

# Personal Stories

## From Our Parish Down Your Way - Winterslow Part 2

When my mother Edna Macdonald passed away I located some articles giving a wonderful window on Winterslow in 1987, so I decided to share the content and produce two items for the website; this being the second.

In this year Rev Clive Cohen returned having been away for four years stating "It was when I walked through the door of All Saints I remembered it was full of prayers" and he said "Winterslow is very alive and full of lovely people in whom the ecumenical spirit is growing".

The previous year all the churches joined together for Harvest 1986, with a joint Methodist- Anglican confirmation with forty people received into the churches. It was hoped that further joint communion services would follow with involvement by the Methodists, Baptists and Gospel Lifeboat Mission, were Rosalie Keel, postwoman serves as secretary to the followers of 19th-century evangelist Albert Shears.

The article identifies "There is much unusual here. There is the ancient truffle-hunting family of Collinses, and maker of meteorological instruments, (Micro-Met) local resident John Jones, at the Old Rechabite Hall, in Middleton Road. Also noted were the established families, some of whom could be traced back four generations in Winterslow, many still represented in the Parish today.



John Jones, manufacturing micro-metrological instruments in the Old Rechabite Hall

Winterslow's lofty position, as we all know, makes it a snow trap in winter, but this also historically created a problem for water supplies, with residents having their own wells, rainwater tanks or reliant on the emergency water cart supplies coming in from St Thomas' bridge or Dean. This began to change in 1930 when the self-resilient parishioners began selling five shilling (5p today) shares in the Winterslow Water Society which paid for a deep efficient pump located near the Junction of Middleton Road and The Causeway, the building can still be observed next to "Magpie".

Nina Ditches of Hamilton turned the taps on in 1935. In the article it states, "Today many of the early institutions pioneered by the smallholding generation are inadequate. The Village Hall was built before people needed parking and the recreation pavilion and grounds double as a school facility, but needs enlarging." Latter community endeavour has addressed those issues to the benefit of the community with the new Village Hall in Middleton Road, extended Recreation Ground Pavilion and Barry's Fields Sports Ground in Weston Lane. Identified are the facts that in the 1950s Winterslow had about 800 residents, four pubs, two churches, two chapels, two Friendly Society Halls, Parish Hall, five shops, butchers and bakers.

Winterslow now has approximately 2,300 residents, one pub and a combined shop and Post Office. How things have changed.

Jeanette Soloman



Rosalie Keel - Winterslow auxiliary postwoman and Church Secretary of the Gospel Lifeboat Mission.



The Old Rechabite Hall