

Pictures for report:





Probably the oldest surviving photograph of the Bethel Baptist Chapel. It shows the front as it was built in 1868, and it remained thus until 1908, when windows and flooring affected by dry rot were replaced. This building

replaced an earlier wooden chapel built further back on the site in 1840. The land in Middle Watch was donated for the chapel by William Carter, a Swavesey farmer. The occasion and the people shown are not known.



Top: The front of the Swavesey Brewery house about 1918. A large window and a doorway had been formed in the building facing the road. On the motor bike was Ben Thorp, and Grace, his daughter, stands in the gateway with her bicycle.

Bottom: In 1909 the brewery was sold to Ben Thorp, who turned it into a garage. Lined up in the yard is a row of nearly new cars and a motor cycle. Ben Thorp, owner of the garage, stands next to the first car in the row.

Rotate



School Lane about 1900. This earliest known photograph shows, on the left, the chapel when it was being used by the Methodists. From 1830 to 1860 it had been used by the Church of the Unitarians; from 1860 it was taken over by a Baptist congregation. By 1884 the

Baptist group had disappeared, and the Methodists bought it and used it until 1932. In 1934 George Oakman bought it and converted it into a house. In 1982 it was taken down and two houses were built on the site. Next to the Chapel are Dr

and beyond them Waterton House. The pony and cart is outside Mrs Garner's harnessmaker's shop. On the right grass fields adjoined Priory Farm. One of the two men on the path is Harry Hodson.

Next page



Next page

Top: The High Street about 1922. On the left is the National School, built after the 1838 Inclosure. The Inclosure Act required the Commissioners to allot land in the village for use as a recreation ground and for the building of a school. Four acres were allotted for the recreation ground, and one acre and a rood for a school. The School Pond was also

dug at Inclosure to provide a public water supply in this part of the village. The slope into the pond was given a hard base so that a horse-drawn water cart could go down into the pond to fill up with water. Animals were also allowed into the pond to drink. The chestnut trees on the Green appear to be about 10 years old, which dates the photograph to about 1921.

Bottom left: A very early photograph of the school after the infants' classroom had been added, with access from School Lane. The chestnut trees on the Green are about 6 years old, which dates this photograph to about 1917.



The National School about 1927. This is the best known photograph of the National School. It is 12 o'clock and the morning lessons are over. The children are coming out to go home for their dinners. The two girls holding hands are Verna Smith (married

name Moyse) and Mary Shepperson (married name Hodson). Mary had been told by her mother to wait for Hilda, their maid, to bring her home, but Verna could not wait, so she was dragging Mary along!



Rotate

Bottom left: The High Street about 1925. The cobbled paths had no kerbs or tarmacadam surface. On the left is the Post Office, where Tom Metcalfe was postmaster. The house was originally the Sir Harry Smith public house. Next door is Hephher Brothers butcher's shop. Leaning against the fence are Will and Arthur Froment, who lived opposite. The Rising Sun public house has the initials of Bailey & Tebbutt on the end wall. The terraced houses on the right, known as The Barracks, were built by John Dodson as homes for his farm workers. Rumour says he had them built without front doors because, he said, "I am not going to ride down Swavesey High Street past women gossiping on their doorsteps."



Top right: The Memorial Hall about 1930, when fences closed off part of the frontage. George Long had bequeathed the site to Swavesey Parish at his death in 1902. The Memorial Hall was built to honour the Swavesey men who lost their lives in the First World War, and it was opened in 1924. In 1936, when part of the National School was declared unsafe, Cambridgeshire County Council hired the hall as temporary classrooms until a new school was built for the seniors. With the outbreak of the Second World War these 'temporary' arrangements continued for over 10 years. At weekends during those 10 years, the caretaker Ern Prior cleared the desks and chairs so that the hall could be used for functions such as dances and concerts.



Bottom right: Swavesey Women's Institute was formed in 1928 and met in the Memorial Hall. Here are the members with their new banner outside the Hall.



Left: Swavesey Windmill in Hale Road. It was built in 1866 by James Radford, after his post mill on the opposite side of the road was blown down that January. James's two sons were working in

the mill at the time and jumped clear as it fell. This photograph of the mill in the 1920s is the earliest known and was one of a series of village views taken by the Office by

with the bicycle. Much of the land on each side of Hale Road was planted with fruit trees at that time.

