

Hildersham Village Sign

I am also often asked why the Tree on your lovely village sign.



Well on the green opposite Church Cottages, called "Towne Green" there stood this massive old Walnut Tree.

It was fantastic and the ladies of Hildersham used to make the most delicious "Pickled Walnuts", the only trouble was the walnuts had to be picked when the skins were fleshy and green. We used to climb the tree when

we were young lads and get basket full's of the succulent nuts to keep the bubbling pickling pans happy.

However, the skins made your fingers and hands look like you had smoked 200 Woodbines and the only way it could be removed !!! Was to let it wear off naturally, despite the many efforts and tears as Vim and the Scrubbing Brush was used by many a frustrated mother!!

I had thought there wasn't any photos left of the walnut tree in its prime, but I have found one recently in a box of old papers from the Phillip's collection.



It shows the tree on a frosty morning in 1929. It's a pity that the photo is not a bit further round, as you can just see the back of the Hildersham Snow plough, it was made of railway sleepers and sat on the corner of Blench Lane, when there was any snow, the local farmers would hitch it to their tractor and keep the roads clear.

The other great Hildersham tree for getting young lads into trouble was the Mulberry Tree in the Rectory Garden, on the village sports day this tree got many a set of pure white tee shirt and shorts covered in the loveliest shade of pink; however this was another nightmare to get out. **Happy Days!!!**

It would be really fantastic if anyone has any other photos of the walnut tree or the snow plough!!