



SOAPS

A short history of EastEnders' Sharon Mitchell

Daughter of Den and Ange, married two Mitchells, and recently lost a child

Paul Simper
5 Mar 2020, 11:55
Updated:
5 Mar 2020, 12:02
Tags: [EastEnders](#)

It's no wonder Sharon Mitchell, nee Watts, often looks so pensive in [EastEnders](#). She's got a lot on her plate and always has done where family matters are concerned.

Memorably played by Letitia Dean since the soap began in 1985, Sharon's mixture of East End front and vulnerability has somehow navigated her through all sorts of drama.

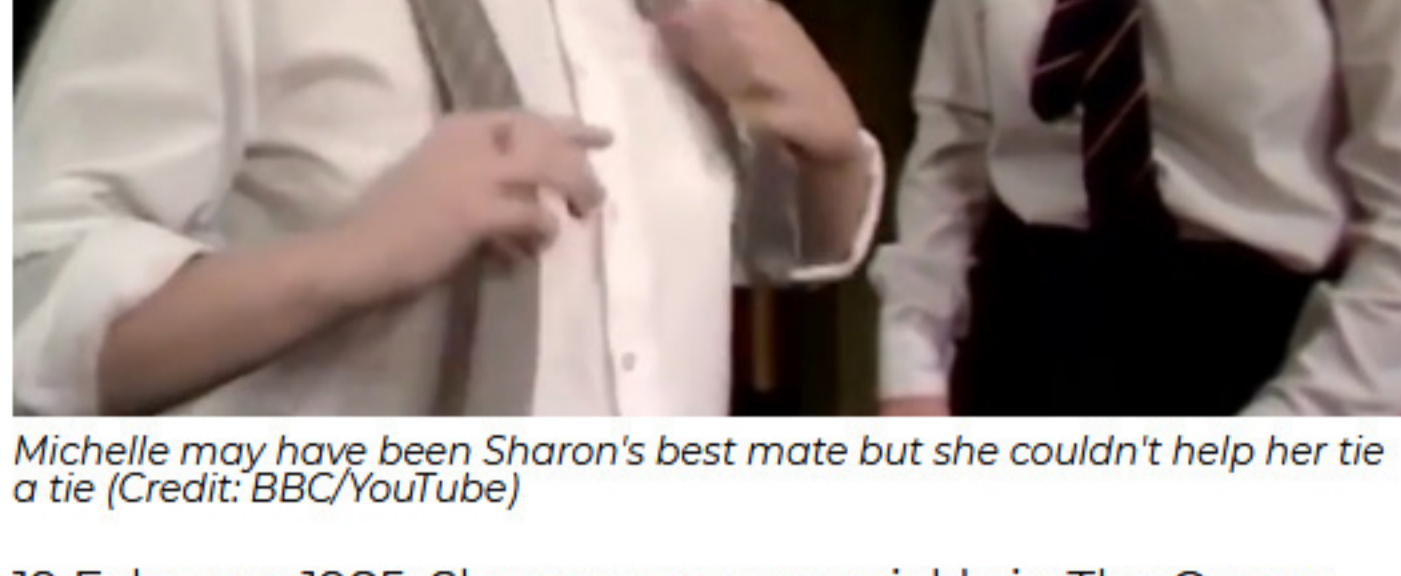
There aren't many women who could survive being married to one, let alone two, of the infamous Mitchells.

As the daughter of Den and Angie Watts clocking all the goings on from behind the bar of The Queen Vic has stood her in good stead.

35 years on her life is as fraught as ever. She's just given birth to a new son, Kayden, but while she was in labour, her eldest son, Denny, drowned in a boat crash.

Things aren't going to be easy for Sharon in the future...

When did Sharon Watts first appear in EastEnders?



Michelle may have been Sharon's best mate but she couldn't help her tie (Credit: BBC/YouTube)

19 February 1985. Sharon grew up quickly in The Queen Vic.

When she wasn't busy trying to keep the peace between her battling mum and dad she hung out with best pal Michelle Fowler (Susan Tully).

