

The Truth About the Milton 'Ton up' Boys

'Ton-up' boys! That's a joke! They would have been lucky to get 70 mph out of those bikes, especially two-up, as they so often were!

The Lads

We are talking about the lads in the '60's. The incident referred to in the article when Stan made them all walk back from Ascott,

which I know Stan related to lots of people, must have been in 1963, before I started going out with one of them, my husband Brian Ricketts.

In those days, aged 14, I used to walk around the village (Bledington), with my friend Jenny Shadbolt, just hoping that someone would come down for us to talk to. We used to hear those bikes coming for miles, especially Barry Carpenter on his BSA Bantam! On Saturday nights we would take the bus into Chippy to go to the pictures and would hear the boys arrive while in the cinema, as they parked the bikes down the slope under the corner of the building. We used to be friendly with boys (and girls!) from both Chippy and Milton and the pictures was the place for us to meet - I pity some of the people who were trying to watch the films, as sometimes we were a bit disruptive. If we wanted to see Chippy boys we sat in the 'two and sixes' on the left and for Milton boys we sat on the right.

That night in November, when I first started going out with Brian, I was sitting with one of the younger boys,

David Jones from Chippy when Brian and Andrew May came to talk to me. Brian gave David two cigarettes to move up so that he could sit next to me, and the rest is history!



Passing The Test

The night of the Ascott incident, about ten of them had gone to the pictures. Someone suggested they went back to the Tiddy Hall as there was a dance on. That was where Stan caught them, and we think eight of them walked back to Milton. This was Brian, and Alan (Spud) Murphy, who used to ride pillion and was only 15, Colin Hopkins and his pillion passenger Nigel Beaney. I have a list of other names of the lads that used to go around together, (some on pushbikes) - John Nicholls, Geoff Wilkes (Jazzman), Roger Miles, Dave Wilkinson, Gerald Sanders, John Knight, Kipper Souch, George Parsons and Johnny Watts - but we are not sure who else was there that night. My apologies to anyone I have overlooked.

Brian took his driving test not long after I met him. He came back without his 'L' plates and told everyone that he had passed, including Stan of course. He then had no more trouble with the law until he started

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driving cars without regard to the necessary paperwork.

Emergency Stop?

It was some 10 years later, after we were married, that I found that he had lied to us all, and had failed the test mainly because he had run over the examiner's foot doing the emergency stop! After that, I would not let him have another bike as he had not passed his test. That worked for about 20 years when he surprised us all by agreeing to take his test! Since then he has had 3 large Kawasaki's. Finally, aged 60, he has accepted that his biking days are over; mainly as a result of injuries sustained in a biking accident in Charlbury in 1961, when he was only 16. We sold his last bike on eBay in the middle of August.

When Brian started driving cars, Stan did his best to stop him breaking the law. One day Brian was driving an old Morris Minor down Lyneham Road when Stan saw him coming and threw his bike in the road under the bridge. Brian ran over it of course!

In more recent years, while Stan was still driving, Brian helped look after Stan's car, as they both used to work at Johnson's garage. They and Les Case used to go for drinks together at the Red Horse, the Merrymouth and Kingham British Legion.

Later, until he went into Castle View, Stan used to come down to the Quart Pot on Thursday evenings and Saturday lunchtimes, with the help of the Johnson family and Stan's next door neighbour June Brind. I used to take Brian round for them to have a drink and a chat and often took Stan home again afterwards, if he did not have a lift.

Stan and Brian used to talk about the old days, and there were no hard feelings, but great respect.

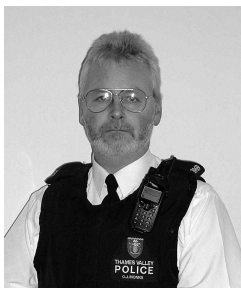
I went to Stan's funeral to represent both Brian and myself, together with David and Anthony Johnson and Rodney Case. It was an unusual double funeral, as his sister from Abingdon died a few days after he did.

Margaret Ricketts (nee Beacham)



Crimestoppers: New Bobby on The Beat

I would like to take this opportunity to introduce myself. As part of the Neighbourhood Policing team, my 'area' has now been extended to include the villages of Ascott, Milton and Shipton under Wychwood.



I am based at Chipping Norton Police Station and work a shift system along with my colleagues on the Neighbourhood team. Should you need to contact me personally at any time, please

call **0845 8 505 505** and leave a message for me, quoting my shoulder number **3969** and I will endeavour to call you back when I am next on duty.

To report a crime please call the same number and ask to be put through to the crime desk, obviously in an emergency you should ring 999.

PC 3969 Gordon Monks. To contact the Police at any time, phone: **0845 8 505 505.** For emergency calls always ring **999.**