

From Glass Plate to iPad

This time last year we published some photographs taken by Ernest Lewis of Milnsbridge just before WW1. We later recognised on one the Lea family of the Villa, with the help of the 1911 census. Since then, our editors have appealed for more Bickton photographs and so we offer a further selection illustrating different periods.

Another of those glass negatives by Ernest Lewis shows a group of villagers brought together by some event worthy of recording, but otherwise not known. It could even have been after a wedding with everyone in their 'Sunday best' outfits, illustrating the prevailing fashions – long skirts, tight waists, floppy blouses with high necks all topped with wide brimmed hats. Such gear was ill-suited to the bicycle present, but the gents have more practical dress. Two carry shotguns and at least one bird, while behind, farmhands with long poles may have been their beaters. Two small boys display wide collars and at least one wears a smock or dress.

Altogether there is a lot of social history here and it makes one think about what a modern version of this scene would look like...

The more usual examples of old photographs can be found in 'family' archives recording weddings and similar events which brought friends and relations together. Some scenes were set in studios, but the spread of simple box cameras and roll film enabled families to do more for themselves, even away on a seaside holiday. Less often, we find our ancestors photographed in their working environment and therefore not posing in their 'Sunday best', as illustrated by 'wash day' at Uddington in about 1926.

Here, at the home of Richard Sandford, solicitor, (now Isle Court) the simple technology required many hands, which included Olive Edwards, who later became Mrs James Paddock and mother of Mary Fowles, who loaned us the photograph. How technology has changed...!

Other photographs may have been taken for commercial reasons, such as advertising property for sale. The image of the 'The Pound' in Bickton Lane by the church is a good example as it is now an historic record. The old building had originally been two dwellings knocked into one, but by 1995 had become ripe for redevelopment. Do pause and see what has been done to it.

Technology marches on, so that in the digital age even more photographs can be taken with a variety of gadgets. A photographic survey of the parish might be a good idea as the views could become historical records in the future, along with those of special events.

With so much technology at our fingertips, one can also have more fun treating photography as an art form, capturing fleeting patterns of shape, light and colour. Snow can look equally interesting in black and white and so an example of this is included here. With such seasonal views there may even be scope for a Bickton calendar without asking the bowling club to strip off!



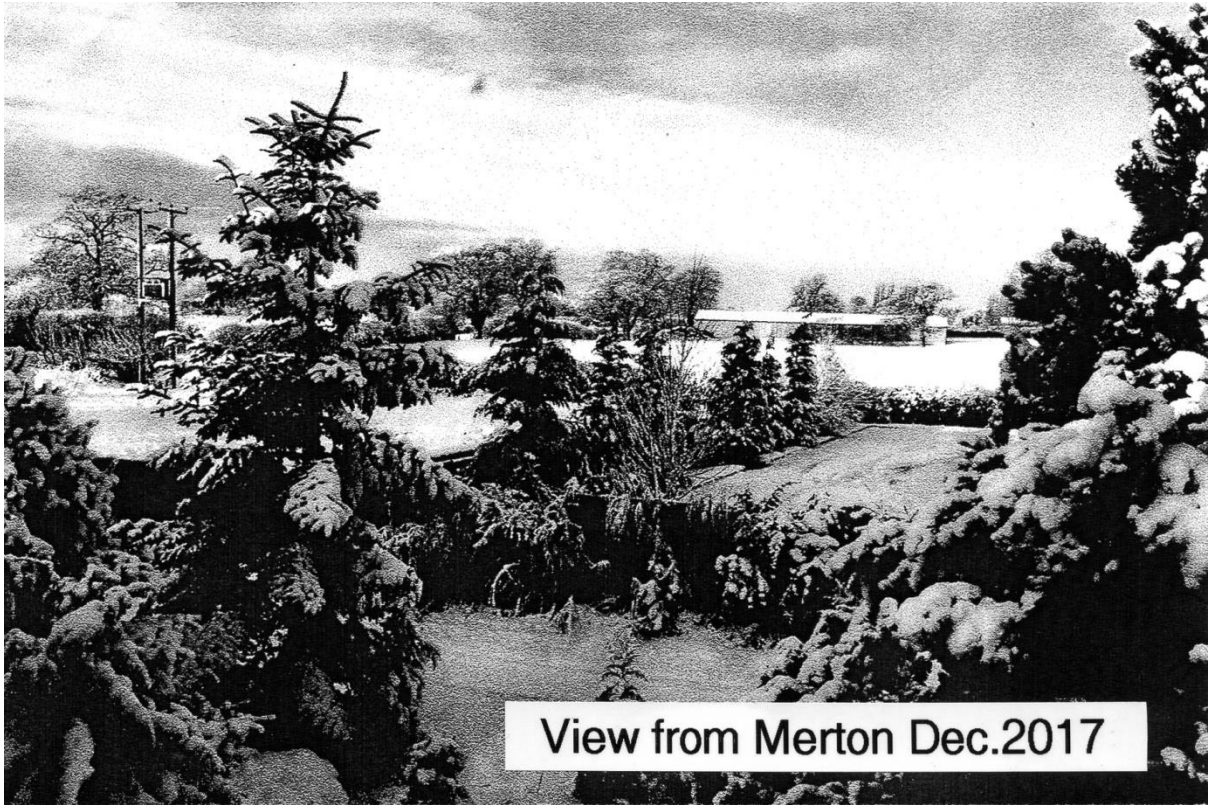
Village group c.1910



Udlington 1926



The Pound 1995



View from Merton Dec.2017