

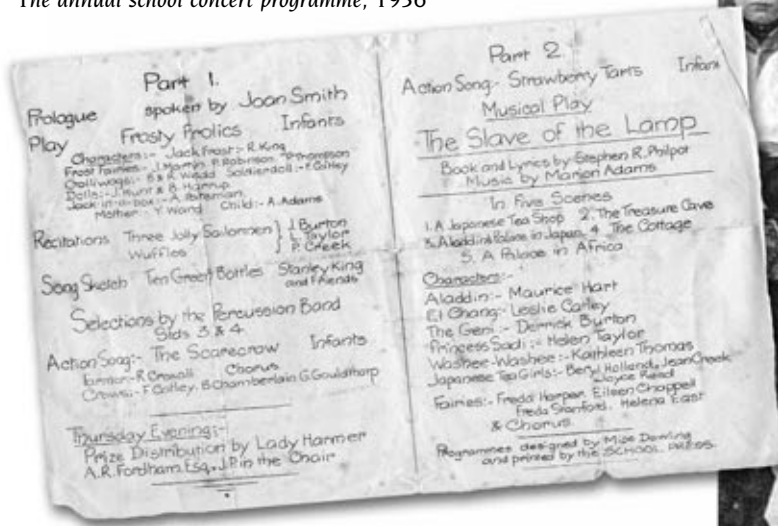
The Mutual Improvement Society began in 1885 and held educational lectures. Other groups and clubs included: Guides, Scouts, Ranger Guides, a Young Peoples' Guild and a Youth Centre which was set up in the 1940s.

The Women's Institute started in 1922. It was part education and part entertainment and was very popular during the Second World War when housewives banded together to can fruit etc.

Attached to the various churches were societies, including: The Boys' Brigade, the Girls' Brigade, the Band of Hope, the White Ribboners, the Girls' Friendly Society, a Bible Society, the Christian Improvement Society and Church Missionary Societies.

Mutual Help societies, which included social activities, and can be traced back to the old Guilds, included the Ancient Order of Foresters, the Atlas Lodge of Buffaloes, the Oddfellows and the Sick and Dividing Club.

The annual school concert programme, 1936



The Mikado 1911

Music and Drama

Drama and music were well catered for in the village. Plays were produced at the school and in the churches, and all the churches had a choir. There was also a Village Band. The Bicentennial Anniversary of the Congregational Church, in 1894, was a splendid 2-day affair and provided entertainment for the entire community.

Melbourn Choral Society has existed under several different names since 1842, when it was started by George Ward and friends. It met in the Congregational Church and also The Hoops public house. In the 1890s, Hugh Allen, (later to become Sir Hugh Allen



Fancy Dress Pageant at the Congregational Chapel

