

## Thanks for the Memory Shipton Revisited

### Sad Return

John Hawkes made a return visit to Shipton to carry out a sad duty. On Sunday May 9<sup>th</sup> he gathered with family and friends at Shipton Cricket Club to scatter the ashes of his brother Peter and to plant a Forsythia bush in his memory.

John was born in Upper End, Shipton to John (Jack) Henry Hawkes and Dorothy (nee Bartlett), the middle of three children, Madge, John and Peter. His father, described as a “lovable rogue” built the asbestos bungalows in Upper End, the last two of which still remain Hillside and Sunnyside. Jack had a shop, which may have been housed in what is now the garage of Sunnyside and also toured the neighbourhood selling everything from Hercules bicycles to leather bootlaces using advertising jingles like; “Hawkes the Draper sells wallpaper” Can our readers recall any others? He would display the names of any debtors on the door of the shop – an early example of naming and shaming.

### School Days

John attended Shipton-u-Wychwood C.E. School and remembers the Headmaster Mr. Horne. John left school and the village in the early 40’s and went to work as a junior clerk at Radley College. Having been too young to fight in the war he was conscripted into 72 Group Hostilities, joining the Navy and serving

as a sick -berth attendant. He then re-joined the Navy and served a further 12 years, rising to the rank of Sick -Berth Petty Officer, which lead to his career as an orthotist – a surgical appliance technician.



Madge, Peter and John

Jack was a talented musician who could play anything by ear, but never had any formal training. People used to stand outside the bungalow and listen to his playing. Peter would play the mouth organ while

sitting in the outside loo! Although John did not play a musical instrument he was Captain of Choir at St. Mary’s in the days of Reverend Windsor Cundell. He recalls carrying the cross for his father’s funeral. His mother, Dorothy was a bell-ringer and for many years cleaned the church. John’s parents, grandparents and great grandfather are all buried in Shipton churchyard.

### Happy Days

Memories of a happy childhood in Shipton abound, playing in the fields opposite home, scrumping for apples in the orchards on the way into the village, biking to Chippy to attend dances and football matches between Milton and Shipton. These were “real up and downers, worse than Stonesfield”. Many names from those days will ring bells with our readers, like the Duesters, the Coveneys, Horace ‘Weddel’ Pittaway, Eddie Townsend, Dave Dalton, Mervyn

Miles and the Franklin brothers. Madge, who married Mervyn, was a close friend of Helen Woodward, who lived in Gas Lane or was it Box Cottage?

Whilst playing “out of bounds” in the fields one day Norman Duester was kicked by a mare with a young foal. He was carried home to his mother who, took the broomstick to him as punishment!

### Shopping Centre

In the days before each household owned a car there were many local shops. John remembers some, (no doubt our readers will add to this list); Arthur Rainbow of Snowden House sold groceries from a horse and cart; Mr. Kethero had a baker’s

shop in the Old Bakehouse, Upper High Street, Perce Avery had a general store opposite the Shaven Crown and sold fish and chips; he was also the village taxi driver. Cecil Viner was the hairdresser, located in Lynd House Church Street. The Wiggins ran the Post Office in Church Street (on the corner of Gas Lane) and Jessie Coombes lived either with them or behind in Post Office Cottage. Accumulator batteries for radios were charged, possibly by Alfred Willis, who was a saddler based in what is now Shaven Cottage, or certainly by the two garages in Station Road.

### Christine Halliday

*If this article stirs any memories for you please share them with us.*

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## Broadband and Beyond

“Access to broadband services is one of the most pressing issues facing rural communities”, so said David Cameron, MP when he recently launched the ORB community

broadband service for the Wychwoods. “Full access to broadband is one of the key enablers to retain and grow employment, deliver modern community services and provide new services to all age groups.”

The ORB service now covers the whole Wychwood area and already has in excess of 70 subscribers with more waiting to join.

A key advantage of broadband is high speed internet access. Look at how broadband has benefited “The



Jeremy Renwick of ORB and David Cameron

Wychwood” magazine production. Previously after finished all the writing, typing and proofing we would produce a CD with all the files, register and mail it to London and get confirmation all was

in order – this typically took 2 days. For this edition using broadband file transfer the whole process took under an hour.

We now have a high speed community wide network and our challenge is to use it to develop new community services beyond just internet access. So if you are a computer user and want to contribute join the discussion on:

[www.oxonrb.net/forum](http://www.oxonrb.net/forum).

**Mike Watson**