

Merriott Local Dialect

David Gibbs has found a sound recording of an interview with Arthur Pattemore of Merriott :

<http://sounds.bl.uk/View.aspx?item=021M-C0908X0066XX-0300V1.xml>

David has also sent me these photographs of Arthur Pattemore, along with some reminiscences.





David had this to say:

I came across a web site that you may find interesting: <http://sounds.bl.uk> unless, of course you already know about it. If you are not familiar with it, go to their English Accents and Dialects page and in the search box type Merriott and click on Search. This takes you to a page where you can access a recording made in 1956 of Arthur Pattermore, a well-known village character of years past who used to live in a little cottage, in a typical hawkers yard, right by the church. Hawking was a common activity in the village years ago. I remember his open-fronted shed just outside his door, where he used to house various traps and carts, their shafts sticking up in the air. As a very small boy I often rode in his pony and trap as he delivered newspapers, down in the Knapp area of the village in particular, where I then lived. He never used to say a lot and I think I found him rather intimidating, but a kindly soul I believe beneath his hard, weather-worn exterior. He was also referred to as Arthur Hut – probably to distinguish him from other Pattermores of whom there were quite a few.

Anyway, here on the <http://sounds.bl.uk> site you can hear ‘Mert Speak’ as it used to be, probably the only recording of it that exists.

Thanks to David for finding this reference and adding his wonderful memories.