

Irene Burton (Nee Hampshire) shares her memories of growing up in Deighton and Escrick.

In the early 1940's when I was at Escrick School, during the holidays Grandma Riccall (*she lived at Riccall*) used to take me to York to the Pictures to see Old Mother Riley, Charlie Chaplin and Laurel & Hardy. Once a year she would take me to Thorganby to see her friend Mrs Felstead and her daughter Margaret. Also in school holidays we used to go picking potatoes on Ricky Richardson's farm and picking peas at Fairburn's farm.

When I lived in Deighton I used to help my mother. I got on my hands and knees to wash the Big kitchen floor, pantry and the loo at the bottom of the garden, with newspaper cut up nice to wipe your bum!

Then we would go picking sticks down the hedge rows for fire wood and picking brambles for jam and pies. The nicest bit was going picking Bluebells, Primroses, Snowdrops and Violets in the woods and looking for frogspawn in the ponds with jam jars. Also I used to play hopscotch, skipping and playing 1,2,3 malera with 2 balls against the wall and playing houses with my friends. My friends all had nice toys and used to stay for tea. I used to play with Pamela Smurthwaite at the White Swan and stay the night sometimes. We still keep in touch at Christmas.

We used to go to Deighton Chapel and also watch Eric White, the Blacksmith, shoe horses and watch him make the horse shoes and other things.

Every Sunday all the family, apart from my Father, used to go to Grandma Digweeds at Escrick. We would have a traditional Sunday lunch and get smartened up in our Sunday best to walk to Escrick. There was always a house full, 2 sittings for Tea! Auntie Dorothy used to like going looking for Violets in the football field and in Gassy Wood. We would go in the Park to watch the Cricket. I also used to go and see Grandad in the Saddle room cleaning all the horse gear and there would be 1 or 2 horses nearby to go and see. I also remember the saw mill in Gassy Woods.

When I was in my teens we used to go dancing in the Village Hall and go for a drink in The Club. We also used to get on our bikes and go to the Riccall RAF camp. They always had a good band and always plenty of partners!