

In 1996 the Society published ...

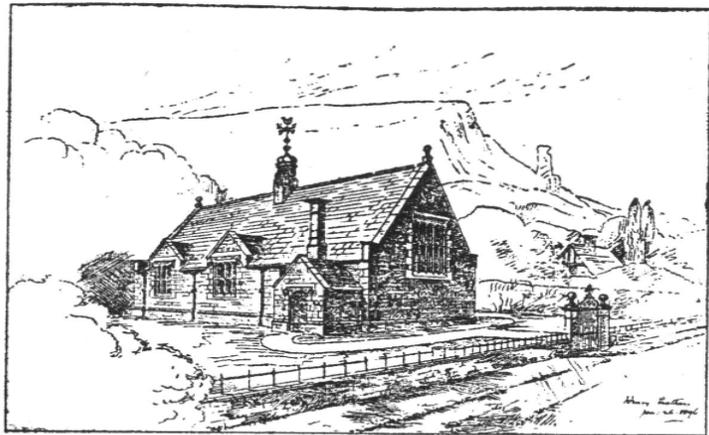
## Leckhampton Yesteryear Village Life, 1888 - 1939

By Eric Miller,

ISBN 0 9524200 2 3

Price £5-00 76 pages illustrated

*Leckhampton Yesteryear* offers a vivid picture of everyday village life in at the turn of the 20th century. Though situated on the outskirts of Cheltenham, Leckhampton was sufficiently detached to have an identity of its own and was typical of many another English village at that time, with its activities centred on the Church and the Manor, while the building of the Parish Hall in Queen Victoria's Diamond Jubilee year allowed new societies to be formed and encouraged the growth of community life.



H A Prothero's impression of the Parish Hall

Relying on contemporary accounts in parish magazines the author describes village fêtes and entertainments, Sunday School outings by horse-drawn carriage, 'fifty thrifty housewives charabanging off to Worcester,' smoking concerts, *tableaux vivants*, recreation classes, the Parish Library, hospital egg days, bandage parties and charitable activities in the days before organised state welfare. The book traces the growth of local branches of the Mothers' Union, the Men's Society, the Scouts, the Church Lads' Brigade, Girls' Friendly Society and cricket and football clubs. Advertisements placed by local shops, many now vanished, illustrate the trades and goods that were in vogue. We also read of the enlargement of the village school in 1906, and the latent divisions that this brought to the surface. The enthusiasm displayed by the villagers both at work and at play is everywhere apparent.

The book is full of curiosities, with something of interest for everyone, not only for its factual accounts but for the portrayal of the attitudes and opinions of the time, which it is instructive to compare with our own.

*'The Parish Messengers make very interesting reading. Not only are they a detailed and consecutive history of our church and parish life ... but they necessarily refer occasionally to external and even international events, showing what kind of impact they made on Leckhampton; and, what is more, they reflect very clearly the thoughts, sentiments, ideas, customs and needs of their time. It is fascinating to see how these things change rather subtly and almost imperceptibly from year to year ... Above all, they demonstrate, beyond all doubt, what is abiding and what is ephemeral in our church life.'* - *The Revd Paul Dack, in 1955, when Curate-in-Charge at Leckhampton.*

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