

## Tail Mill Factory Played a Big Part in My Life

Yvonne Taylor

Tail Mill has been the main employer for Merriott and a wide surrounding area for years. Most families had worked there (also at Scott's Nurseries).

I first went to Merriott Mouldings in 1957 in the Inspection Dept, under Bill Taylor from Crewkerne.

The large Flashing Dept was full of women apart from charge hand Bill Andrews and, later, Alan Best, all happily singing along, led by my aunt Hetty Bowden. She was at one end of the large workbench, her cousin Ivy Male at the other end. She would start everyone off. I can't remember my aunt ever having a day off work. It was her life. She worked well into her 70s, when she had to leave.

My Mum also worked there and also my Dad who worked on the presses. Arthur Webber was a boss then and also the James brothers from South Petherton.

I went back to the Packing Dept after my children started school. There were five of us women packing tea chests and large wooden boxes the size of coffins. It was heavy work, and standing all day. We got on well and helped each other with the heavy lifting. Later cartons were used, as shown in the photo below. Cyril Derrick was our boss.



Outside the Despatch Dept: Pat Whitfield (Merriott), Hilda Manning (North Perrott),

Gwen Symes (Merriott) and Yvonne Taylor (Merriott)  
At Christmas we were allowed to finish a little earlier for a drink and nibbles.



Cyril Derrick, Hilda, Gwen, Yvonne and Pat - Christmas decorations in place, drinks and nibbles at the ready .....



Lads take a break from loading a van with moulded products for Sterlings: l to r, John Chant (Merriott) John Sprake (Merriott) and David Male (Kingsbury)

This photo is of a larger gathering held at the George Hotel, Crewkerne. At the top table on the right are Mr Baker, Ron Swain, and George Bourne and his wife and two daughters.



I took voluntary redundancy when my first grandchild was born but I went back across the lane to work the twilight shift on injection presses, from 6.00pm to 10.00pm.

So the factory played a big part in my life. Alas, now Merriott no longer has Merriott Mouldings, or Scott's Nurseries.