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KINGSTON REMEMBERED

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Farms. Iron Farm, farmed by the late Mr. Philip BAKER, employed about twelve men and boys. This number being supplemented according to the work load.

Farm's Farm, at this time was joined with New Farm and farmed by the late Mr. Robert BULL, who also farmed over a hundred acres on the ridge of high land well up Crane's Lane; there being some outbuildings but no dwelling house about three-quarters of a mile beyond Orchard Cottage. Mr. BULL was, I believe, the man who put Kingston on the map as a fruit growing area. Women found regular seasonal employment picking fruit, with children helping out after school hours. A foreman would check-weigh the fruit, which was usually done at piece-work rate; another man would be engaged in setting ladders, when the fruit was being gathered.

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by

Louis JACKLIN and others.

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Kingston (Cambs) as I remember it over 50 years ago, was a rural community of approximately 200 inhabitants, dependent entirely on earning a living from the land, either regularly or casually.

Transport was poor in this rural area. Whilst the railway ran just to the north of the village, the nearest passenger station was the Old North Road or Lord's Bridge. Kingston and the surrounding villages made use of the Kingston siding which was purely a goods depot. Mr. R. INGLE used to send tons of fruit away from this siding by rail. My paternal grandfather Peter JACKLIN kept the old Rose and Crown (renamed Tranquil). He was also the village carrier and made the journey to Cambridge twice a week, I believe Wednesdays and Saturdays. The conveyance used was a light horse-drawn wagon and he carried farepaying passengers and goods. He was succeeded by the late Mr. David CUSTERSON (Jun) of the Chequers, the other public house, now the White House.

I suppose he followed the same pattern as my grandfather leaving the crossroads at 8.30 a.m. making all good speed to Cambridge, at about 5 miles per hour. On arrival at Cambridge the journey would terminate at the Carrier's Cap, a hostelry with stabling, which used to be tucked away somewhere between the town end of Exchange Street and the rear of Petty Cury. It was only the matter of a few minutes to be on Market Hill.

The return home began about 4-4.30 p.m. and after many stops dropping off goods here and there (which might be sugar for some grocer, plough shares for a farmer, horse shoes at a smithy, etc.) one might get back to Kingston by 6.45 p.m. The carrier's cart was superseded by a private bus service (the buses had solid tyres) operating from Longstowe by the late PIPER Bros. This service did not operate through the village and by travelling along the Bourn - Toft road also picked up a few people from the south end of Caldecote. The "Ortona" Motor Bus Co., based at Cambridge, followed Piper Bros with a regular daily service to and from Cambridge, using the same route. This in turn was taken over by the Eastern Counties Service.

The Burwell and District did at one time run a Saturday only service to Cambridge via Kingston and Eversden, undercutting the other service aforementioned. Apart from these services one walked, rode a bike, or used a pony and trap/gig.

Mr. MARRITT used to hire out such a conveyance and it was quite the thing to do to hire the pony and trap for a wedding or to visit relatives.

The late Mr. Geoffrey HAGGER, eldest son of Philip HAGGER (Town Farm), owned the first car to belong to anyone in the village. This was a model T Ford and was bought, I understood, to convey his mother about, following an accident with a high spirited horse and trap in which she was a passenger. Mrs. HAGGER was (it was said) too scared ever to ride in a trap again after this horse had kicked the front in.

Social Life was what the villagers made themselves and this was limited. The Parish Church used to organise an annual Fete held in the grounds of the Rectory and although this was mainly a fund raising event it did something to relieve the monotony. There was usually a

children's concert once a year, and this was always interesting, there being many happy hours spent practising before the big night. I recall too that there was a branch of the Girls' Friendly Society attached to the Church, which used to meet weekly. There was a fairly strong cricket club which used to play in the now defunct Milton and District league. The home ground was the field (then a good pasture meadow) opposite the old Chequers. Visiting teams were entertained to tea in this old house (Chequers) at one shilling per head (5p) served by Mrs. CUSTERSON. Football was never popular. Someone started a winter social club for the young men of the village. This was held first of all in the school, which premises were soon vacated following complaints of excessive noise and unruly behaviour by the School-mistress, who lived in the adjoining school house.

