

BRIMSCOMBE PORT

What was life like along the canals and around Brimscombe Port in the past?



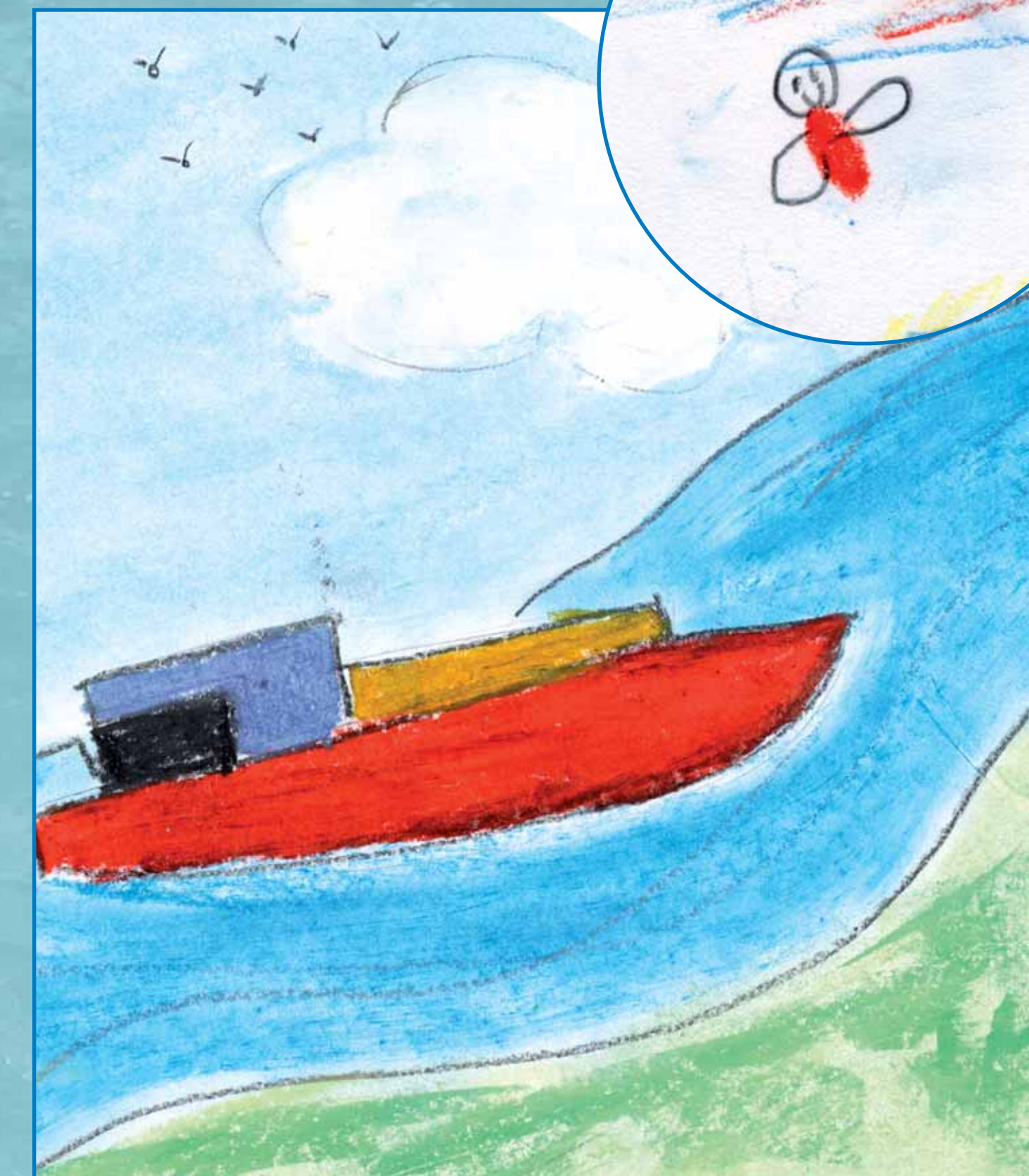
A busy scene from the Stroud Valley showing road, canal and train.



