

## An idyllic country life

By Jo Scrivin

ROSS residents, Michael and Eugenie Winch, are extremely proud of a family member's first book. Eugenie's cousin, Christine Large, has compiled snippets of accounts of her childhood growing up in the village of Ryton, near Dymock, over 40 years ago.

The results are a charming account of a way of life which has changed forever.

Christine grew up on a smallholding in a very rural community and when she was in her 20s she starting to write an account of her childhood. These were then put away until many years later when she, and husband, Jim, returned to the area and settled at Much Marcle. She then got them back out and decided to publish them as a book called Down Sandy Lane.

This is a very charming account, from a child's viewpoint of village life, as well as times spent helping on the farm and Christine recalls how she, and her brother and sister, lived a happy, and very active life.

Down Sandy Lane is the perfect read for anyone of the similar generation who bemoans the reliance of today's youngsters on modern technology, and would make a lovely book for reading aloud across the generations, and is sure to spark reminiscences of the reader's own childhood.

Of particular interest to local readers, I thought the accounts of the arrival of the M50 motorway and remembering the wild daffodil picking to earn some pocket-money were fascinating.

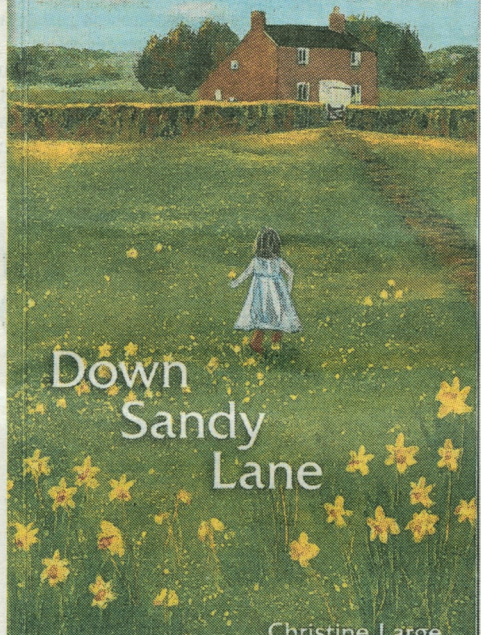
The new motorway was only a few hundred yards from their cottage and they could look down on it and watch it being built. Christine recalls how familiar landmarks were lost, including a stone footbridge, a tiny stream and water meadows which disappeared under tarmac.

It was these meadows which were home to the wild daffodils which flowered every March to April. Christine recalls the: "surrounding woods and countryside were ablaze with these dainty spring flowers which stretched to the neighbouring villages of Dymock, Kempley, Oxenhall, Bromsberrow, Ketford and Redmarley.

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Author of Down Sandy Lane, Christine Large at the age she recalls life in her book





MEMORIES: Writer Christine Large with her new book

# New book recalls a Ryton childhood

MEMORIES of a childhood in Ryton have been captured in a new book by local lady, Christine Large.

The book is a collection of short stories of Christine's childhood growing up on a

smallholding in Ryton, near Dymock, during the 1940s and 1950s.

But the stories may never have seen the light of day.

Husband Jim Large explained: "They are stories which she

wrote over 40 years ago. They were then put away in a box and forgotten about until they came to light last year and the decision was made to publish them.

"The book is entitled 'Down Sandy Lane' and we feel sure it

will be of local interest."

Those keen to hear about Ryton life more than half a century ago will not have to go down Sandy Lane to get a copy, as the book is on sale now at Ledbury Books and Maps.