

## Colin Norman

*Colin was born in Little Shelford, but came to live in Great Shelford and attended the school there. Many of the moves were caused by his grandfather losing his agricultural labouring job and having to move out of tied cottages. In retirement Colin worked for an OU degree, and later a higher degree at Anglia Ruskin University.....in family history!*

I was born in Little Shelford in a cottage next to the village hall. It was two cottages then. Two tiny rooms up and a tiny room and a kitchen-come-staircase downstairs.



Photo courtesy of Tony Mortlock

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My grandparents lived there. Grandad Alf was a farm labourer at Manor Farm, Little Shelford. I think at the time they had at home five of their eight children - four or five certainly.

Grandfather lost his job as a cowman at the Rectory Farm, and with it of course the tied cottage he lived in, because the farmer wanted the job and the cottage for another man, who just happened to be George Easy, who was about to marry my Aunt Tilly. Her brother Luke had emigrated to Australia. When I asked 'Why did Luke go to Australia?' she said 'Why, boy, for betterment.' George and Tilly moved into the cottage that we were kicked out of.

Alf and Flo with their two remaining unmarried children, George and Rowie, my mother and I, all came to live in Great Shelford along the High Street - number sixty High Street it's called now. I can remember sitting on the doorstep with grandad Alf and he put his head in his hands and he was crying. 'I don't know what I'm going to do. I don't know what I'm going to do.' I had the pleasure of sitting on that doorstep again ten years ago and wandering around in the cottage and photographing the interior.

In 1935 Grandad got a job as a cowman with Farmer Howard at Hauxton Mill. We lived in a bungalow where we had electricity installed. I can remember that being installed, the shiny varnished switches. And floods down there that came right up the road, but not into our bungalow because that was set about two feet above the road. Alf lost the job there too because the farmer told him 'I want a younger cowman, Alf'.

We moved then in 1936 to an old detached house in Hauxton, still standing, now renovated. There was no lighting, but we had the oil lamp, which I've still