The late Mr. W. RAYNER then hired out to the Kingston young men's club (as it then became known) a wooden barn - formerly Mr. W. WEBB'S fruit store situated in Walker's just behind the Congregational church. There was a three-quarter size billiard table (a team used to play in the Arrington and District billiard's league), dart boards, cards, dominoes, tables and chairs. Sometimes a member would bring along a portable gramophone. Heating was by a slow combustion coke boiler and light by paraffin lamps. The occasional whist drive was held in this barn organised by the Y.M.'s club. Other whist drives were held in the school, sometimes followed by a dance. Whist drive including refreshments would only cost one shilling. If followed by a dance, one shilling and sixpence. Similar activities were held in adjoining villages and young people used to do the rounds, cycling to Cambridge for the Pictures or Theatre, but always this occasion on a Saturday when one would set off about 2 p.m. and return at any time. I don't know why but nobody used to go to Eversden except to go to chapel!

The two public houses, Rose and Crown and the Chequers, used to provide a social outlet for adults, mostly male. The former house held a full licence, whilst the latter was beer and tobacco only. There used to be a Slate Club attached to the Rose and Crown, with share-out night the highlight of the winter. There would be a hot supper, boiled salt beef (cooked in the copper) one pound of meat being allowed per man, with carrots, turnips, dumplings and potatoes, washed down with some good beer straight from the wood, brewed by J. and J.E. Phillips of Royston, the owners of both premises.

Supper would be followed by a sing-song; songs being rather noisy as the evening wore on. Perhaps a bit bawdy. It was all good fun and everyone was happy. Any beef not consumed at the supper would be sold in small portions, say a pound, to the highest bidder.

There was one other social activity long since gone and that was the celebration of plough monday (it was always on Monday). This took place in early January and took the form of farm hands pulling a plough from farm to farm, cracking whips and calling for alms in a polite and somewhat insecure and extremely noisy way.

The evening usually concluded with a supper in one or other of the public houses.

Feasts or Fair Days should, I suppose, be included under this

heading. Kingston Feast Days were (and I suppose still are) during rogation time 17th-18th May. Travellers with various side-shows used to set up on the green. There would be coconut shies, hoop-la, swings (sometimes), various confectionery stalls, soft drinks, brandy snaps, rock, etc. all home made. One lady used to give rock-making demonstrations and I can well remember seeing her spit on her hands as she pulled the sugary confection into shape. Needless to say the sweet was commonly called "spit rock".

I have heard my Father say that the stalls and side shows at the end of the last century used to overflow on to the side of the road and triangle of grass opposite Thatches.

Education, as far as my memory goes, was provided by the County or Local Education Committee at the village school. This was not always so. Before the present school was built there used to be a pay school in the house opposite now called Crossways. This house was smaller then.

It was not unusual for children especially the eldest, or a boy, to leave school at the age of 11 or 12. For such children who were so inclined there were evening classes called the night school for which the pupils paid about twopence per week (1p new money).

About 1895 there were 80 or more children attending the village school. The headmistress was, I believe, a Mrs. MALE and she had one assistant. It would I think be correct to assume that Mrs. MALE lived in the school house. I suppose, I must have started school sometime in 1920 and well remember that part of the system at that time was for the older girls (those about to leave at 14) to teach the infants how to count money using cardboard coins (they looked real) and how to lace up boots being given a pair of eyelets (probably cut from a worn-out pair) and some laces. This must have been at a time of a teacher shortage as I can only remember the headmistress, a Mrs. WASHINGTON. She lived in the school house. Later on there were two junior teachers. Firstly a Miss Olive LEACH, who cycled daily to and from Bourn, and later on occasions, a Miss Olive WILLMOTT from Toft. The infants section at the end of the big room was curtained off from the remainder. The school had its own children's library endowed by the TODDs, the bookcase being inscribed TODD's Fund Library. This held such gems as Jessica's First Prayer, the Water Babies, an English Boy's Adventures in Uganda, etc. etc.

