

## Bartrup Leslie Robinson 1921 - 2008

Les (as everyone knew him) was born in London, the fourth child of a policeman. He grew up there and, on leaving school, was employed by the Dunlop Rubber Company before joining the RAF in 1941. He married Joyce in 1943 and I was born a year later. Les was stationed at Little Rissington working as an aero-engine fitter, and the family lived at the Tavern Cottage on the Stow-to-Burford Road (long-since demolished).



My parents often spoke wistfully of their early wartime days in the Cotswolds. My younger sister, Ann, and I were familiar with the Merrymouth Inn, the baby clinic in Milton where my mother used to push me, the church at Fifield where I was christened, and even Dr Scott Senior. came into conversation as a great family doctor.

At the end of the war my parents moved back to London and Les resumed his career with the Dunlop Rubber Company. In 1956 he was transferred to their Manchester branch until 1976, when he moved to take up a position with Tillotsons Packaging for the last 10 years of his working life.

On their retirement in 1987, Les and Joyce considered where to settle. Ann & I were living in Aylesbury and Solihull, respectively, so Les drew a radius of 50

miles around these locations and was delighted that Milton-under-Wychwood lay in the middle. They were pleased to return to an area that held such happy memories for them, despite them taking place in the war years.

They settled very happily into life in Milton, joining the Evergreens, St Simon and St Jude Church and making many new

friends in the village. They never once regretted the decision to move back, such was the warmth of the friendships they found in Milton.

It was a cruel blow when Joyce was diagnosed with Alzheimer's disease in the early 1990's. As she slowly deteriorated, Les became her devoted carer, managing to keep her at home long after the time when Ann and I thought it was possible. She finally went into a home in 2000 and Les visited her almost daily until she died in 2003. The demands of being a carer took their toll, and he suffered heart problems in 2002. The fitting of a pace-maker gave him a new lease of life and he was active for most of the last six years of his life. Les had a long and happy life but he will be greatly missed by his two daughters and sons-in-law, four grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren.

**Carol Nixon**