Next page



Right: Swavesey Mill in Hale Road taken with a Kodak box camera by Charles Wood in 1933. John Shepperson remembers his father taking him to the mill in 1936 with a cartload of corn for milling, and seeing the miller, Billy Mustill, start up the oil engine that drove the millstones. Before starting the engine, he first had to heat up the vaporiser with a blow lamp. The sails had been removed from the mill by that time.



Station Road and Church End in the early 1950s. The cedar trees are about 40 years old and are by now attractive trees. There is a television aerial attached to the house on the left. The road has recently been tarred and coated with granite chippings, but the path on the right has not yet been

kerbed to separate it from the road. Now the telephone pole is carrying five pairs of lines. The building on the left with the sloping roof was the store for the fruit boxes and skips belonging to S.W. Escott, a fruit wholesaler from Manchester. Local growers sent their fruit to Escott.



An early view (c. 1900) of Church End and Swan Pond. On the right is the Chequers pub sign on a post. The wooden fence around the pond was later replaced by concrete posts and iron railings. The pond was an important water supply for Church End livestock at this

time. The heap of granite is to repair potholes. On the left is the row of thatched cottages built on the edge of the stone causeway that was once the only path to the church. The tiled house in the middle of the thatched cottages is the Swan with Two Nicks public house. Two

nicks cut into a swan's beak indicated that the swan was the property of the Society of Licensed Victuallers and not the Crown. At the far end is William Twist's new house, built about 25 years earlier. Stacks belonging to Manor Farm can be seen on the Church Green.



Swavesey Fire, 1913. On 4th March 1913 a spark from a chimney landed on the thatch of a cottage in Taylors Lane. It was windy and the roof was ablaze in a few minutes. The wind carried burning thatch onto neighbouring thatched roofs,

and within two hours twenty-six thatched cottages were on fire. The fire spread so quickly that many occupants did not have time to remove their belongings. In the foreground are the smouldering remains of a row of eight cottages by

Swan Pond. The water being sprayed onto the remains of a cottage is coming from the Huntingdon fire engine. The Swavesey manual engine in the distance is not being used.

Rotate



Top left: About 1948, the Manor House was bought by the village doctor, Dr Ford, and his wife, who carried out a major refurbishment of the house. The ivy was removed and the stud-and-plaster work was restored, changing the appearance of the house. This photograph was taken in the early 1950s.

Top right: In the 1930s, ivy completely covered the Manor House, then the home of Mrs James Norman. In 1942 Mrs Norman died and the house was sold, then requisitioned by the Ministry of Food as a hostel for girls in the Land Army until after the Second World War. Mrs Martin was matron of the hostel and maintained strict

Bottom right: Mr Joe Ingle (left), Richard Ford (son of Dr & Mrs Allan Ford) and blacksmith George Burling, shoeing 'Polly' the pony at Manor Farm c. 1958.



Top: The west end of St Andrew's Church in 1930. At that time the tower had six bells in a wooden frame, which was replaced with an iron frame in 1932. In 2002 the Swavesey bell ringers launched an appeal, and two new bells were added in 2004 to make a peal of eight bells. The new treble marked Queen Elizabeth's Golden Jubilee and the new second marked over 250 years of bell ringing by the Mitham family. The clock, with faces on the south and east sides, was presented to the village in 1896 by George Long in memory of his parents, Hanslip and Martha Long. They came to Swavesey in 1851 and lived in the Manor House, farming the Manor and Hill Farms.



Bottom: Looking from the road wall of Swavesey churchyard in 1902 towards the south side of the church. One hundred years later, the wooden crosses have rotted and about half of the stones have gone.

Rotate

Top: A view of Swavesey station showing the porter's lodge, station house and office. When this photo was taken, the canopy that once protected the platform, office and waiting room had been removed. It suggests a mid 1960s date, when the viaduct over the river had been deemed unsafe and single-track working was taking place between Swavesey and St Ives.



Bottom: The flooded track in 1947. The district track inspector, the St Ives station master and the platelayer driver are making an inspection, just before deciding that it had become unsafe to run trains on the track.





During the winter, floodwater was held on Mere Fen and, with sufficient frost, skating championship matches were put on there. The umpire is about to give the signal to

two skaters to start a race. One of the skaters is Ben Thorp, a garage owner and cycle racer. Next page has a very good photograph of a young man