

Health – Home Births, Diseases etc

A neighbour woman used to go to the houses and then the local district nurse would come and the babies were born. And to tell you the truth I never heard tell of any calamities that I can recall. The babies were all born safe. And I'm sure there was no bathrooms, no running water they would just have big basins of water and that would all have to be ready. The father of the house would be giving a hand that way to.

No the men wouldn't be involved in the birth but they would probably have everything ready for the nurse. But most of the women at that time that I heard tell of even an aunt of mine told me she was working in the hay field and she went up till the house to make tea and she took pains and told the husband she would go now to the midwife and that would have been the same day she was out in the hay field.

Most of the women another woman she rode the bicycle up to the time of birth maybe it was easier for her going down hill maybe resting herself but I remember that. There wasn't much sympathy I believe at that time for women. Years ago like the women had learned to be tough because that was the way they were brought up themselves and they just got on with it.

And that time the waster the same as our own house the water was carried from a well maybe a mile away maybe half a mile away maybe in from the garden. All houses had a well and there was one thing I remember there was very little sickness. I as a child never remember having a flu. Maybe a cold but that was all I never heard tell of a flu there wouldn't have been half the virus years ago that were is now. I never remember a child dying only one wee girl when I was at school but she took deliria at that time deliria was going and maybe she was just the one child I ever remember dying with it.

Well with my own experience I remember the children I had 3 brothers and myself we all took a dose of some kind of a rash and I remember my Da it's the only time I remember I remember my Da putting us all on the horse and cart and there was a dispensary over at Dernaseer and bringing us over there to doctor Clancy and he wrote out I think at that time maybe they brought the ointment of the doctor I don't think they would have been driving away or going anywhere to get a prescription the doctor I think supplied them. He probably had them in the dispensary and I remember us getting this cream of the doctor for the rash that the only time I remember ever being taken to the doctor in the horse and cart.

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