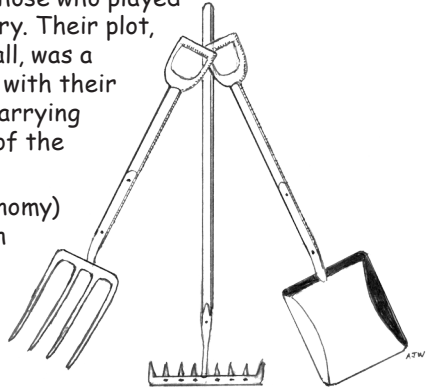## Digging for Victory - Gill Frisby

Mick Burdett and Ben Coulson were among those who played their part in Langham School's Dig for Victory. Their plot, made available by Owen Smith of the Old Hall, was a piece of land off Manor Lane. Mick and Ben, with their school mates, marched through the village carrying their spades and forks under the command of the indomitable Dolce Ellingworth.

Seeds, be they potatoes (cut in half for economy) or carrots were counted out equally and with military precision. On many occasions the work was brought to an abrupt end by the sound of the air raid siren, whereupon everyone returned to school and the air raid shelter. The return journey was no orderly affair, the young gardeners always outrunning Miss Ellingworth.

The Evacuee Who Stayed - Susan Lesiakowski

The youngest of seven children, Tony Parrott was evacuated to Langham in 1939. He travelled with his sister Kathleen from Walthamstow, London, but was split up from Kathleen who went to live in Cottesmore and later returned to London. Tony went to live with Mr and Mrs George Faulks who had no children and brought Tony up as their own. When the time came to return to London, Tony was settled and did not want to leave Langham. He attended the special school classes for evacuees in The Institute, affectionately known as "The Tute" [now the Village Hall but always "The Tute" to Tony] and moved on to the Central School in Oakham [VCC]. Tony spent many a happy hour telling "wartime tales" of Langham - some we had to wait to hear "until we were older"!! When he wasn't up to boyish pranks and being chased by Sgt. Ted Wright, the village policeman, he delivered bread for Ken Hale.

He left school, at fourteen, to work for Mr and Mrs Owen Smith on Manor Farm Estate. He did his National Service with the Royal Horse Guards based in Windsor and also spent some time in Germany. He married Betty and, after a few years living in Melton Mowbray, Tony returned to Langham with his family and remained here until his untimely death in 1997.