

From notes written by Mrs Sinclair in November 2009.

Mrs Sinclair lives on the left of the Bungay Road, leaving Poringland towards Brooke, not quite as far as The Dove public house.

I think it was around 1945 when we arrived in Poringland having bought Bella Vista. At that time Philip Tubby lived in Hill Crescent where he ran his market garden. Mr Sexton lived in the property next door to me ( on my left facing the road ) and a gentleman, whose name escapes me, and his family lived in Bella Vista. On the other side of me in the bungalow Glen Roy lived a Mr. Howes. On the other side of him lived a family whose name I can't remember. The last people living down the road towards Brooke were the Eatons.

Now back to basics. Years before we arrived here, Mr Tubby's place and the field next door ( on the Brooke side ) was owned by a couple of gentlemen who shared the property and ran the whole as a market garden. The only property on this land ( next door to where Bella Vista is now built) was a small wooden bungalow – Hill Crescent. Eventually this land was divided into two fields. Mr Tubby used to come and help on the Hill Crescent land as a boy and it was left to him when he reached adulthood. He continued to run it as a market garden until he passed away in his 80s about 13 (?) years ago. He eventually grew crops for Birds Eye.

The other field was bought by the Potter brothers who farmed it. There were three Potter brothers, George, Charles, and Douglas, plus ( I think ) three sisters, Rosie, Eileen and Muriel. Muriel and her husband eventually bought Hill Crest ( not Hill Crescent ), the bungalow which was made from three army huts. On their land, about an acre or more, was a well.

George Potter married late in life and a bungalow was built on the land adjoining that owned by Mr Philip Tubby. After George died his wife continued to live there until she too passed away. The other two Potter brothers, Charles and Douglas, continued to farm the land, living in Poringland with their families.

On the other side of the Sexton's property lived the Eatons. A Mr and Mrs Eaton plus Mrs Eaton's sister, Miss Pretty. Their property was a small ( I think asbestos ) bungalow.

Next door to us at Bella Vista, lived a Mr Howes with his unmarried middle aged daughter and his slightly mentally handicapped son.

During the war years the Sexton's and the bookmaker (betting office) gentlemen and their families moved out to Poringland to escape any

bombings etc. that might happen. The bookmaker lived in Bella Vista.

The Sexton's owned a very large fruit and vegetable business and their lorries were always in evidence all over Norwich. They had a big warehouse in Rose Lane, Norwich, where they kept bananas, oranges etc. It was war time and such fruit was very scarce. They also had several sweet shops but when supermarkets appeared their shops disappeared.

Eventually when the bombing had quietened down and the war was drawing to a close the 'betting office' people moved back to Norwich and, I think, lived in Newmarket Road. They had sons but I can't remember their names. They were in the betting business but I suppose their then well known betting firm may have since changed hands.

None of the properties originally had a water supply and all their water had to be collected from the well which was situated in the Hill Crest garden. Consequently a right of way existed between all of the properties and this went right across the middle of our garden, Bella Vista, and that of Glen Roy. These paths still exist. The path which led from all of the properties was known as 'the Well Path.

Of course there was no main sewage collection from here then but eventually a sewage plant was built down the lane opposite The Dove public house. However, it was some time before our properties were connected.

Eventually the Sextons moved back to Norwich. Their small bungalow here was demolished after several years and the present bungalow was built. This also happened to the Potter's bungalow. The Potter's field and buildings were sold and a new large house was erected there. Horses and foals now graze in that field.

When we first moved here the Dove public house was owned by a Mrs Machin. Originally it had been a 'stopping off place' for drovers and their cattle. There was no transport for herds of cattle in those days and the drovers and cattle sometimes walked many miles to reach their appointed destination. Even when we arrived in Poringland during the war the floor of The Dove was still strewn with sawdust or whatever. The Dove in those days bore no resemblance to how it is today.

I hope this has helped in some way to help you get a picture of what it was like here all those years ago.

Mrs Sinclair