

## 1579 Philip Quarterman memories of Mulberry Cottage

In 1947 Mr and Mrs Quarterman moved into Mulberry Cottage, Ruth being the daily-help at Mulberry Court, while Victor looked after the gardens. All three of their sons, Philip, Paul and Donald, were born whilst the family were in Mulberry Cottage.

In 1953, when Philip was five – then at the Bell Lane School – Mulberry Cottage, previously thatched, was re-modelled and the family had to move out for 6 months to one of the Shotover Park lodges at the end of Old Road.

His other memories were of playing until dusk in the woods and fields or by the river bringing back his happy childhood. Shotover, Cuddesdon Brook and "The Hollies" (behind the station) were their regular haunts. Carts were built out of old pram wheels and we would tear around the country lanes, sometimes coming to grief on the sharp bends.

Then there was the station. Like Billy, Philip was a train freak (steam of course). He would zip up the lane to the station when he heard a train, or spend all day in the signal box with the signalman, pulling the levers and working the telegraph system, much to the dismay of the stationmaster, Mr. Kimber. Friends, Colin and Keith Coleman, had an older brother Jeremy who was a fireman, and later a driver. The boys would be sure to visit him in the cab if he was through with a freight train.

Mr Quarterman was the gardener at Mulberry Court for Col. and Mrs. Morgan until brother Paul was born in 1961. Then the pay was too little and he had to get a job at Morris's to make ends meet. Mrs Quarterman was a nurse in the Oxford hospitals and with the Red Cross. Later she served on the Parish Council. The family moved to one of the new council houses in Elton Crescent.