

Thanks for the Memory

Esther Parsons

Esther is well-known locally as a receptionist at the the Doctors Surgery in Milton and for her work in the village church.

As I go out of the house in the morning, I'm thinking – What day is it? Have I remembered everything, book bags, drinks, fruit, dinner money, trainers, children etc!!!!

I jump into the car with the children and turn out of Church Meadow into Church Road and head for school. Just for a moment, at the junction, I am reminded of the days when I used to go to school and walk along this very road. I wasn't laden with book bag and rucksack. I would have carried my French skipping elastic and marbles in my pocket. Railings bordered the pavement, with an orchard where Church Meadow and Brookfield Close now stand.

This was known as Ridley's Orchard and often you would see pigs in there.

I didn't like the pigs and would run the length of the railings banging on them with a stick. It was a relief to reach Littlestock Brook at the bottom! Little did I realise that one day I should be living in Ridley's Orchard.

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Above Esther aged 9 below as she is today with daughter, Alice



Shop Talk



The photograph (courtesy of the Wychwoods Local History Society) shows Hathaway's shop in the 1930's. Deliveries were made to surrounding villages by Stanley Gorton, seen here with Mary (May) Barnes and the Model A Ford van.

In our last issue, the Duchess of Devonshire told us she would love to know the name of the shop, in Shipton, where one could buy "all the heart desired" Very many thanks to both Rachel Reynolds in Upper Milton, and Mary Moore of Frog Lane, who phoned in to confirm that the shop the Duchess remembers from her childhood in the 1920's was called "Hathaway". Originally it traded as "Dee's Stores", having been built by Mr Dee in 1919, or even earlier, when he moved from his premises opposite Shipton Lodge. Mrs Hathaway then ran the store along with her husband Captain Hathaway. There were groceries downstairs, and a drapery store upstairs, which sold buttons and cottons and crystal. A veritable Aladdin's Cave! Now, of course, the shop is "Costcutter", still providing both essential supplies and a social centre! The railings around the shop went to support the war effort, probably in 1942.