

## Thanks For the Memory Evacuated to Shipton

In 1940, at the start of the London Blitz, we evacuated ourselves to Shipton-Under-Wychwood, to stay with my Uncle Arthur and Aunt Nance. As 'we' consisted of my mother, my grandmother, two aunts, a cousin and me (aged about twelve) and Uncle Arthur and Aunt Nance lived in Shipton Court Cottage, (between the main road and Stable Yard of Shipton Court), accommodation was, to say the least, rather cramped and tempers could at times get more than somewhat frayed!



Peter Whitehead and Michael Winsor Cundell

managed to blow myself up while preparing a 'patent explosive'! Teddy had a glittering career at Oxford, becoming a Professor. He was responsible for uncovering the Piltown Man forgery, (and I finished up at the Royal Military College of Science).

### **In Rain and Snow**

We stayed in Shipton for about eighteen months, during which

time I attended Burford Grammar School, which in those days was still in the old building at the foot of the hill. The bus from the village to get us to school often did not run. To this day I have very unpleasant memories of cycling to and from Burford, usually in rain or snow.

I don't remember any problems with food shortages, as there was always produce from the Court gardens and farm, which included a herd of Guernseys, whose milk in the bottle was half-cream. Very often soldiers were stationed in the Stable Yard and when they were Americans it was bliss for a small boy as there were limitless supplies of gum and candy. There was one slight problem though - my uncle was Captain Hall's butler but my father was Captain Hall's CO!

**Peter Whitehead**

### **Fun and Games**

Uncle Arthur (Mr. Belcher) was butler to the Hall family who owned the Court, and I had many visits to them in the years before the war, so I knew the village very well. My best chum was Michael, the son of the Vicar, the Revd. Winsor Cundell. We spent our time, when not cycling around the Cotswolds, with model soldiers in the grounds of the Vicarage or in games of Monopoly, which by bending the rules could last two days or more. Another friend was Teddy Hall, one of the sons of the Court. He was very clever and had a well-equipped chemical laboratory in a room above the stables, which I was allowed to use until I