

*Recollections of Childhood
in
Codsall Wood
and
Codsall*



**CODSALL & BILBROOK
HISTORY SOCIETY**



Hilda Mary Porteous

Introduction

Hilda Mary Porteous, born 1913, was the only child of John and Florence Barley of Codsall Wood.

John Barley was born at Catshill, Bromsgrove, Worcestershire, one of a family of seven. He first worked at the factory of White and Pike at Longbridge, later moving into Birmingham to work at the electrical firm of Bellis and Morcom. In 1910 he was offered work at Codsall Wood for Mr. F. Gaskell, to look after the electric generator for the Pendrell Hall Estate, and to drive and maintain the Daimler saloon. A house was provided and John married Florence Barker who worked as a bookbinder for a firm making large ledgers. Both parents lived to be ninety years old.



*Hilda's parents, Mr & Mrs J. Barley outside Garage Cottage in 1912.
On the right is the Engine Room with the Battery Rooms up above.*

Hilda attended Codsall C.E. School in March 1918 and remained there until 1924.

In September 1924 she became a pupil at Wolverhampton Girl's High School with a Staffordshire County Minor D. Scholarship. She left the High School in 1931, having gained Matriculation and the Higher School Certificate.