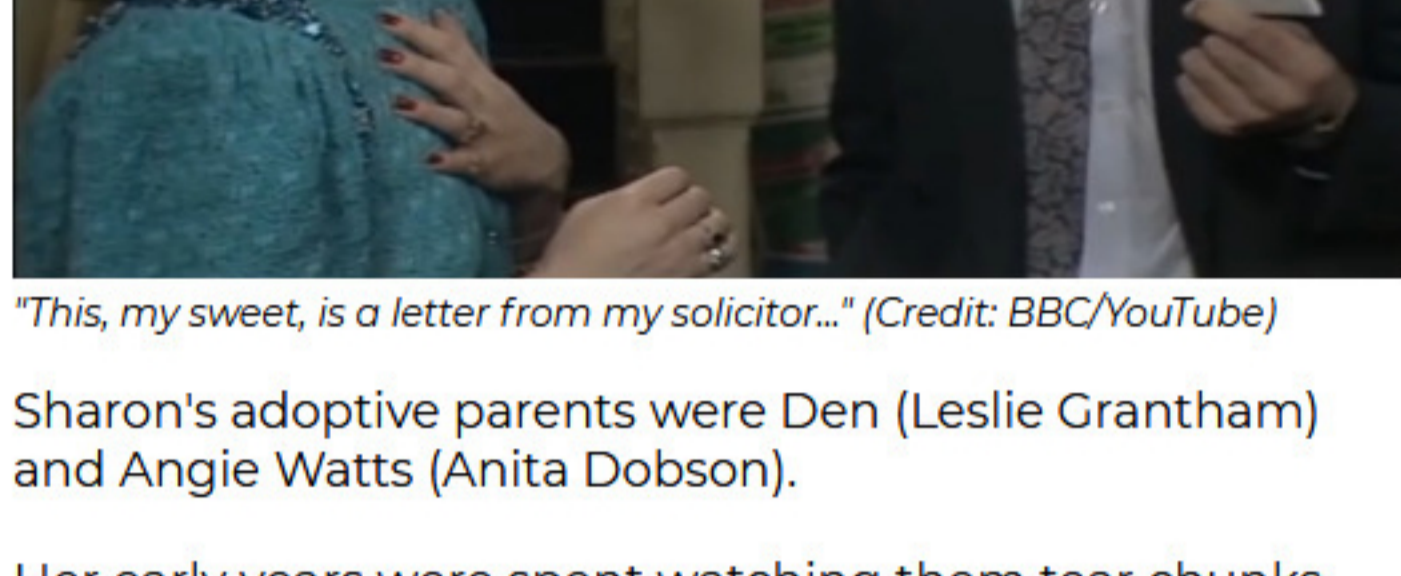
That friendship became a hell of a lot more complicated after Michelle had a daughter, Vicki, when she was 16 and the dad turned out to be Sharon's rotter of a dad, Dirty Den.

Only when Vicki got meningitis did Sharon put the betrayal behind her and offer her friend support. Years later, after Sharon and Grant Mitchell split, Michelle and Grant had a one-night stand.

Michelle became pregnant and gave birth to Mark Fowler Jr ([Ned Porteous](#), later Emmerdale's Joe Tate) who showed up in Walford in 2016.

The same year Michelle returned from living in Florida (played by Jenna Russell). The [recasting of a legendary EastEnders character](#) proved unpopular and Michelle left again in 2018.

Who were Sharon Mitchell's mum and dad in EastEnders?



"This, my sweet, is a letter from my solicitor..." (Credit: BBC/YouTube)

Sharon's adoptive parents were Den (Leslie Grantham) and Angie Watts (Anita Dobson).

Her early years were spent watching them tear chunks out of each other until Den served Angie with divorce papers on Christmas Day 1986 in that [all-time classic ep](#).

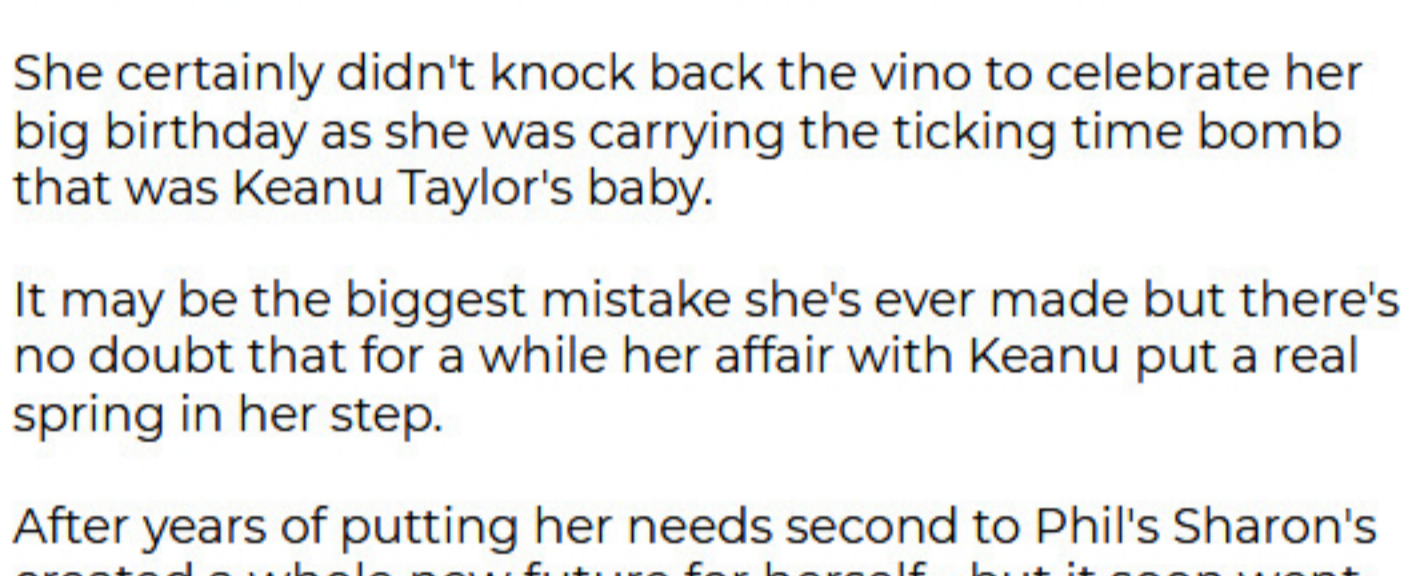
In 1988 Angie emigrated and died of cirrhosis of the liver in 2002. Den got involved with gangland crime and was shot walking along the canal by a bloke with a bunch of daffodils.

