

Thanks for the Memories Memories of Milton

Another subscriber who tracked us down via our website is Doug Smith, who grew up in Milton in the 40s and 50s. His father Robert (Bob) and mother Ena were married at Swinbrook Church in 1943 and moved to the shoe shop, in the building that until recently was the Surgery, in Milton High Street in 1945. Doug grew up in the house with his step-sister Audrey and his younger brother Alan. Audrey married Jack Haney, whose parents ran the Butchers' Arms next door.

Mr Markham the Shoe Repairer

Mr and Mrs Smith rented the house, although Doug vaguely remembers them having the opportunity to buy it in the 1950s, but the asking price of about £1,000 was way beyond them and they eventually had to move to Witney. Doug's father worked as manager for Timms & Co., leather merchants in Castle Street, Oxford. Mr Markham, the shoe repairer worked for him in Milton and lodged in the family home. During a visit to Milton last summer, Doug visited Mr Markham's grave in the Baptist Chapel cemetery and was pleased to hear that Mrs Markham is living in a nursing home and is now well into her 90s!

During the war Ena Smith drove the

butcher's van and Doug's father was in the Home Guard.

Oscar's Banjo

After the war, when the POW camp in Frog Lane became a camp for DPs (German military whose homes were now in East Germany) one of them, Oscar, came to work in the shoe shop. He made a banjo for Doug, then aged four, which he still owns today. Oscar went back to Heidelberg in the 1950s. Mr. Smith died in 1968 and, despite living in Witney, Dr Scott still cared for him and was with him when he died. Doug feels that the family were fortunate to live in the village and to have such a wonderful doctor.

Renewing Old Friendships

Doug has long-since lost touch with the people he grew up with in the village but would love to know if any of the families are still around. His closest friend was Keith Sanders, who he remembers lived in The Sands – are you still there Keith? He also has happy memories of dancing round the maypole at village fetes with Barry Musk, Robert Champness, Ann Treweeke and Susan Carpenter. *I have Doug's address if anyone wants to renew old friendships with him.* **Editor.**

Hunting the Hunts!

Richard Rickel contacted us via the website:

“Does anyone know my Uncles Bryan or Raymand? I went

to school at St Simon St Jude church in 1970 or so. I would love to see pictures of the village please. I am in the US, in Alabama.”

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In a later email, Tracey Wright his sister, continued:

“My brother Richard wrote to you about our relatives in Milton. I know a bit more than he does.

Our grandparents were Joseph Benjamin Hunt and Edith Case Hunt, I think they lived at 7, Shipton Road.

My grandfather was born in Stanton.

Their children are:

Brian Hunt, 53 The Sands, Milton

Gordon Hunt

Raymond Hunt, Chipping Norton

Jennifer Kathleen Hunt, (my mother), Northport, AL, USA

Noreen Hunt, whereabouts unknown

Evelyn Hunt Smith, Drayton

Beauchamp

Tracey's Story

We lived in Milton Vicarage for about a year, in 1971, 72 or sometime there about. We lived on the second floor.

Mrs. Lambert, long deceased, lived on the first floor and young Dr. Scott

lived on the third floor. I was in

Milton this past summer, staying with Chris and Graeme Miles, Milestone Cottage, High Street as well as with

my Uncle Brian. When I was born in 1960, we lived in Burford for a bit (I saw the house when I was there) and then moved to Cottam Cottage on High Street in Milton. We moved to the States when I was two.

Things I Remember

The Sweet Shop, the Butcher's shop, Rawlins (?), playing on the green (don't think there was a pool, but there was a merry-go-round), fox hunts, Co-op was much smaller, there was a farm in the middle of the village that is now a subdivision, singing in the choir at St. Simon's, school in the building next to the church, lunches served in the rooms (loved the chocolate crumble with custard), writing in calligraphy, doing maths in notebooks.....and the list goes on.

I have our family tree somewhere; I think we have traced it back to the 1700s.”

If anyone has further information we can pass on to Tracey and Richard do let us know. Editor

The Milton Minors Football Club in the 50's

Ray Timms sidled up to me at a recent meeting of the History Society and, rather like the legendary salesmen in Port Said, offered to show me some interesting pictures,

fortunately not of his 'sister', but of

Milton footballers of the past.

Ray was responding to the photograph of the Milton Cricket Team which had appeared in an earlier edition of *The Wychwood*.

He showed me three photographs of the Milton Minors

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Football team of the 1950s. The photograph shown here celebrates their triumph in 1958.

The team played in the Chipping Norton Minor League. Transport was provided by Ken Earley (a local builder) whose lorry was driven by Chrissie Miles. Mr Cox, a garage proprietor from Leafield also helped with his car. Later Dennis Souch from Shipton acted as chauffeur. Selection of the team took place in George Harrison's flat above the Co-op

shop. Members of the committee were G. Harrison, J. Greenaway, M. Miles, K. Earley and P. Bridges.

The highlight of the year was the annual trip to Wembley to watch the Amateur Cup Final. The club reached its peak by winning the League Shield in the late 1950s. Ray himself was a member of the team throughout the decade. He lived in Pear Tree Close but his home is now in Salford.

Alan Vickers

News from Burford School

Christmas Miscellany

Christmas term ended with a rousing spectacular. The concert was performed over two evenings by 150 students, including orchestras, choirs, concert bands and *Joe with his Little Pixies*, scattered with readings and audience participation with carol singing. The Miscellany evenings are always extremely popular and this year was no exception, with extra seating hurriedly provided at the back of the Hall. One visitor was heard to say that he had come on the first evening and the students were so lovely and talented he couldn't believe he was listening to a school concert, so he had come again for the second evening. Praise indeed!

Next Production

Over Christmas students were busy learning their words and songs for a

production of *Les Miserables* to be performed 20th to 23rd March. In recent years the School has established a reputation for producing musicals to the highest standard, but they are expensive to stage. The estimated budget for the 2007 production is £11,500 including: £1,000 for royalties; lighting £3,000; costumes £2,000; set construction £1,000 and local musicians for the large orchestra £3,000. If you feel that you can sponsor any part of this production please call Mr Frankcom, Head of Music at the school on: 01993 823303.

Tickets will be available from School Reception or by ringing: 01993 823303; this production is guaranteed to be a sell-out so don't delay in buying your tickets!

Mary Alcock.

Lost Between Milton and Shipton

Has anyone picked up a silver, chain - link bracelet, somewhere between Milton Post Office and Shipton? Marilyn Watkins dropped hers along that route, sometime between Christmas and New Year. If you did find it please give her a ring on: 01993 830435.