**The Wilcock’s in Wincle**

“He has got it love!” exclaimed the excited stranger to the young mother, nursing her 4 month old daughter…me! Knowing my father as I do, it’s no surprise that he lured my mother to go and ‘just see’ the house auction. On that day in the Ryles Arms in July 1984, Mellor Knowl Cottage was being auctioned alongside The Villa and Lilac Cottage.

Whilst my mother, Stockport born and bred, was looking at estate agent literature for properties in Bramhall, my father thought that Wincle would be a fantastic place to bring up his family. Post auction, on the drive up to see the newly acquired house for the first time, my mother asked, with a concerned tone, “where the hell are we John?”. My parents, and many helpers, renovated Mellor Knowl Cottage and in September 1985, following a year of living with my maternal grandparents, my parents and I finally moved in.

37 years later, the memories of the cottage and the village are joyous for us all. My younger brother, Chris, and I had the most wonderful upbringing in the beautiful Peak District countryside. I was fortunate to have a pony that was stabled with the Goodwins at Burnt House. Chris had his first taste of being a petrol head with his mini scrambler motorbike.

I had the great experience of working at The Ship for 14 years. More recently, in 2012, I set up ‘Pilates with Kate’ and have been lucky enough to recruit many of the villagers for Stretching and Toning! My father was an active member of the Danebridge choir for many years and impressed with his lovely voice and cheeky sense of humour!

With heavy hearts, our chapter of living in Wincle has come to an end. However, our terrific friendships and memories of Wincle will not fade. My parents have bought a fantastic bungalow near Astbury Mere and are delighted to be closer to their lovely grandchildren, Harry and Lucy. Chris and Joanne are currently doing sterling DIY work at my parents’ new home adding finishing touches to get the place ‘just right’.

But it’s farewell, not goodbye. My father continues to garden around the village and I teach Pilates on Monday evenings at the Swythamley Centre and visit private clients in the area. I still love living & working in the area, although many weekends are spent in Bath.

We wish the Griffins’ every happiness in their new home and hope that they relish living in this very special village and community that we will hold dear to our hearts forever. We are so thankful that my father walked in to the auction on that day in 1984.

Kate Wilcock