

## Diamond for Ted and Mary!

I started chatting to Ted Greenaway about his memories of the Home Guard and finished hearing about his working life and marriage to Mary!

Ted joined the No 6 Platoon, Milton-under-Wychwood, Home Guard and remembers meeting up with his comrades in Groves Yard, the Legion Hut and the Quart Pot for rifle practise and army drill. His memories of this time are sketchy but he does recall driving the Platoon to rifle practise. Terry Hartley is another survivor of the Platoon - more memories to share?

### How to get a Pay Rise!

Ted grew up in Bruern, where his father was the stud groom at the Abbey. In 1940 he joined Alfred Groves & Sons Ltd, serving his apprenticeship as a carpenter. At the end of his 'time' he continued to work as an 'improver', alongside Ivor Timms. At this time Ted was earning 10 ½ d per hour and Ivor was paid 1/9d. Ivor encouraged him to see the boss, Geoff Rathbone about a payrise. Geoff's response was; "If I give you a rise I'll have to give everyone one," so Ted packed his toolbag and left. As he was walking home along 'Bungalow Hill' he bumped into Benny Townsend, who offered to employ him making windows at 1/3d an hour and it was not long before Benny upped this to 1/6d!

Ted was never called up because, working for Groves, he was employed on



war work at Chipping Norton and Moreton aerodromes. One Friday he was told to go home, pack a bag and report back to Chippy, but was not told where he was going. He cycled home, packed a bag, cycled back to

Chippy and found himself on his way to Iceland. Here he was employed, for three months, building Nissan huts with the American army.

### Something About Mary

Mary (nee Honeybone) was born and brought up in Ascott, by her granny, in a cottage in the High Street. At 14 years old she left school and went into service for Mr Viner JP at Staple Hall in Witney. After a year in Oxford she came back to Ascott and worked for the Masons at Chestnut Close. When war broke out Mary joined the Land Army, working at Kidlington and Bicester before running a Land Army hostel at Chipping Norton. She loved this life but gave it up to return home and care for her granny. Mary and Ted's meeting was 'arranged' by her aunt and uncle at a darts match at the Churchill Arms.

As shown above, they were married at Ascott on January 4<sup>th</sup> 1947, luckily just before the snow arrived. Ted remembers it being bitter cold on their wedding day, but the snow held off for a few more days.

They set up home in Ascott, where they lived for the next 40 years before moving to their present home in Ballards Close, Shipton.

## Maisie and Godfrey Go For Gold

Maisie and Godfrey Pittaway are relative beginners when it comes to marriage! They celebrate their Golden Wedding on 27<sup>th</sup> April 2007. Maisie came to this country from Ireland when she was one year old. Godfrey is more local, starting out in Taynton before moving to Shipton. They met when Gough, aged 20, returned from National Service in Singapore and Malaya. Maisie was just 16.

Maisie recalls happy days learning to dance in the Beaconsfield Hall. She was taught ballroom and square dancing by Barbara Pearce's dad Mr Smith. Jim Mills provided the music on his gramophone.

### And the Cake Came by Train!

They were married at the Catholic Church in Chipping Norton and held the reception in - yes you've guessed - the Beaconsfield Hall. They did all the food themselves but the wedding cake was made at Huntley & Palmer's in Reading, where Maisie's cousin worked, and was sent down to Shipton by train. It cost £7.10/-.

Maisie's dress was purchased from London House in Milton, where she worked for Mrs Davis (mother-in-law to



Valerie). Apparently you could buy all your clothes there - girls chose their summer dresses and then paid for them at 5/- per week.

### Cake Again?

Gough worked in the gardens at Fifield and then for Bennie Townsend 'on the buildings'. Bennie warned Maisie not to marry him because he ate so much! Nevertheless, they started their married life at 5, Kohima

Bungalows, where they paid 4/4d per week in rent. Arthur and Agnes Hunt were their very good neighbours, as was Olive Tucker. The bungalows were very basic but did have running water and flush loos. Arthur was fond of poking his 12 bore out of the window to shoot the rats, which made the whole building rattle!

### Family Celebrations

Maisie and Godfrey will be celebrating their anniversary with a family meal followed by a trip to Ireland. They expect to have more celebrations when they meet up with family and friends over there.

*All of us at 'The Wychwood' send Maisie and Godfrey and Ted and Mary our congratulations and best wishes.*

**Christine Halliday**