

THE GREAT DEPRESSION

Memoirs of some of how some of the villagers fared in the 1920's and 1930's

Tape 11 –

Before the Great Depression the church had always taken a tithe from the farming community ie 1/10th of profits in kind. In the Depression the church wanted money and a levy was made on the farmers of so much per acre even though the land was not yielding any profit. Different parishes took different levies. In the 1930's Bill's family's farm had to pay a levy of £1,000 per year. Even if there was no profit they still had to pay otherwise the church took the farmer to court. Bill can remember cases where farmers who couldn't pay had a restraint put on them and they lost their homes and farms. Families were broken up. Bill remembers going on marches to Hyde Park in 1934 to demonstrate. Took tractors and animals. Sir Oswald Moseley supported the farmers on this, so he got support from this section of the community. Many farmers won't go to church because of the church's action in the Depression. The Rector during the Depression was receiving £1,200 per year from tithes.

During the Depression blankets and coal were given out to the poor by the church wardens. They decided who the poor were.

Tape 19 –

Fred went on Tied marches to London during the depression to complain about lack of money.

Tape 22 -

In the Depression one day a man came to Benson School, the headmaster went to see him and chatted. He was starving because he had no work so the headmaster gave him food and money.