

Memories of Deller's Café

This charming memory of Dellers' Café comes from one of our PHS members - Heather Reed:

"I went to the Dancing School at Dellers Café, which was held in their lovely ballroom. The Teacher was a Miss Hexter (Nancy, I think) who was assisted by Mrs Mudge, who played the piano. This would have been just after the War. We wore a lovely dark mauve tunic, with a white emblem of the name of the Dancing School. I think we had the same colour material pants to match! I remember it was shiny. Talking to another friend, she could remember dancing with a stick with coloured ribbons on it.

Always a thrill to go to the Café as well.

Another story my Mother told me – this was before the war in the early 1930's when you were

allowed to take your dog into the Café if it sat under the table. Our dog was a wire-haired terrier and Mum sat him under the table, and ordered tea. Mum left the Café and was nearly home before she realized she hadn't got the dog – he was still happily asleep under the table!!

Right opposite Dellers was another Café – Evans & May [*the late Frank May*] – selling bread and cakes. The Café was upstairs, and on Saturdays you always had to queue on the stairs until an empty table became

available. The Manageress was a Miss Hockaday. Whilst waiting, you had the lovely smell of bread being baked at the back of the shop. I hope I'm correct in saying that I think Evans and May baked the Paignton Pudding [*would this be the 1950's pudding or perhaps the 1968 pudding?*]

Mum also told me that during the War, when we were shopping in Victoria Street, a low flying plane was heard coming in. People shouted to us to lie down on the pavement and "cover your children". I was only little. Whether it was a Nazi plane, I do not know."

I wish Dellers was still there, with its lovely garden in the front!

Good wishes,

Heather Reed

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