NEWSLETTER – DECEMBER 2022.

CHRISTMAS PAST.

I came here in 1948 just before my 14th birthday & remember the customs & the people from then & the 1950’s. There were 2 main events at XMAS, the children’s party & the Xmas dinner, both organised by Tarbrax W.R.I. in the “old hall”, formerly St. Magdalene’s chapel owned by the education authority after the school closed about 1947. The WRI ladies & the parents provided the food for the children, & they got juice while the parents had tea or coffee. The children sat on the floor at food time & the parents sat on chairs round the hall, & like feeding the 5000 there was always enough for all. We played games to taped music when required, eg. Musical arms, statues, grand old duke of York, farmer’s in his den, out & in the dusting bluebells, pass the parcel, etc. Santa visited & each child received a tangerine & a chocolate treat. A lovely memory!

The Xmas dinner was well attended & of course the gentlemen swelled the numbers. The WRI ladies set the table with their best tablecloths & china. They were used to taking these to the basket whists, but for the dinner they also brought their best candlesticks & the final display looked lovely. The ladies also prepared all the food, soup, turkey & all the trimmings, trifle, mince pies & tea. I don’t recall us having wine as it was an acquired taste then, but there was sherry & whisky. We had a solo musician but I can’t remember who.

Back then there were a lot more people here & most married women didn’t have jobs so they were more involved in things, & there were also a lot more children. There was a Youth Club, a Junior Youth Club, & a Senior Club. Everyone from the 3 villages were welcome at Tarbrax where most things took place. Auchengray had events also to which we were all welcome, but I don’t recall things at Woolfords in my time here, although I believe they had a busy hall there before then. In any case we have always operated as a combined community, especially at Xmas, & hopefully that will continue in the future. I wish you all happy season’s greetings, & a better 2023 for us all!

Grace.