A Miss MACDONALD succeeded Mrs. WASHINGTON. She too lived in the school house and more or less ran the school herself. She was a very forward-looking teacher and owned the first wireless set to be installed in the village. On occasions we shared this then wonderful invention as Miss MACDONALD had a hole bored through the wall so that the separate horned speaker could be used in the classroom, whilst the control part of the set was in the school house. It was a privilege to hear this wireless as we did on special occasions like when the late King George V made one of his broadcasts on 2 L O.

A Miss WOODCOCK was in charge when a major change came in our education system in 1927. During that year all children 11 and over were sent to Bourn school. If anyone had a bicycle of their own and were prepared to use it to get to and from school, they were allowed

5/- per term (25p) by the Cambs Education Committee. Those who had no bicycle were loaned one by the same committee. At first these had solid tyres which were most uncomfortable but were later replaced with pneumatic tyres. All loaned cycles were supposed not to be ridden except for the express purpose of getting to and from school and had to be left at Bourn locked up at the end of each term. Sometimes winter weather was so rough that cycling was impossible and we walked, taking sandwiches for our mid-day break and being supplied with hot cocoa for 2d per week (1p). About 1924/25 the County mobile library called and a lending scheme for anyone in the village was introduced. Mrs. JOHNSTONE (Southsea House) was librarian and used to open for the exchange of books about two hours once a week. This library was for the adults of the village, and children were not encouraged to use it. After all they had their own Todd's Fund Library.

Religion and Religious teaching. Two denominations catered for the spiritual welfare of the village as they still do so today. In the 1920's Kingston Church had a robed choir of up to 20 men and boys. A fine sight they made too as they walked sedately from the tower to the choir stalls singing a processional hymn.

Each denomination held its own Sunday school for children with a treat (tea party and games) in the summer and one about Christmas time. Following any of these there used to be intense argument at day school as to which had had the best treat. Book prizes were awarded at the winter party (above) to the children who had put in the most regular attendance. Apart from morning prayers I cannot recall more than one half hour period per week being allocated to religious instruction at the day school.

The first Sunday in June was recognised as the Chapel anniversary when the evening service was held in the large barn at Town Farm. There was usually a visiting Minister who used a portable manger for the pulpit. This anniversary used to be the occasion to wear some new clothes, especially if it was a fine sunny day.

Local Crafts. The late Mr. David CUSTERSON (Sen) and later his sons William and David, who lived in the Chequers, were self employed as thatchers and hurdlemakers. They did some thatching of dwelling houses but were chiefly concerned with thatching stacks of corn and hay. Hurdles were made to serve the purpose of movable fences and as pens in which to enclose sheep. These hurdles would be made from split ash or willow wood.

Butter. Pure dairy was made on two farms; much of this was sold direct to the villagers, any surplus going to the village shop to be retailed there.

Bread. There used to be a bakery in Kingston. This was in Mrs. CHAPMAN's house, Little Lane (also one time shop and Post Office). For many years the large wooden trough in which the dough used to be kneaded could be seen in the room nearest the church. This was on the right hand side just inside the door. The large bread oven was in the back wall opposite the door.

A Smithy was another feature of the village many years ago. I can vaguely remember seeing the remains of a hearth/fireplace and a

bit of wall about 1919. A Mr. NORTON, long since deceased, was the last smith to work in Kingston.

Chimney Sweeping can hardly be called a local craft but the village had its own. He, by any stretch of the imagination, could not have found enough work to occupy him full time in Kingston and I have little doubt that his round extended to nearby villages. He was a Mr. BLOWS and used to live in a little cottage, part of the extended row southwards, which adjoined the late Mrs. WILKINSON's property.

