6th November 2000.

Herbert Sidney Bishop was born to Priscilla & Alfred John in 1914 on the 6th April.

He shared the Family home at 89 Horns Lane with his sisters Winifred (know as Winnie) Elsie, Mildred and Phyllis also Edward Stan and Hef.

In 1915, the family moved down into the village, to No 57 and there he lived with his mother until her death on 19th Jan 1970. He has lived there on his own ever since.

When he was old enough, he started school at Board Town (1) school and was taught by Mrs Finn and Miss Stocker who lived in the school house

After leaving school at 14 he started work at Wootton Bassett to a local coalman who used to buy a truck of coal and Herbert would hold the bags open for them to be filled to the correct wate before being delivered to houses in and around Wootton Bassett.

After six months he became old enough to apply for a job in The Factory, Great Western Railway.

He worked there as a boiler maker until he was called up to do service in the Army in 1940.

This he did and served 6yrs in the Far East enduring many horrific experiences in Jungle warfare and was glad to have weighing only 7½ stone But with 4 medals. He still takes an active part in the remembrance celebrations across the country whenever possible.

After the war he came back home and took up his former job at The Factory cycling to the Station at Wootton Bassett and catching the workmans train into Swindon for this a small charge was fixed.

After a while, another worker a Mr Len Sheppard,

purchased a small coach which he drove to Wootton Bassett station. There he left his coach and everyone boarded the train to work.

The coach also picked up anyone else who wanted to have a lift to the station to enable them to catch the train.

Much later, there was a regular coach service which took people into Wootton Bassett and Swindon on a regular basis, as many as three times a day. The last one returning at about ten o'clock and this enabled people to go to "The Pictures" or other social activities.

Mr Loveday lived at the Laurels and from the Chapel

As a young boy, Herbie used to attend the Weslyn Chapel with his brothers and sisters also his mother when she had the time up to three times each Sunday and well remembers getting dressed into his clean shirt and trousers before taking his place on the Platform to give his recital. This was usually done in July at the yearly anniversary and involved all choirs from Swindon taking part. For this special occasion the Chapel was full, everyone enjoying the service a regular sunday school of about 80 children also attended regularly until probably in 1948 the chapel closed down and became a private dwelling.

(2) Herbert's father was a Drayman, working for the local Brewery in Broad Town. He drove two horses delivering to Public Houses as far apart as Calne and Devizes, Cirencester working very long hours. closed about 1917 He later took a job with Herbert at the Factory

Herbert remembers visiting the Post Office which was being run by two brothers, Henry & Paul Battle they also owned premises at No 76 Horns Lane which they used as a slaughter house known as

The Cellars.

Blood would often run down the stream that still flows behind 76/77 Horns Lane..

killing pigs by hanging them up on a joist attached to the roof. When in this position their throat would be cut and the spilling blood would fall into the stream which flowed down at the rear of the premises. They would then butcher the pigs before delivering and selling the meat to their local customers.

After the death of one of them and the closure of the slaughter house, many carcasses were found partly buried and decomposing. The health authorities ordered that they be removed and buried properly which they were in the corner field under the hill above the allotments.

Miss Priscilla Bishop also was the caretaker to the new village hall, a series of huts bought from the government and surplus to requirements after the 1914-18 war. It was built on staddle stones on land owned by a Mr Paine who lived and farmed at Manor Farm, he leased the land for a small sum of money. and soon a youth club was formed where children could play on billiard tables tennis tables play cards & dominoes and other activities.

When people died they were placed on a cart known as a Shelley Bearer, a cradle for wheeled cart, pulled by two people in front and pushed by two others at the rear. This cart was kept at the Vicarage and was wheeled down to the church where the vicar, Mr Kaucker performed the ceremony.

Herbie had a passion for motor bikes and had several over the years a B.S.A being one of his favorites.
In 1960 he purchased his first car of which he has had several his latest being a Mini.
When he has time he enjoys doing the garden, growing vegetables and flowers and relaxes listening to music, watching T.V. or reading.

Interesting facts about Broadtown

(2) A Waterwheel was attached to the west of the Brewery and was fed from the stream running alongside believed to be the source of the river Avon. The wheel was the only power used to drive machinery at the Brewery. It used to grind corn amongst other things and had its own mill pond. Closed down probably 1916.
Corn was stored at the Rick Barton, now the site of East End cottage.

East Farm House (now the site of Yew Tree cottages) was lived in by Mr Mascal who with other farmers would drive their cattle into Wootton Bassett on Wednesdays which was market day.
On returning they would bring cow cake! back in open wagons known as boat waggons. drawn by two horses. Cow Cake was delivered into the station by track and came loose or in slabs for ease of transporting.
Horton's who farmed at Winterbourne Monkton were the first Farmers in the area to own a Lorry which they used to take their milk into Wootton Bassett Mkt Station

With the help of a Round arrow

where it was loaded straight onto waiting trains, all other farmers used horse and cart to do the same thing. The "milk train" waited in a sidering at the west end of the Station and the churns were loaded strait onto the train.
Later a sidering was cut from the main line into the dairy from the east side of the station and bulk tanks were shunted in overnight to take milk after treatment had been carried out up to London probably Wood Lane Dairy. After a few years road transport became more popular and more effecient so that road tankers took over, eventually in about 1980 the sidering was closed and filled in.

Annie Maud was the publican at the Queens Head at about 1920 and always wore white starched aprons, these she kept hanging on nails around the saloon whilst waiting to be worn. Her husband Mr J. Maud kept horses and and used them pulling a Tub! as a taxi service. Later Mr & Mrs Sheppard took over the Pub.

Mr Henry Lovegrove (Frank's grandfather) lived at the back lane in the 1920's whilst keeping his six cattle in a shed and a field at Elmside. Twice daily after milking he would carry the milk in buckets on a yolk over his shoulders up to his house for cooling. Here he would strain the milk and with the house of a seperator take off cream. His wife would then take the milk cream and seperated milk around the village door to door selling the liquid which she would ladle out into a jug using a pint measure.

Behind village Hall

Mrs Reeves & Mrs Telling kept the village shop around the 1930 onwards. and whilst cleaning some cupboards out one day came across the paper patterns which her uncle a Mr Symmond used when he cut the White Horse many years earlier*. He lived at a place called Cobbler Hall later the shop was closed down and sold to two school teachers 1970?

* Beyond Kilkenton

A Mr Sloper who managed a drapers shop in Marlborough travelled down through the village fortnightly selling clothes and shoes from the back of a small truck. When the business failed after several years he committed suicide by cutting his own throught. about 1930.