

More about Peter William Hawkes

Reading your Aug/Sept 2004 article 'Shipton Revisited' stirred some memories of when our family first came to Shipton in 1950.

Peter was at the Burford Grammar School (as it was then), doing very well, in particular as a sportsman. Peter belonged to the Shipton Tennis Club, which at that time was still in the field that is now Tothill. He saw the development of the two hard courts on the Recreation Field. He represented the club playing in the Oxon. League



matches with Terry Souch (Lorna's late husband), Mrs. Dulcie Arundell, Barbara Pearce, Win White, Jean and Gordon Carpenter, Martin Busby and others.

Peter's mother was very proud of him, especially when he was accepted for the Metropolitan Police.

It was his mother who invited me to bell-ringing back in the 1950s - but I always rode on Sunday mornings so did not take it up until 1998. How I wish I had started earlier - I am sure it would have been easier!

Jo Cook

Peter was born in Shipton on 31 August 1935 and attended school at St. Mary's, then Burford Grammar School. He sang with Shipton Church Choir for many years and was a keen sportsman too, playing cricket, football and tennis. At 12 years old he became involved with Shipton Cricket Club, and encouraged by the Hartley family, became a good all-rounder, batting left-handed and as a middle-pace right-handed bowler. He took part in County trials.

He later applied to join the Metropolitan Police, but as the pay was only £3 15s 0d per week, living out, he decided to stay in Shipton. He worked for his brother-in-law Mervyn Miles until joining the RAF. He served for 5 years, three of them with the RAF Police in Cyprus. Peter played semi-professional football, on loan to Maidenhead United from 1953 - 1955. Returning to Shipton in 1958, when his father was ill, he continued his

sport, becoming an LTA coach. He began work at Smiths Industries in Witney where he met his future wife Wendy (Wheeler). They were married in 1959 at Stanton Harcourt and lived for a while at Ducklington. Living and working in this area Peter eventually became a free-trade rep. for Edmunds Brewery of Banbury - right up his street! The manager at The Bear in Woodstock delighted in introducing Peter to visiting celebrities like Richard Burton and Elizabeth Taylor and Paul Getty.

Peter moved with Wendy and their two children, Lindsey and Jonathan, to Abergele where he sang with the Colwyn Bay Male Voice Choir participating in many competitions around the world. Peter died on January 23rd 2004 and his ashes, as already recorded, were scattered on Shipton Cricket Ground.

John Hawkes