Trade and Traders. At the turn of the century and up to the time of the last war, the village was much better served with essential foods than it is today. There were two shops, one included the post-office, supplemented by visiting retailers whom I will detail.

The late Mr. Ben CLEAR (died 1921) assisted by his daughter Alice, who carried on alone for another 20 years at least, kept a general store in what is now Thatches. The little shop, which you stepped down into, occupied the end room nearest the road. Here one could buy candles, lard, bacon, biscuits, shoe laces, soda, soap, preserves, etc. etc. The shop was lighted by a very small oil lamp and a candle stuck into a tin full of candle wax which Miss CLEAR took with her if she had to go into another room for something not immediately available in the shop itself. (One shudders to think how dangerous this was.) The shop used to be packed with the youth of the village (both sexes) on a Saturday night and it was common practice for someone to ask Miss CLEAR for something they knew she would have to fetch from another room. Off she would shuffle with her candle. Then someone would blow out the lamp, all would be in darkness but not silence, as the laughter and giggles increased "when darkness fell".

A Mrs. THOMPSON next door (now Mrs. CHAPMAN's) kept a small shop and post office. Her range of goods was not so wide as at the general store referred to above.

Travelling grocers visited the village once or more a week according to their own routine. There was J. HUDDLESTONE & Sons from Eversden, Home and Colonial from Cambridge and Messrs MATTHEW and Son late of Trinity Street. It was in the butchery trade that most rivalry existed, there being six different tradesmen calling during any one week. OLIVER's of Bourn, T. WHITTET and Sons Bourn, G. CUSTERSON from Comberton, Messrs HASLOPS Silver Street Cambridge, Messrs PLAYLE from Bassingbourn and WAYMAN's from Cambridge. The latter also sold the first ice-cream that I can remember.

Kingston was never very well served with regard to FISH. Messrs WREN and Co. from St. Neots would call round on Saturday evenings and in the herring season offer these delectable fish at 20 for one shilling, plus oranges at 24 for the same coin.

A Mrs. BARKER used to walk from Toft once or twice a week carrying a big basket of smoked fish, kippers, bloaters etc. When she got older she pulled a small trailer something like the wheeled shopping gadgets of today, but home made of course.

Another visitor or trader who called was a Muffin Man and he

walked round the village with a tray on his head covered with a green cloth, ringing a bell selling muffins and crumpets.

One of the most regular and reliable tradesmen who visited the village was C. BROWN and Son Ltd. of Gwydir Street, Cambridge. Their speciality was hardware and their biggest sale was paraffin. At one time they came with a horse-drawn trolley but I can only remember a large old petrol driven van.

Then there was the Tallyman, a Mr. BRITTON. He used to heave and carry a large suitcase around on his bicycle from which he would sell socks, ties, towels etc. If he hadn't anything you wanted he would bring it next week and payment was on "easy terms".

The Church Sunday school superintendent a Miss MARSHALL, organized and ran for many years a clothing club for her pupils. Parents would pay say 3d or 6d per week for a year; the accruing sum plus a small interest would be made available on credit at several stores in Cambridge who co-operated in the scheme.

Roads and Footpaths. The former have not always been so well surfaced as they are today. In the 1920's and before, Kingston was one of several villages administered by the old Caxton Rural District Council. Not even the main thoroughfares were tarmacadamed in those days.

Mr. William RAYNER, whom I mentioned earlier, used to haul with horse and cart, broken granite from Kingston siding. The carter would drop heaps off at the side of the road at strategic places (nearest the deepest or most numerous potholes) from whence the local roadman James (Mott) ALGOOD would proceed to fill the said holes; consolidation was left to the wheeled horsedrawn traffic. The other duties of the said roadman was to cut gulleys into the verges to assist draining, edge the verges and to keep clear any open ditches (and there were several) carrying surface water.

