

## **Transport**

### **Shepherd's boots**

In a cottage in Snitter was Mr Rogerson, a shoe-maker from Rothbury. They specialised in making shepherd's boots, and I was interested to note the soles were turned up at the toes for hill shepherding. They were pretty pricey even then, because they were hand-made and lasted a long time.

Mrs Green, a teacher at Netherton School in the 1930s

### **Clogs**

Clogs were worn with 'loags', stocking legs knitted from Otterburn yarn (known today as leg-warmers), which kept snow from getting into the clogs. Feet were always warm.

Lizzie Robinson, local postwoman, remembers the children at Holystone School

### **Wedding shoes**

People married nearer to home in those days, and you all knew one another and went to village hall dos. Families knew one another far more in those days and lived closer because they didn't have the transport. In a rural area you knew everybody anyway, because they were all from families that had been there for years.

Anne Dunn, who grew up at Biddlestone and later ran the pub in Harbottle with her husband

### **Plimsolls**

Believe it or not, we had dancing at school. I remember a few occasions that we didn't always have proper plimsolls to dance with, but if you went to school with your wellingtons on you weren't allowed to dance. It's surprising how many lads went with their wellingtons on when there were going to be dancing lessons!

Stewart Whitfield, who went to school in Hepple in the 1950s

### **Sandshoes**

Summers were mostly dry and hot. Sandshoes were worn and some were barefoot. Girls wore cotton frocks and pinnies, straw hats or clouty [cloth] bonnets. Boys wore caps. All played together down by the church. Much time was spent in looking for birds' nests.

Lizzie Robinson, local postwoman, remembers the children at Holystone School

### **Rogerson's shoes**

Shoes came from Rogerson's at Rothbury. Everything was at Rothbury. Mam just went and bought us anything like that. She used to go maybe twice a year to get her hair tidied up – she'd get a lift down to here with the school car.

Jean Foreman, whose family lived high up the valley at Uswayford

### **Cobbler's last**

My wife's father, Arthur Gregory, was a shoemaker – he made shoes, sold and repaired them too – and he had a shop here and a workshop in a shed in the back garden. He had a wonderful life. If it was a fine day he gardened, and if it was not very fine he cobbled shoes! He had an apprentice called Edmund Cummings – known as Ebba.

Ken Howey, born in the 1920s in Thropton, now lives in his father-in-law's old house in Rothbury

### **Horse shoes**

It cost 15 shillings to do four horse shoes and it took about an hour and a half. Dad didn't have to measure the hoof. He looked at it and he knew what length of iron to cut from experience, if it was a carthorse or a pony. The heaviest job was to shoe a carthorse. One day a carthorse stood on Dad's foot and he had to be off work for quite a bit...

Eileen Tait, whose father James Proudlock was blacksmith at the Peels near Harbottle from the 1920s to the 1950s

### **Skis**

I did, kind of, learn to ski. In bad winters there were these sheep stells out on the hill where you left your sheep where you knew that had a bit of shelter, and you'd feed them there. On clear days with no snow drifts, to help my dad, I could glide along the top and see if the sheep were alright. But I never let on that I could ski because I was still at school then. And, because you didn't go to school when there was a lot of snow, I was frightened they'd make me come in!

Jean Foreman, who grew up at remote Uswayford Farm high in Upper Coquetdale

### **Wellington boots**

The fire at Barrow Hill in the 1950s burned for six weeks. It was the guns on the Range that started it. There was one army lad, he fell into a crevice and got his feet badly burned. He had to go to hospital. His wellies are still there on Barrow Hill...

Doad Tait, who joined the Forestry Commission in 1952 and often helped put out fires in the area.

### **Wearing our wellies**

We had to walk to school through the fields. About May Day time, we'd have wellingtons on for the dew. When we got to near the road, we used to sit down, take our wellingtons off, put them under this log where we sat, and put our shoes on to walk on the hard road to school. And we'd come back the same way at night, pick up our wellies and go back home. And Mother had a hot meal ready for us, because we'd only had sandwiches at school.

Catherine Evans, who walked to Alnham School in the 1930s

### **New clothes at Christmas**

Clothes were ordered from Browns from Rothbury. Their traveller used to walk up from Barrowburn, carrying his little case. Twice a year he came to see you, to see what you wanted, and then you just ordered from there.

He always brought the little bits of material that was the samples, and he'd give them to Mam. Now I know that's how my dolly got new clothes at Christmas! Every year she just sat and made them up with these little bits of patchwork.

Jean Foreman, who grew up at Uswayford Farm, at the top of the Coquet Valley