



1948-1956: Part 1



My name is Carol Ward (née Mills). I lived in Crowton from birth to just past my eighth birthday and they were very happy and influential years for me.

Early in the Second World War, my mother (Marjorie Mills, née McMillan) arrived in the village as a young teacher with a group of evacuee children from the school where she was teaching in Liverpool. She was billeted in the School House with Miss Vera Heaton, the head teacher. In 1941 my mother and my father were married in Liverpool, and my father then went overseas until 1945.

At some point a home was found for them in Crowton House/The Old Vicarage.

The main part of the house was occupied by the then vicar of Crowton, Rev. Cann and his family. ([click here for list of Crowton's vicars](#))

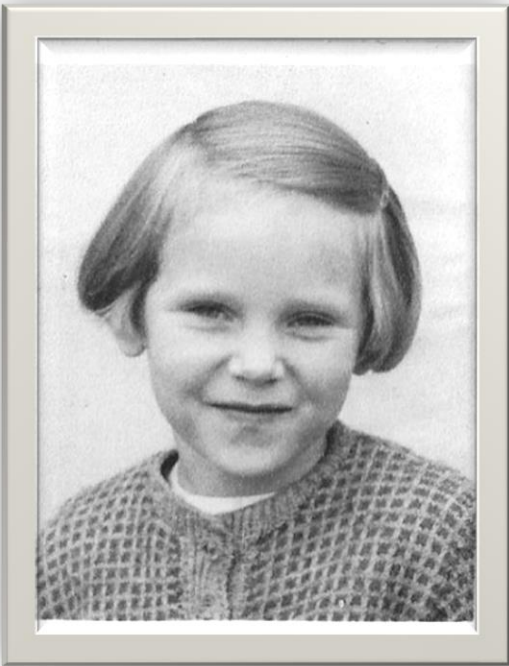
Mum and Dad had a flat at the back of the house and Mum continued teaching at the village school until some months before my birth in January 1948. We stayed there until February 1956 when we moved to Cuddington.

I know I attended Crowton Sunday School, and though I don't remember a huge amount about the classes, I can remember being Mary in the

Sunday School Nativity Play swathed in a shiny blue pillowcase. I am an only child and the vicar's son David was only a few months older than me: I often went



round after Sunday School to play with David Cann and have tea at the New Vicarage. The newspaper cutting which Mum had kept about the New Vicarage and the fête has so many names I remember (see below). Mum and my godmother are serving ice creams, and school friends are in the photo with me as a sad fairy, third from the right on the front row.



Carol Mills aged 6 ¾

The village fêtes were the highlight of my year, and I used to collect the rhododendron flowers from the old vicarage gardens so that the flower girls could sprinkle them in front of the Rose Queen as we led her over the lawn to the music of Greensleeves.

Our walks into the village would start by hopping through the gate from the vicarage garden and walking through the church yard, which I loved. (My favourite grave had green chippings but I was a little wary of the closed tomb near the roadside gate.)



When you're next out for a walk, take a stroll through the church yard and see if you can find the graves Carol mentions!

Carol has more to tell: come back in a little while for the next instalment of Carol's Story.

Does the newspaper cutting spark some memories for you? Perhaps you recognise someone else in the photo? Have you got a story to tell about Crowton? A treasured photo to share? Contact us at amdland@hotmail.co.uk or ring 01606 853556; we're happy to listen and take notes.

CROWTON VILLAGERS REDUCE A DEBT

£130 from church garden fete

IN two years the mortgage on the new vicarage had been reduced from £4,300 to £330 announced the Rev. A. E. Cann, vicar of Crowton, at a garden fete held in the vicarage grounds on Saturday. He added that Mrs. A.

Watts, of Hartford, who opened the fete, had recently donated £500 towards reducing the mortgage.

The land on which the new vicarage was built is the walled garden of the old 32-roomed vicarage, which was sold seven years ago for £1,600. The Vicar continued to live in the old vicarage until the new house was completed two years ago. The proceeds from the garden fetes are devoted to reducing the mortgage, and it is hoped to have wiped off the debt completely by next year.

Although forming a complete contrast to the new vicarage, which is of modern style, the walled garden makes a perfect setting for the garden fete, that most English of social functions.

Fancy dress parade

After Mrs. Watts — who describes herself as having been "born, christened and married in Crowton"—had performed the opening ceremony, there was a fancy dress parade, the judges being Mrs. Watts, Miss M. Gandy, Mrs. J. Rutter and Mrs. R. Sharpe.

Winners were: — Boys: Over eight, Geoffrey Parker (scarecrow); under eight, Joseph Nicholas (Elizabethan page boy); consolation prize, Brian Rutter. Girls: Over eight, Carol Heaton (gipsy); under eight, Carol Mills (fairy); consolation prize, Dorothy Starkey.

Ballet dancing and nursery

story mime was given by pupils of Miss Betty Holland, of Acton Bridge. The children who took part were: Margaret Clarke, Gillian Clarke, Hilary Meachin, Heather Meachin, Christine Shaw, Judy Shaw, Jean Starkey, Elizabeth Rutter and Jennifer Leach.

In the evening an entertainment was given in the Church School. The Manley Clog Dancers gave a display, followed by games, dancing, and conjuring by Mr. Walter de Ruyter, who was also M.C.

The stalls

Stallholders were:—Ice-cream; Mrs. V. Shaw and Mrs. M. Mills. Cakes: Mrs. M. Walters and Miss M. Morton. Produce: Mesdames H. Haddock, A. Morton, F. Williamson, H. Williamson, W. Williamson, W. Siddall, T. Buckley and R. Roberts. Bran tub: Miss V. Heaton, Miss M. Walters, Mesdames, M. Burrows, V. Lightfoot, C. E. Okell and Jones. Fancy goods: Miss M. Gandy, Miss H. Gandy, Mrs. N. Lamb and Mrs. A. W. Lewis. Buried treasure: Mr. and Mrs. J. Burgess.

Tea hostesses

Refreshments were served by Mesdames M. Buckley, J. Rutter, T. Rowlands, R. Sharpe, I. Ellis, F. Barker, N. Bird, T. Gerrard, R. Hignett, N. Leigh, D. Rutter, and the Misses Q. Penny, A. Burrows, E. Ellis, H. Beckett and M. Barker. Mr. R. Sharpe and Mr. T. Rowland managed the gate.

The fete realised £130, which will be divided between the Vicarage Mortgage and the Church Funds.



Photo: Lawrence & Sands

A happy group of brightly attired fancy dress characters.