

Don Walker's memories of Deddington

1947 Childhood Memories. Deddington Castle Grounds.

In the above year it was decided to level and re seed and make a new vehicle entrance into the grounds which meant removing an area of the embankment which is now the steps and the main access. Previous to this you had to go along the north side where the access is now along the bottom which brought you to a stone barn where a vintage tractor was stored.

The pedestrian access was steps formed with timber risers and filled behind with hardcore. These were only 75 cm wide and were situated between the now notice board and the new main entrance.

So a committee was formed to organise this work, they thought it would be a good idea to have the school represented with one girl and one boy. I was asked to take on this task. The meetings were held in Mr Walter Saunders' house in Hudson Street.

On entering the Castle Grounds to the north side was a wooden building which we called the Pavilion but in fact it was just a glorified shed painted green with no windows but had two large top hung shutters which were quite useful when it rained you could stand inside to watch the football, the only problem was to hold the shutters open you had to prop them with a piece of timber [no health and safety in those days]

Over on the south side was the bowling green. The members of this club were known as the lower fives. There was also a cricket square which was pressed by a large horse drawn roller also quite a heavy hand roller which needed two men to pull it.

Mid 1940s the foundations of the old castle were excavated we used to go and play in them in the evenings as there were no barriers to protect them.

In the south-east corner was a flower garden set into the bank tended by Mr Edwin Bliss.

VJ day celebrations were held in the castle grounds in the form of a sports day. the castle grounds were reputed to be one of the finest sports fields in the county

Don Walker
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