From memory there was a path from Bourn road (on drawing) which followed a general westerly direction to Kingston Wood. Another path left Crane's Lane and veered off south east to Eversden Wood. It was taken for granted that there was a path along the bank of the stream at the foot of Eversden Hill. Its direction was N.E. to S.W. and would appear to connect Toft with Kingston and Eversden woods. The Kingston - Toft footpath at the end of Field Road still exists.

Characters of the Village 1920's. No doubt it was a woman who can probably come first place under this heading. She was a Mrs. Jane WAYMAN who lived in the thatched cottage opposite the church now owned by a local preservation society. It can honestly be said that she performed the first and last rites of village life being the resident midwife (only qualification being experience) and was always sent for to lay out the dead. In between these times she was always ready to nurse the sick and help in any other way. Even the local Doctor at that time, used to leave bottles of medicine at her house to be picked up by sick people's relatives or friends.

The most colourful characters of the time were undoubtedly the ALGOOD brothers. Firstly there was HOPPY Charles so called because he

had a wooden peg leg. He would stump about the village and always I remember wore a bowler hat! He was a man of small stature and probably the least robust of the four brothers. I cannot remember him ever working and suppose he draw parish relief. This coupled with his two brothers' income enabled them to live the sort of life they wanted to.

George (Happy George) managed a living by casual work and poaching. He always had money for beer and tobacco which he would smoke in the shortest of clay pipes. Next was James, everyone knew him as Mott. He was a much more amiable man. His favourite saying was "well done old boy". He was an old soldier who had served in India. He had a mongrel dog, which though often beaten, was a most faithful animal.

This batchelor trio all lived together. They had a married brother Edwin known as Dewey, whose wife was Naomi. Just prior to the 1920's they lived in part of what is now the late Mrs. WILKINSON's house on the Green. There were two cottages there. My parents lived in the other for a short while, before occupying Orchard Cottage.

All the main families in the village were related through marriage. Records will show that the CUSTERSONS are related to the CUSTANCES, the CUSTANCES to the JACKLINS, the LINDSAYS to the WAYMANS and the JACKLINS and WAYMANS to the CUSTERSONS. The CHAPMANS were related to the CURTIS's and I believe but am not certain, the CHAPMANS to the WAYMANS on the female side. Two sisters married into the two respective families.

Exceptional Happenings. Fires. The farm buildings of Town Close Farm were at one time much closer than their brick and tile counterparts of today; furthermore they were of wood and had thatched roofs. Before my time and according to my father, these caught fire and were completely burned out when a spark from a traction engine pounding up the small incline at the foot of Tinker's Lane fell on to the thatch and set the whole lot alight.

Church Farm was burned out following a similar incident about 1932. I know it was the month of May and during that year a particularly dry one. A moderately strong easterly wind was blowing at the time and the spark from another engine fell on to a thatched roof which was soon blazing. The farmhouse having a similar roof was burned out too. All that remains of this is the end wall of now called North Farm (Miss Piggott's bungalow). Before the fire brigade from Cambridge could get hoses to the ponds in the Rectory meadow, it was all burned down in about an hour.

Algood's Bungalow, Claypit Hill (waterworks site). It was I suppose 1920 or 21, I was with my father on his allotment (see later) when a messenger hurrying along came and asked my father to take a horse-drawn wagon to the ALGOOD's place to bring away as many household goods as possible as their house was on fire; indeed from his plot on the allotment the fire could be seen. The Kingston Eversden district at this time was a much used area for army manoeuvres (probably O.T.C. personnel from Cambridge University) and on this occasion one or more airplanes were being used. The flare or verry light was dropped from a plane and unfortunately fell on to the thatched roof of the ALGOOD house. The pilot realising what had

happened, wrote a note, attached it to some object and dropped it in HAGGER's farm yard. The message was picked up more or less immediately. A low flying airplane in those days caused quite a stir, and was a somewhat unusual sight. What furniture was salvaged was stored in Mr. HAGGER's barn until the homeless couple moved into the small bungalow opposite the Green.

