



Cleeve Prior Chroniclers

Local Railways Long Ago - Don Archer

The Dominance of road Transport is very obvious in in Cleeve Prior now, but when my family first came to live here we brought our live and dead farming stock, as it is called, from far away Gloucester by rail .it was unloaded at Littleton and Badsey station, which existed then next to the level crossing between the two villages. From there our Flocks and herds had to be driven along the road and with all that we possessed in horse drawn wagons it must have been a sort of biblical exodus, though I was too young to actually witness it.

We then settled at top farm, my two elder sisters and I went to school at Evesham by train. The first part of the journey was by pony and trap driven by mother to Littleton & Badsey. There we boarded a one coach train which ran backwards pushed by a little tank engine, known unofficially as the Broadway Moke. A short ride on the Moke and then quite a long walk for small children up to Greenhill School.



Picture courtesy of the Tony Harden collection and <http://www.disused-stations.org.uk/b/broadway>

A Friend of mine who still lives in the Parish of Bidford also went to Greenhill School at that time. With her small brother she took a train from Broom junction and, in the charge of the guard, travelled to Evesham on the little branch line which ran along the Avon Valley and gloried in the name London, Midland & Scottish Railway. Stops were made at Salford Priors & Harvington on the way.

It used to be said in Cleeve Prior that if you could hear trains clearly from the Salford direction it meant fine weather, if from Littleton wet. So Beeching's axe deprive us of a weather forecast as well as a transport system.