

Apart from providing power, the horse provided means of transport by pulling various types of vehicle for pleasure and business. Most farmers and their wives went to Barnstaple (nine miles away) on market days by horse and trap. There was keen rivalry between better off farmers as to who had the best 'turn out'.

Hunting was as popular then as it is now and the better off farmers rode to hounds with the best horse available.

The local Hunt Dance was a popular event. The **Master and huntsman** arriving in their long tailed red coat complete with hunting horn, which was blown throughout the evening. The entrance fee was 2s.6d. (12.5p) as it was a 'bit special'! A normal dance was 1s 0d. (5p.). The local dances were an exciting affair as there were some big houses around at the time with several servant girls, cooks, housemaids, nursemaids etc who would get an evening off. Quite a few of the local lads found a wife at these dances.

All the men who came with the intention of dancing brought a pair of black patent dance shoes to change into as boots were worn to get to the dance. Most outsiders came on bicycles and everyone had a good time.

[Most of the dances were Fox Trots, Waltz, Barn Dance, and Valetta etc with perhaps a set of the Lancers. We always had an M.C. (master of ceremonies) to keep things going.

The fee for the band was usually about £2. Before 1925 when the Church Hall was built, the dance was held in the schoolroom. All the desks had to be packed away beforehand and everything made ready then afterwards all brought back again. A dance was usually arranged for a Friday night if possible.

During my younger days the roads were in a terrible state, not only the bye-roads but the main road to Barnstaple.

They did tarmac a bit through the village but the rest was still made with stones and mud. They weren't properly drained and most of the hedges were tall and in some places were meeting overhead so the sun never got to them.

After heavy rain I have seen water all over the road on many occasions and deep ruts filled with water. It was not until the late twenties that improvements were made.

Of course in summer time the roads were covered in dust. There was not much traffic around then but the cloud of dust could be seen long before the car appeared.

The apprenticeship of five years seemed a long time but eventually I became a craftsman and earned the sum of 30.shillings -or (£1.50p) a week.

When I was about to get married I asked the Boss Mr White for a bit more as two cannot live as cheaply as one, he gave me 2s 6d (12.5p) rise. We managed all right and just before the second world war was the best time this country has seen for years.

With outbreak of war the home guard was formed, we wore an arm band with the letter L.D.V. printed-Local Defence Volunteers. We were ready for duty with the only weapon we had, a double barrellled shot gun. Most of the home guard lads were farmers sons and owned guns or could borrow one.

Then after a time, we had two 1914 rifles with 5 rounds of ammunition. God help us if the Jerry had come! We were then issued with a khaki denim coat and trousers. One fellow's