



Preacher comes to Blaxhall - Priscilla back row second from the left (holding child)

*Harvest Supper in the Ship before 1911* - They used to hire the Big Room for the harvest Supper. The mother's of the men they used to cook the meat and the vegetables and they would have a dinner there. And the children would all go to a house on the corner here by the green with a lady who would look after them. And we would play games like ludo and snakes and ladders. And the man at the Ship would heat a frying pan and put in some halfpennies and he would make them hot and then from the window he throw them out and we used to scramble for them - what we called 'hot halfpennies'.

They would hire the Big Room, and one woman would boil the beef, one the carrots and so on and we had batter puddings with it. And I was a baby and that used to be an old-fashioned way of having a Harvest Supper. But that isn't the same now.

*Preaching* - A gentleman, Mr Finbow from Framlingham, used to give an open air service on the common here. He would give a chapel service as an open-air meeting. He would stand out on that green down here and Mr Bridges would bring a piano and his wife used to play the hymns and you would get a real lot of men sitting alongside the green. The men that didn't go to church would get there to hear him preach, he would come to Snape chapel to preach sometimes.

*Extracts from 11 September 1974*

I love children, I had 12 myself and I brought up eight of them. I had one, dear boy, drowned at Iken Cliff, he was 17 year old, he'd be a man bigger than Willie now. He'd been working in the morning, and he had had a good dinner and of course he couldn't swim and he got in one of those pools what draw you. He didn't come up until the second day, that's why I don't like Iken Cliff. You used to go there when the children were small. You would pack up a dinner bag and take them there and have a picnic at Iken Cliff. And the children used to think as much of that as if they had gone to the seaside. We used to go up on the heath up here, used to have a picnic up there but they say that it is so grown up you can't get up there. But I think the soldiers had part of it to practice but they say it is all too tall to get up there now. I haven't been up there for over a year, we used to go there for a walk. Trouble is I get so tired. They say, 'You should have a walking stick', but I said 'I'm too proud to have a walking stick!'

*Rabbit Pie* - Skin the rabbit, wash, cut it in the joints and have the legs and the shoulders and the back but the head and the neck you use to boil them and that would be the gravy and then you could put that in your pie dish. I've got two pie dishes now that I had when I was first married. A chicken pie dish and a rabbit pie dish. We didn't buy the meat



Priscilla (left) when she was in service

like they do now. Then you lay your rabbit in and a piece or two of fattening pork. Some people have the real fat pork, and then you put a crust on the top, put the gravy in first then put the crust on the top then bake it. You would have to give it two hours to bake itself properly and then that used to be your Sunday morning breakfast. That was a regular thing to have rabbit pie Sunday morning.



Under the oak behind Iydene - Left to right: Violet, Len, Priscilla, David, George, Evie and Daphne.

But they don't make them now - they don't get the rabbits.

There used to be a man at Friston of the name of Blake. Him and his brother used to hire the rabbiting up here and they used to go all round the hedges and get the rabbits and sell them. But they don't do that now, they poison them now and they get that myxomatosis so that people are afraid to eat a rabbit.

Lenny, last week, ran over one and killed it and he took it home and flayed it and Violet made a rabbit pie and he said, 'It made you think of old times'.

I was abed one time, not very well, and my Percy was making and the doctor come and he said, 'What you got in there, boy?'. And he said, 'I'm making some soup for the boy's dinner.' So he said, 'What you got in there?'. And Percy said, 'Two sparrows, yes, and I've got some onions, carrots and turnips - and I've got some swimmers' - that was dumplings. And the doctor said, 'Give us a cup, boy'. So he gave the poor old boy a cup of soup which he drank saying, 'Their take no harm at that'. That's all that was in it, just two sparrows, they used have bricks, one on the other and bring one down and that would kill the sparrow. They had a trail of corn under the brick and the one at that end used to have a bit of string on. They would pull it and it would land on the sparrow and kill it. That's how they got their living but they don't do that now.