

Walking History and Old Views of Catbrook, Whitelye, Broadstone and Parkhouse. Using the Ordinance Survey map dated 1900. (you can see the cottages & wells)



1. Hall came from London by train. It was part of a Canadian forces hospital in W/war One
Formal Opening by Mr Leolin Forestier-Walkier, MP
30th December 1920.

A bazaar was held subsequently to the opening ceremony, the hall being filled with a variety of well arranged and tastefully decorated stalls.

A concert was held in the evening, followed by a dance. from 10 p.m. to 3 a.m. 150 people attended.

From the hall walk up the bridle way, follow the public footpath, oblique right and onto the Green path.



2. The stone tower at the top corner in Ninewells wood. A look out post to watch the convicts building walls.



Have you spotted the Fox. Walk across the field from the tower towards the wood and over the style. Find the fox

Walk back to Catbrook and at the end of the bridleway turn left down Back rd.



3. Wells in the Area. 15 in total. 5 Catbrook, 3 Broadstone & 7 Whitelye. This well is the typical well and is situated at The Laurels, Back Rd. 65' deep and dug by hand.



4. Here is a traditional local well which can be seen at the bottom of the green at the end of Back Road and flows in to the Catbrook. The stream has never dried up.



5. The Mission Church of St John the Baptist was built from a kit form in 1906. Timber Frame, Corrugated iron cladding. It stood in about 1 acre. The interior of the church was simple furnished. Seating capacity was around 40.

Garreth Lewis, Dean of Monmouth remarked when visiting, "How nice and friendly! No pillars for people to hide behind".

The average attendance was 8 or 9.

The best attendance was 55 when Bishop Henry Orombi from Uganda brought with him a mission team. St John Cottage is now on the site.

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Village school. This picture was the first taken showing the pupils with Mr & Mrs Finch, head master and the teacher, taken in 1916 with 19 attendees.

But it was in 1874, The Trellech school board decided that Catbrook needed a school. The Duke of Beaufort was asked if he would donate land on the Catbrook to Botany Bay road. He refused. Another land owner, Robert Needham Philips was approached, Initially he offered land but wanted 2/6 (12.5p) rental per annum.

Building began in 1875 and was completed in September 1877 costing £927. Mr William Henry Briant was appointed the head master with a salary of £70 per year.

In 1879, The District council agreed to provide buckets for the earth closets.

Walk back from the school a short distance along the main road to see the various shops. **6**



A butchers shop at **Duffryn**, Catbrook. Run by Mr & Mrs Frank Howells from 1923 until the late 1970's Rosemary Jones was the assistant.



Further along the road at **Ty Ar Heol** (now Catbrook Cottage) was a grocer shop run by Dicky Jordon, selling sweets, sugar, tea, chicken feed, agricultural materials, plus paraffin for oil lamps and welly boots. The lounge was the store room. The shop was managed by **Horace Grundy** on behalf of **Dicky Jordan**, who also owned and ran the shop in Trellech.



At **Burnleigh** there was the general store and post office run by Stan Roberts and his wife Vera. The original shop was a wooden hut in Back Road. In the early 1920s he hitched it up to a horse and towed it across the field to the site of Burnleigh until he built the bungalow/shop.

Turn around at Burnleigh walking towards the green. On the left is Chapel House.

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7. Meon Church (Early Methodist) was in Church Cottage, Catbrook and would seat 20 with standing room for a further 60. It was well attended. The church closed in 1925.



At the Green walk to the bottom right side and follow the footpath up the field, this was an old cart track. Beyond the wall turn back to see the view of Catbrook.

8. General View.

The Schoolhouse. Box Tree Cottage, St Johns Church, and South View.

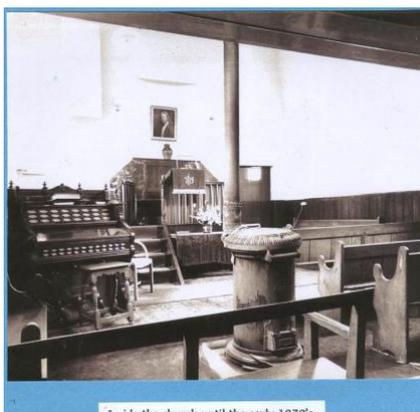
Note the lack of trees.



Walk to the stone stile onto the Whitelye Lane.

9. The Grove, taken in the early 1900s. You can see Grove Cottage, The Grove, The Old Post Office, The Nook, Red House and The Laurels.

Then walk along lane to Hermitage, turn right.



10. Whitelye Church. Another Methodist church with a very active following right until its closure in 1970. The wood burner stove would be lit in plenty of time for the service, so the place was always warm and snug.



