

Can You Help Anne?

It was with great interest that I read *The Wychwood*, which I happened to notice on the shelf in the Burford Visitor Information Centre whilst staying with my aunt for the weekend. I bought a copy and read it from cover to cover.

It brought back many memories, as I was born in Shipton-under-Wychwood in 1953, at the home of my Great - Grandmother, Mrs G Smith, in Fiddlers

Hill. Later on I lived at 19, The Sands in Milton, before moving to Leafield where we lived in a wooden bungalow along the Fairspear Road. My parents ran the garage there. I often used to walk from Leafield to Shipton to visit my grandparents Hector and Amy Morrison at 25, The Hill. I still have aunts and uncles in the Wychwoods.

Remembering Eric McShea

I wonder if there are any readers out there who remember my father Eric McShea (1927 - 2001)? He went to the Milton School and was taught by Gwen Silman and then went on to Burford. He worked at Bradley's Garage and played for and captained Milton Cricket Club. He also played darts at the Red Horse. He joined the Home Guard because he wasn't quite old enough to join up during the war. His father was gamekeeper at Bruern and one of his friends was Nick.



Eric and Amy on their wedding day June 21st 1952

My mother, Amy McShea nee Morrison (1932-2004), went to Shipton School. Some of her friends were Grace, Joyce, Margaret, Doreen and Christina. At Shipton she was Head Girl and Douglas Timms was Head Boy. When my mother left school she started work as 'mother's help' at Bruern Abbey as nursemaid to the family of the Honourable Michael Astor.

It was at a dance at Shipton Village Hall where my parents first met and they spent 49 years together.

Tracing the Roots

We moved away to Bicester in 1962. As I have always been interested in history I was bitten by the 'family research bug' and recently joined the Wychwood Local History Society, who have been a great help with photographs, especially John Rawlins. I have traced my Great - Grandfather George Smith and his family back to 1851 so far and all Shipton born and bred!

I would be delighted to hear from anyone who knew either of my parents and has a story to tell or perhaps a school class photograph tucked away that I could copy. I have been back to my birthplace for many family weddings and visits. I never tire of this beautiful area!

Anne Cuss

Editor's note: if you think you can help Anne please contact me for her full address and telephone number.