Lightening caused the death of Miss Alice LINDSAY one Saturday morning when she was walking back to her cottage (Brook Cottage) at the foot of Eversden Hill. It was pouring with rain and the poor woman had her umbrella up to give shelter from the downpour. At this spot there was not then, nor is there now, a tree which might otherwise have carried this flash safely to earth. Instead it was the umbrella which formed the conductor for this fatal flash. This incident happened about the mid 1920's.

Snow. One winter probably about 1928 came a blizzard. It was the 26th December. Heavy snow driven by a northerly gale caused considerable drifting, the low lying road between Caldecote railway bridge and the Kingston turning was full of snow. Eversden road was similarly affected. Kingston was cut off and all farm hands spent several days digging a single track through these drifts.

Festivities. I believe the end of the first war was celebrated by a big party with high tea held in Mr. P. HAGGER's barn (Town Farm). I vaguely remember this plus the fact that there was a flag flying from the tower of the church (and there never has been since that time). Certainly the Silver Jubilee of the late King George V took a similar line. On this occasion it was a meat tea in the same barn for everyone in the village. This took place about 5 to 6 p.m. Previously there had been sports for all ages including special events for senior citizens: a cricket match, some football plus other forms of home made amusement. I believe the day concluded with a dance in the school room. All schoolchildren were presented with a Jubilee commemorative mug.

Charities and Charity. There used to be and I suppose still is a charity fund for the poor of the village administered by elected trustees. The BANTON family who lived in the old Rectory in the 1920's and the early 30's did something for the poor of the village, especially the late Rev. P. BANTON M.A. who every Christmas paid for a hundredweight of coal to be delivered to the old aged pensioners. Soup was also sent to sick people together with milk. The RAYNER family were always generous to the villagers. Anyone who asked them for help was never refused.

Allotments. These covered about seven acres, the site of which was just past Kroken, at the top of Crane's Lane, on the other side of the road. The land was part of Town Close Farm and was let out in $\frac{1}{4}$ or $\frac{1}{2}$ acre plots.

Some Old Village Houses. The late Mrs. WILKINSON's house, the Green, is all that remains of a much larger row and formed in my time two dwellings. It was and probably is the oldest of the row. An interesting feature, apart from the much beamed interior, is the remains of a fresco or wall-painting in one of the upper rooms.

Orchard Cottage and Dove Cottage, Crane's Lane. I have always understood that these two dwellings are all that remains of an old farm complex on this site. I can certainly remember very old apple and other fruit trees, in the adjacent gardens behind both cottages. The Dove Cottage, (one of two in the village) being used years ago for the purpose the name infers. Orchard Cottage was a store house of some kind. I have heard that it was the barn (of the old farm), but surely it is too small for such a purpose. The other Dove Cottage (Mr. Heath's) is probably of the same vintage.

New Houses. The first new houses for many years were built by the local council just over 50 years ago. Mr. J. LINDSAY lives in one as did his father before him. This pair of houses was built by A. G. WORBOYS of Comberton (deceased and no longer in business). A further pair were built a few years later on the north side of the first pair. The ground at the time was an old orchard owned by Mr. RAYNER and previously by Mr. William WEBB. Another pair was added again at the north side and still in the same orchard. Then followed three pairs of houses to the south side of the first pair. The local council still own land behind these three pairs of houses, which was, at one time, earmarked for another pair of dwellings. The last pair of council houses to be built were the ones in red brick, nearer to the centre of the village and roughly on the site of previous houses.

Farms. Town Farm, farmed by the late Mr. Philip HAGGER, employed about twelve men and boys. This number being supplemented according to the work load.

