

Special Feature

Milko!

Norman Treweeke was born in 1921 at Sarsgrove Farm, Churchill. He went to school in Churchill until the depression in farming caused the family to declare bankruptcy and move, first to

Lyneham and eventually, to Hill Crest, a smallholding with six acres in Bruern Road, Milton.

Norman left school at the age of 14 and worked with his father until at the age of 18, in 1939, he joined the RAF. He was posted abroad and was based with RAF Sea Rescue in Port Said, Sudan and Alexandria for more than four years until he was finally demobbed in 1946.

When Norman returned he met Dorothy Parr and they were married in 1947.

Dorothy was just 16 when war broke out and had to wait two years to join the Land Army (see Volume 25, No 1, April/May 2004).

Jefferies Smallholding

In 1950 they purchased Jefferies Smallholding, consisting of two semi-detached cottages and six acres of land in Meadow Lane, Shipton, where they have lived ever since. In the past the cottages had been home to many local people including Dora Smith and her family, Mr & Mrs Arthur Simms, Herman Puddle's family, Barbara Pearce's parents and Mr Wright. There was no running water or



electricity and Norman continued working at Lucy's in Oxford, a job he had started after de-mob. Their first attempts at farming were far from successful. They purchased some pigs, two of which died after being fed

unsuitable swill. 'That was it, that was the profit', as Norman said. There was a near tragedy when a hungry sow relieved son Anthony of the biscuit he was eating and damaged his hand in the process. After pigs they tried chickens, but despite keeping them in a pen at night several were killed. Four cows were purchased from Banbury market, which added to Dorothy's workload as a mother with young sons, wife and housekeeper.

The New Milk Round

Then Dorothy heard that Mr Wells and Mr Davis, who both ran milk rounds, were giving up. Norman and Dorothy took over from Mr Davis the day after he finished and advertised their new round in Shipton and Milton. In 1953 Dorothy set up on her own driving to Finstock every morning to pick up the milk. This arrangement was far from satisfactory, so Norman finally left Lucy's and started work at the County Dairy in Oxford, enabling him to bring the milk home with him. Without electricity of their own, they kept the milk overnight in the fridges belonging to Mr Davey, the

butcher in Milton. In 1955 power was finally installed in Meadow Lane and they built their own storage buildings. In 1960 Norman gave up his job at County Dairies to work full time in the business. Selling their four calves enabled them to buy a second-hand van; back at the start they were delivering eleven gallons. As the years passed they took over the whole area, including the local schools, and employed others to assist them. Besides the actual deliveries there were also the books to keep, money to count, coupons or vouchers to sort and deliver to Social Services in Chipping Norton. In 1980 they decided to retire and sold the business to Ivan Puschnik, who had helped them on their rounds.

Whatever the Weather

Seven days a week for twenty years is a long time and they have stories to tell of bad weather and funny episodes. Missing

the severe winter of 1947 they were caught up in the one of 1962-3. The roads out of the Wychwoods were notoriously bad and on one occasion instead of taking the usual route 'over the top to Burford' to collect the milk they managed to get through Bruern and Churchill and on to the main road, bringing the milk back from Kidlington by night-time. One customer was annoyed that she had to have 'ordinary milk' instead of her usual Channel Island delivery! One Sunday it took from 5:30am to 7:45am to shovel their way out of Meadow Lane, and it all had to be repeated the next day!

Although they live independently, helped by son Anthony, they both suffer physical disabilities but, thankfully, keep happy and occupied at home, with trips out for Dorothy.

Janet Wallace

Protecting Our Farming Heritage

Ten year old, Max Harvey raised £173.39 for the **Rare Breeds Survival Trust** by setting up and running a shop at his home in Shipton-under-Wychwood.



“It was hard work,” says Max, “But, we had over 100 visitors on the day so it was very busy and great fun. We sold chocolate, cakes, videos, new and old books, kids magazines and DVDs. We gave everyone a Rare Breeds sticker if

they bought something.”
The Rare Breeds Trust is trying to protect over 70 breeds of cattle, sheep, goats, horses and pigs which are very close to extinction. Familiar breeds

such as The Shire Horse, The Cleveland Bay, The Hereford Cow, and the Cotswold Sheep are now seriously under threat.

To find out more about the Rare Breeds Survival Trust call: 024 7669 6551.