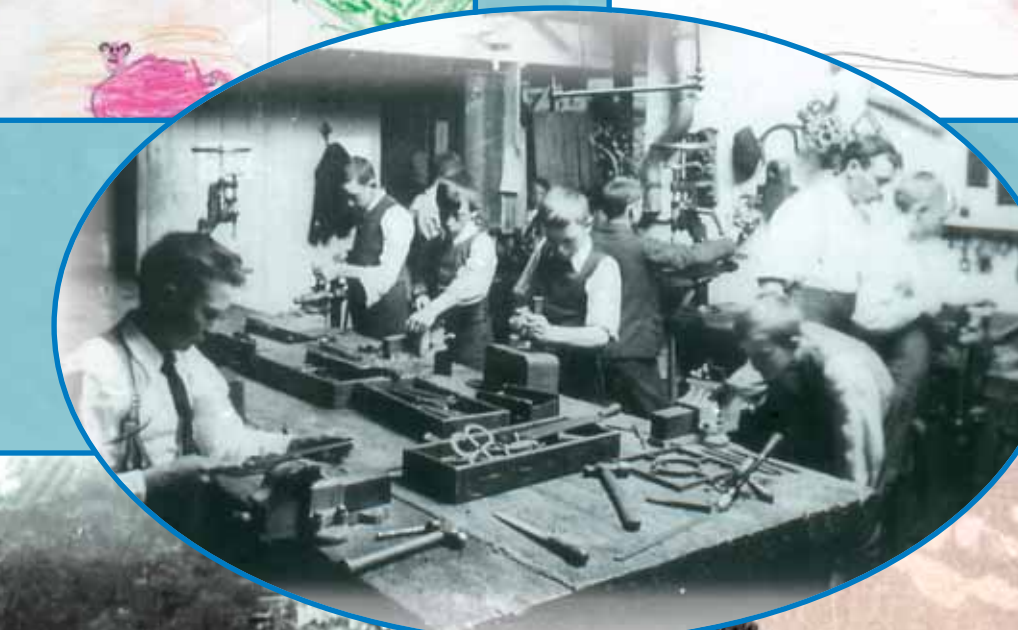
The mill owners were wealthy people, enjoying large houses and gardens.



Horses and carts were used to carry goods from the port to the mills. Do you recognise the houses in the background?



A heavily laden barge plying its trade on the Thames & Severn Canal.



Oval picture, centre:
A metalworking class at the old polytechnic in the 1910s.

Picture courtesy of Mike Mills from the Stanley Gardiner, Padin Mills Collection

Above left:
A view of the Thames & Severn HQ, warehouse and weighbridge taken from Brimscombe Hill in the second half of the 19th century.

Picture courtesy of Mike Mills from the Stanley Gardiner, Padin Mills Collection

Above right:
This engraving of the port walls and Brimscombe Port dates from the 1850s, but the artist has shrunk the foundry in the bottom right so it doesn't obscure the view. The real foundry would have been around ten times the size.

Picture courtesy of The Stroud District (Cowle) Museum Service, The Museum in the Park, Stroud



Canals enjoyed a golden age during the industrial revolution with cargos ranging from cloth to coal to salt.



Stroud's mills produced woolen textiles. The canals brought coal to create the steam power that the mills needed, and took away their products to sell.



Because of the amount of coal they burned, all the factories produced a lot of smoke.



The port was the hub of life on the Cotswold Canals. Today only the cottages in this drawing remain. Everything else has gone.

These drawings are the work of children at Brimscombe and Chalford Primary Schools

For more information on Brimscombe Port, the People's Millions Port Walls Project and the Cotswold Canals, visit: www.cotswoldcanalsproject.org

A leaflet accompanies the project and is available from Tourist Information Centres and as a pdf on the above website.

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In the days before motorised transport people used horses to get around. If they couldn't afford a horse they had to walk! Canals then were not for leisure but for hard work and industry.



The Thames & Severn Headquarters after they had been converted to a polytechnic. We think this photo was taken around 1912.
Picture courtesy of the Stanley Gardiner Collection



Great plumes of smoke billowed from the mills throughout the Stroud valleys.



Before engines were introduced, barges were towed by horses and men. This is why it is called a towpath!



Oval picture, above:
A Severn Trow called The Palace, built in Brimscombe in 1827.
Picture courtesy of Mike Mills from the Stanley Gardiner, Padin Mills Collection

Left:
At the end of their life many boats, including Trows, were sunk in rivers such as the Severn to help protect and strengthen the banks. This is one of the hulks which can be seen at low tide at Purton near Sharpness.
Picture courtesy of Big Classroom



A carpentry class at the polytechnic around 1910.
Picture courtesy of Mike Mills from the Stanley Gardiner, Padin Mills Collection



In those days people used to swim in the canal, but the best place to do this today is a swimming pool, where the water is clean and clear.

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