Payne's Farm, at this time was joined with New Barn's Farm and farmed by the owner, the late Mr. Robert INGLE, who also farmed over a hundred acres on the ridge of high land well up Crane's Lane; there being some outbuildings but no dwelling house about three-quarters of a mile beyond Orchard Cottage. Mr. INGLE was, I believe, the man who put Kingston on the map as a fruit growing area. Women found regular seasonal employment picking fruit, with children helping out after school hours. A foreman would check-weigh the fruit, which was mostly done at piece-work rate; another man would be engaged in setting ladders, when top fruit was being gathered.

A Mr. William WEBB owned several small orchards in the village. One is now occupied by council houses; another was adjacent to Walker's, with further trees near his residence Dove Cottage.

Library Farm, now Moat House Farm, was as I first remember it, farmed by a Mr. GREEN, who was succeeded by a Mr. William RAYNER, who moved from Church Farm, Kingston (now North Farm). Besides his farming interests at Kingston and Barton, Mr. RAYNER ran a coal-merchant's business and did haulage work for the local council. He was, also, churchwarden for many years.

Kingston Wood Farm was farmed by the late Mr. Richard HAGGER (brother to Philip at Town Farm). Several men used to walk across the fields (there is a public footpath) to work at this farm. They had a useful side-line - setting snares in the evening on their way home and removing caught rabbits in the morning. For a dietary change one could always buy a full grown rabbit from this family for

a shilling, being charged 9d or 10d if not fully grown!

Church Farm. After the RAYNERS left it was farmed, if not owned, by a Mr. Israel CUSTERSON, who used to employ not more than two or three regulars and casual labour at peak periods.

Southsea House has farm buildings and land, which belongs to it, all of which was let to Mr. Charles MARRITT. He employed one man regularly, who together with himself, used to muddle through. Mr. MARRITT also, at a later time, early thirties, kept the post-office and delivered the village mail every morning.

Farming was what is called mixed (apart from the fruit orchards), mainly arable and a few cows for the village milk supply, with two farms carrying flocks of sheep.

General Amenities: Water. Before the last War residents of the village drew their water from farm pumps (by permission of the owner) and the Communal Well which is over 80 feet deep and situated beneath the bus shelter at the crossroads! It was the approaching war which caused a trial bore-hole to be sunk and tested on the site of the present pumping station at Claypit Hill. From this site a main was taken through the village and up through Caldecote to supply water to the new airbase built at Bourn adjacent to the A45 (road). Stand-pipes were connected to this main at various points on its way through the village.

Electricity. I cannot remember when this became generally available but it was after the war.

Kingston Post Office. In a directory of Cambridgeshire of 1879 Mr. Bennet CLEAR is shown as sub-postmaster. (He rode round on a pony and blew his horn when he had a letter for you.) By 1908 Mrs. Alberta THOMPSON (nee CHAPMAN) had taken over the post: presumably at the present premises. In 1925 Mrs. Kate MARRITT wife of Charles MARRITT had taken over. Business was carried on in the small room of Prior's Cottage next to the old Chequers Inn. (Mr. Marritt is mentioned in Mrs. MARSHALL's book.)

For a short period after the death of Mr. MARRITT, Mrs. MANDERSON licensee of the CHEQUERS carried on the business and then from 1949 to 1960 Mr. Lewis EVERITT was the sub-postmaster at the same premises still at Prior's cottage. Since then it has been with Mrs. CHAPMAN, back to where it was in the days of the THOMPSON's bakery.

Note from Mr. EVERITT. Kingston ran a cricket club until about 1946. Captain: Mr. CUSTANCE who lived at Crossways, Mr. D. WAYMAN was principal bowler and Mr. J. LINDSAY was the umpire. During that time the Green was cleared of thorn bushes by men of the Parish and ploughed and seeded by Mr. Cyril Hagger of Town Farm. The collection of rubbish was commenced once a month. Buses came to the village instead of going direct from Toft to Bourn. The bus shelter was built over an old well, mainly from money which was collected during the war for a Village Hall. The billiard table, which was housed in a barn belonging to Mr. RAYNER at Walker's Field, was disposed of.

