

Mrs Gwen Palmer, Cullum House, Wheatley

- b. Gwen Gould, 26 January 1920
- m. Arthur Palmer, 25 January 1941
- daughter, Janet, b. 1942
- son, Keith, b. 1946

Gwen's father had three sisters and two brothers. They lived in a small house next to the King and Queen in the High Street. Because the family was so poor, one of the girls was adopted by an aunt in London, and the three boys were brought up by their grandfather, John Andrew Gould, who was employed as a labourer at Cooper's Brickyard in Littleworth. Apparently, he was so poor that he could not afford socks – so, to keep his feet warm in the winter, he would put hot coals from the fire into his boots to warm them in the mornings, and then wrap his feet in strips of rag before getting into his boots.

- John Andrew Gould, Gwen's Grandfather, was a labourer in the brickworks, and he also drove lorries for Coopers.
- William Gould went to Sutton Coldfield
- George Gould, the youngest of the three brothers, kept the pub in Littleworth

Gwen remembers being taken to see the yard where her grandfather used to work (now Cooper's Close) and the small railway line that the trucks ran along to the kilns. She was also told that her grandfather had made some of the bricks for the house on the corner of Kiln Lane which looks down the High Street (now owned by the Hedges)

Gwen's father, (John Andrew Gould) worked at Morris Motors for most of his working life – although he did also work at John Allen's, and for Geoff Nixey. He died aged 76 in 1982 and is buried in Wheatley churchyard. Her mother (Dorothy nee Butler) took in washing. She died in 1995 and is also buried in the churchyard.

Gwen told the story of how the three boys (John Andrew, William, and George) used to play a game in the churchyard, dressing up in sheets and standing on the churchyard wall, pretending to be ghosts and frightening passers-by!

Gwen was born the High Street (now number 41), went to the village schools, was baptised, confirmed and married in St Mary's Church. When she dies, she hopes she will be able to have the Vera Lynn song, 'We'll meet again'. When talking with Gwen, it is clear that she had a wonderful marriage. Her only regret was that she did not defy her father, who had forbidden her marriage until she was 21, and marry her beloved Arthur in 1939. They had met when she was 15 at the Horspath Feast (September 1935) and were sweethearts ever since.

Mr and Mrs Edwards owned numbers 1 and 2 in Blenheim Lane and, in 1942, Gwen (who had been living with her mother in the house beside the Chemists in the High Street) was able to move in with her baby daughter, Janet. She had a hard time making it into a decent home.

Gwen's husband, Arthur, was serving in the RAF and, although he never actually told Gwen where he was, she believes he was at Biggin Hill, working on the ground repairing runways, and so on – although for eighteen months he was posted up to Tyree in the Hebrides.

In 1956 Gwen and Arthur moved to Wyngate, a bungalow in Old Road (opposite the two Shotover cottages) with their two children. The house was built by Mr Charlie Harris – but Gwen and Arthur had done much of the labouring! The Foresters friendly society, based in Ship Street, Oxford, provided the mortgage.

In 1970 they moved to Thame (check this)