

Living in Grove House...

We came to live in Grove House in about 1951 when my parents moved from Surrey. I think we were the first of the dreaded "Incomers"! My twin sister and I were babies, we didn't leave until I left to train as a nurse in 1968 and my sister to train as a teacher in 1969. My brother Geoff was away at school so continued to spend his holidays at home until about 1971. The house was sold to Mr & Mrs Frost at about the same time when my parents divorced and my mother left to live in West Chinnock. My first marriage took place in Pendomer Church and both my sons were christened in the church. Mum was so attached that she has asked that her ashes be interred in Pendomer churchyard with all the people she loved.

The Halls lived in Japonica cottage, next door to Grove House and opposite Bryants Farm. They weren't relations of ours. We used to play with Coral, who must have been of a similar age to us. It was very exciting to have other children in Pendomer, which is why we were always pleased when the Stenhouse children came to stay with their Grandparents at Bryants farm! We used to go up to the farm a lot, probably getting in the way, but we loved them, they were always kind to us, we 'helped' on the farm! We usually called grown-ups Mr or Mrs because that's what we were trained to do, but we called the Whethams Uncle Bert and Auntie Sue because everyone else did.

We didn't get electricity in the house until I was about nine. There's a picture of us sitting round the table with a paraffin lamp behind me. It sounds romantic, but it wasn't. In the winter we would sit round the fire getting really hot in front and really cold behind. The windows

would get frost on the inside and we would get dressed for school in bed.

We had orchards behind the house, in the next field and over the road, it looks very open to us now that they have gone. There were pigsties at the bottom of the garden in line with the drive. My father converted them into 'The Boat Shed' where he built his dinghy. Mowing the orchard and raking up the grass was really hard work. We used to exchange our apples for logs from Isles Farm.

It snowed hard in 1959 and again in 1963 when we got snowed in for a couple of weeks. We had time off school which we thought was wonderful but we had to make it up at Easter. We went tobogganing quite a lot.

We have some other photographs of us in and around Grove House taken in the 1950s, including one of the back of Grove House and one of Bryants farm, taken from the "landing" window of Grove House (that's what we always called that window and I have no idea why!). You can see the churns on the old milk deck. There's a picture of the Dallimore boys with the postman picking up the letters, that was in 1959, they were renting Rose Cottage, but they weren't there for very long. I couldn't remember their names but it says Anthony and Nicholas on the back. Another picture is the Laughlin children: Peter, Kate and Tim. There is also a clipping from The Western Gazette about The First Fete for 10 years dated 11 June 1954!

I love living where we do now in Sandford Orcas but Pendomer was always Home!

Vivien Davies (nee Hall)