a parcel on the paths.

Winningtons were at No.1; Birch’s at No.2 had 10 children (Birch’s 1891 census - 6 children), mother and father-in-law lived there too.

Eva remembers the 1907 celebrations at Mow Cop commemorated on our plates, she went by train from North Rode and remembers wonderful male choirs.

Farm workers ‘lived in’ at Rode Hall Farm and were paid about 12/6 – 15/- per week plus their keep.