

paraffin and oil, cartridges, oil lamps, sweets and quite a selection of chemistry items. Eventually, my brother went to work in Sainsbury's at Surbiton Surrey. Over the years, he changed firms several times and his family now live at Portsmouth.

In the village any kind of entertainment was appreciated such as a concert or social. Captain Barton and his wife would put on a Shakespearean play performed by local talent once a year, on at least one or two nights, with a full house each time. The performances were given in the schoolroom as the village hall had not been built by then.

The schoolroom had to be cleared and a stage erected. The front of the stage was an elaborate affair made by the local carpenter and decorated by Mrs Barton who was a clever lady. A picture of Shakespeare adorned the overhead part. The curtain was hand made and hand painted by Mrs Barton with a lovely country scene. I remember 'The merchant of Venice', 'Mid Summers Nights Dream' and 'The Pied Piper' being put on. The local young men and women used to walk one and a half miles each way to practice and rehearse and great fun was had by all.

Not all of the cast were locals, some of the gentry, friends of the Bartons living in near by parishes were roped in as well.

Mrs Barton was the pianist, she was an L.R.A.M. There are some photographs of some of these shows which bring back happy memories..

Village life

Sometime after the 1914-1918 war, I am not quite sure when, Mr and Mrs Barton presented the village with an ex-army hut to be used as a recreation hut and a D.

. It was quite a nice place complete with stove and seats etc. It had a skittle alley and a snooker table and at one time there were about 30 members. As time went by members got older or left the area the numbers dwindled until there was not enough to keep it going and it was closed down. After one or two attempts to open it again no-one was interested and it was dismantled and sold. The site is now built on.

Here the old telephone exchange (It is believed to have been an early example of it's kind) is now was at one time a tennis court. This was made in a proper manner being correctly drained and fenced. I remember it being a very nice place to play tennis in.