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compiled by the late Brian Joyce.

Memories of My Childhood

by Joyce Edwards (nee Endersby)

My name is **Joyce Edwards**, but before I married I was known as **Joyce Endersby**. I was born in **1924** in Wheathampstead. My father was the **village policeman** and I was born in the police house. I was christened in the village church and married there in **1947**.

I had a happy childhood and attended **St Helens School**. I remember **Mr Housden, Miss Young, Miss Warren** and **Miss Crawley**. I was fond of them all. When I was about 9 years old, the older children at the school were asked to “buy a brick” with our names on, these bricks were to go around the inside wall of the new school which was to be built. **I wonder where these bricks are now?** The girls I spent most of my time with were **Rosemary Milton, Rene Field** and **Joyce Pearce**. Rosemary lived at the bottom of Brewhouse Hill and Rene lived on No Mans Land Common. Joyce Pearce lived opposite Rosemary, I think she married **Ted Westwood** many years later.

My father retired when I was 6 years old and we moved to the **1st Necton Road**. It was a nice big house. My father had a horse and with a flat cart used to sell vegetables and fruit to the outlying villages. The **Westwood's** lived across the road from us and just higher up lived **Amy Hawkins**, the district nurse, a wonderful woman. **Ted Westwood** and I use to spend time going to see his father, a **blacksmith** in the **Bull**

public house yard. We would also go to a small field along Marford road where they kept chickens and Ted had lots of tame rabbits.

When I was 9 years old, my father died and we moved to **76 Marford Road.** The houses had just been built. A **Mr and Mrs Pateman** lived next to us for quite a few years. When new shops were built in the village, the **Patemans** moved into the **Vegetable Shop.** **Mr and Mrs Cobb** became our new neighbours. **Mr Cobb** put on many **local shows** for the villagers for many years.

At 17 I joined the **WAAF** and spent nearly 5 years in uniform. I married and left the village to move to **Stoke-on-Trent.** My brother **Henry**, known as **Jim** to everyone, lived in **Buckinghamshire** and my sister **Eve** lived in **St Albans, Gustard Wood** and eventually moved to **Calne** in **Wiltshire.** My mother **Kate** though many people called her **Kit** was well known in the village. When my mother became ill she came to live with me and for many years I kept in touch with **Mrs Cobb** and **Kath Freeman** until they died.



My two friends taken in R.A.F. Shawbury in 1943. From the left Pauline Smith, then me and Penny Davies on the right.



From left to right - My sister Eva, my brother Jim and me in uniform. Taken late 1947.

My three children spent many school holidays at Marford Road. I have returned to the village for the odd days, but always feel like a stranger. **The Swan** pub and **Charlie Collins Antique** shop were the same, but where I was born has long gone and the houses on **the Wick** had disappeared.



**Me and Mother (Kate Endersby)
when she was living with me in
Stoke-on-Trent.**

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