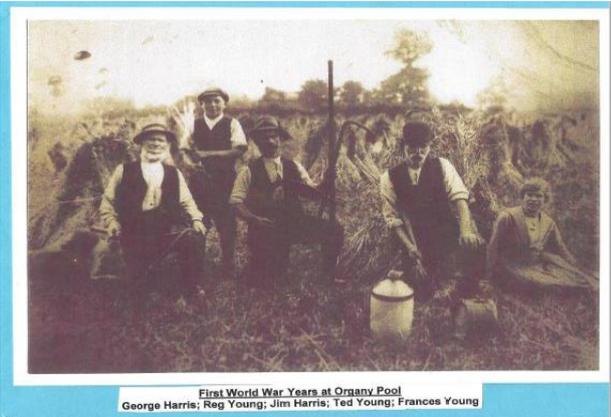
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From the church follow the lane.

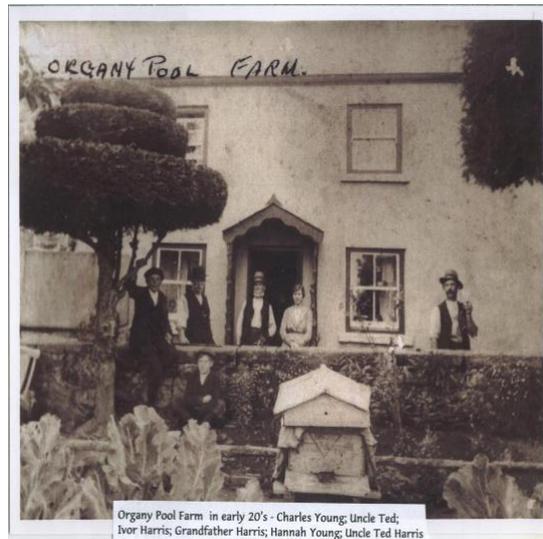


11. Florence Roberts had a small shop in **Holly Cottage**, Whitelye near the Chapel. Flo kept the shop for years mainly selling sweets to the children. Every Saturday she would sell from a cart pulled by a donkey around the locality.

12 Early 1900s. Mr Harris and family owned and worked the land at Organy pool for many years. Growing wheat, barley. At the start of the war Mr Harris had employed two other men, Reg & Ted Young. In the picture Francis Young takes the men locally produced cider.



First World War Years at Organy Pool
George Harris; Reg Young; Jim Harris; Ted Young; Frances Young



Organy Pool Farm in early 20's - Charles Young; Uncle Ted; Ivor Harris; Grandfather Harris; Hannah Young; Uncle Ted Harris

Continue to the football field. **13**

1920 Summer festival was a grand affair with the focus being on the children, the next generation to take the country on after the Great War. Best clothes were the order of the day.





1919 A Football team was started named Catbrook AFC



In later years the football team had a reputation for playing hard and had many passionate supporters. The Catbrook team was expelled from the AFC. A few years later the team was reborn, playing as Broadstone AFC. Still with the same players.

14. Council Houses at Broadstone. The first 4 were built in 1938 and 39.



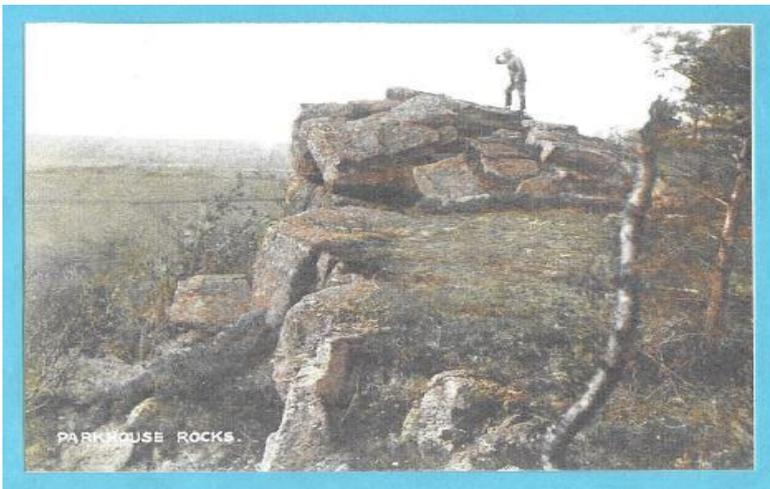
Walk towards Parkhouse to the telephone box. On the left is Well Farm.

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15. Well Farm, Owned by Albert Kingsley, Farmer. Had mainly cows & sheep. Owned a shire horse called Bowler who would roller the roads to keep them smooth.

Enter Broadstone Woods via the foot path. The viewpoint below on the right at the far end of the woods.



16. Looking towards the Black Mountains. Note the lack of trees.

From view point cross the field back towards Broadstone. On the road turn left to where the roads narrows. A bothy is on the left.



17. A number of families lived in these one bedroom self build cottages. The council asked them to move into the new council houses, then demolish the bothy.

That's the end of the history walk. To see the full details of our local history see the Catbrook Hall web site at Catbrook.org.uk