

## Silver Jubilee

The Church bells didn't ring in the New Year because the tower was split from top to bottom. There wasn't a New Year's dance either (there was no Village hall). The landlord of the Public House watched his four or five regulars walk down the dark wet road, then turned out the paraffin lamps in the bar, lit a candle and made off to bed.

On Sunday afternoon the faithful few went to church. They were three spinster ladies and Millie (she pumped the organ), Little Joe (70 years old) who sang in the choir, and Ted who took the collection, and the Rector (also organist) who never preached for less than half an hour.

In January the village was cut off by six-foot snowdrifts .... the outside water taps supplying the houses with water were frozen solid; at night one could hear the banging of spades as people tried to dig holes to empty the lavatory pails and bury rubbish.

In March came one bright spot in the year. The Annual Parish meeting, when everyone had a say in how the village should be run. Well, they were going to close the Village School and the little ones would have to go to school four miles away. Scandalous! What! Build a Village Hall! Whatever for – who would use it? Someone suggested that the open ditch running through the village should be covered in; where then would the people living nearby empty their washing water on Mondays if that were done?

What a lovely summer; wheat was growing on the Recreation Ground .... grass and cow parsley in the churchyard was over three feet high. A Fete was held at Yews Farm to raise money for the Village Hall fund.

Several ex-servicemen were living with in-laws. There hadn't been any houses built since 1924. Everyone had their wireless

accumulators charged-up in November to hear the broadcast of the Royal Wedding.

Population about 250

That was 1947

Today the Church has a peal of six bells, the Hadstock Ringers, an average congregation of 40-50. The Village won the Best Kept Village Competition in 1970, has been featured on television, has a Silver band, Football Club, Mounted Scout Troop, Youth Club, Women's Institute. Over Sixties, Mothers Union, and WVS who also run a Babies clinic. We also cook for the Cyrene Community and meals-on-foot.

There is a Village hall, Electricity, Refuse Collection, and mains drainage.

Population about 250.

In 25 years, Hadstock has come alive.

R H Wood