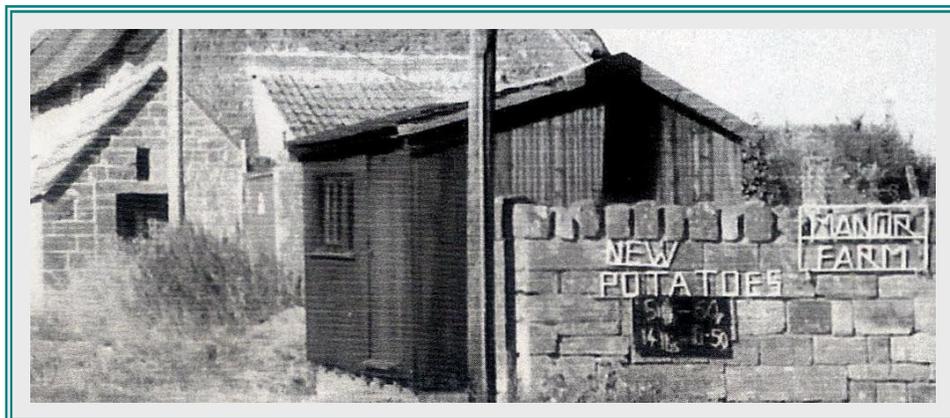


## The Village Cobbler: One of Us

First published in a Parish Magazine, author not known

**Tom Sweet** sits in his little hut and sees the world go by,  
Or such of it that comes his way, in truth not many try,  
But some of them stop at his door, their old shoes in one hand,  
Can you do anything with these? I'll need a magic wand,  
But leave 'em here a day or two, there's just a chance I could,  
So look in here on Friday say, you'll learn if they're no good.  
Tom was a bright young lad at school, and always full of fun,  
But how his master teased him, ere lessons had begun.  
Sir first called out the register, with surnames down the list,  
And each boy when his name was called would raise a grubby fist,  
And Tom was always called Sweet T, the master loved the joke,  
But Tom thought when I'm big enough I'll give his nose a poke.  
He had no great ambition to go far away from here,  
And right throughout his working life he wanted to be near  
The place where all his ancestors had lived and worked and died,  
The parish records bear their names and Tom knew this with pride,  
So when at last the chance appeared to be the postman here,  
He took the chance with both his hands, he'd found the best career,  
From door to door each day he went until he knew each one,  
And who were kin and who were friends and grumpies who were none.  
Yet father time caught up with him as many years rolled by,  
He said farewell to uniform but said it with a sigh,  
And not for him a holiday, he would not sit and laze,  
He wanted something else to do to occupy his days,  
So now he hammers at his last, each morning until one,  
He sits and stitches on your sole, and knows that work is fun.  
Praise be that here in Somerset they breed them in his mould,  
To live such lives amongst us and to let such tales be told.



(Tommy Sweet operated from the hut shown in the photograph, near the village lockup. He was, in the 1950s, one of two cobblers, the other being Charlie Osborne who had a shop in Lower Street, opposite the entrance to Shiners Terrace.)