He rose again from the dead in 2003 before being sent back to his grave for good with the help of an iron doorstop wielded by wife no.2 Chrissie (Tracy-Ann Oberman).

Sharon's birth mother is Carol Hanley (Sheila White) who gave Sharon up when she was three years old. Sharon tracked her down but there was no bond.

Sharon discovered Kathy Beale's abusive husband Gavin Sullivan (Paul Nicholas) was her biological dad when he called her "Princess" one fateful Halloween.

How old is Sharon Mitchell in EastEnders?



She may be 50 but Sharon still has plenty of interests... (Credit: BBC/YouTube)

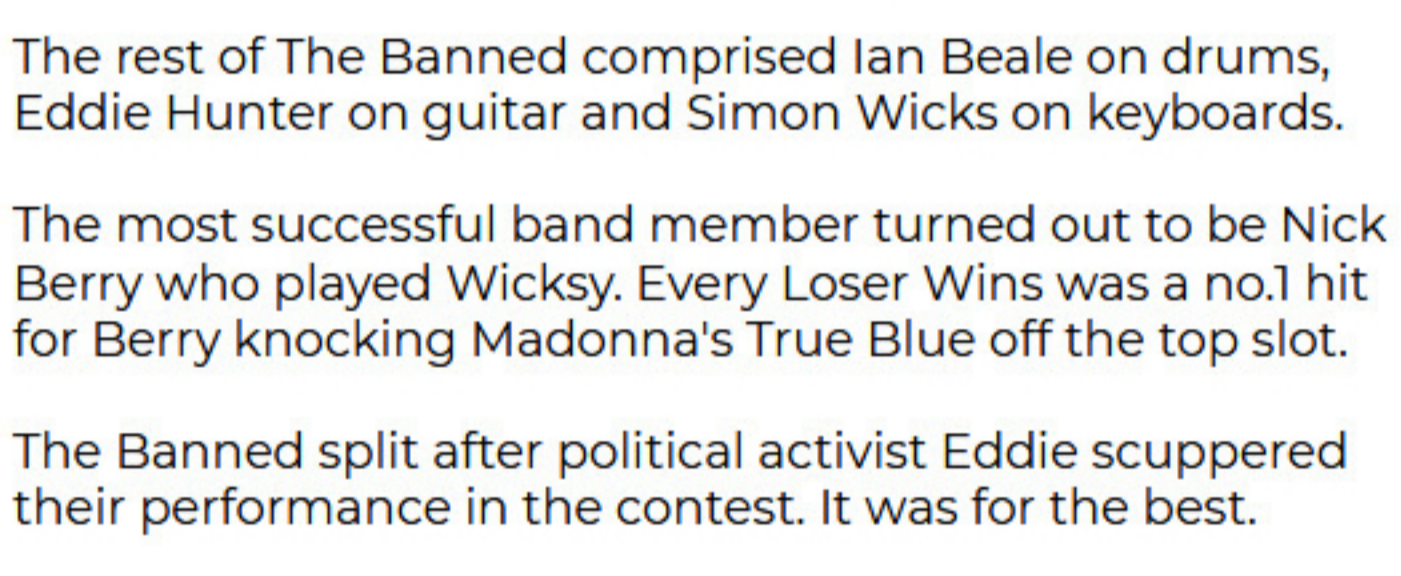
Sharon is 50. She was born on October 20, 1969.

She certainly didn't knock back the vino to celebrate her big birthday as she was carrying the ticking time bomb that was Keanu Taylor's baby.

It may be the biggest mistake she's ever made but there's no doubt that for a while her affair with Keanu put a real spring in her step.

After years of putting her needs second to Phil's Sharon's created a whole new future for herself - but it soon went terribly wrong...

What was the hit single that Letitia Dean sung as Sharon Watts in EastEnders?



Next stop Top of the Pops... (Credit: BBC/YouTube)

That catchy little number which got to no.12 in the UK singles chart in November 1986 was called Something Outa Nothing.

Sharon and school pal Kelvin Carpenter (Paul Medford) formed The Banned. They competed in the Best Band Contest sponsored by Walford Savings Bank.

The rest of The Banned comprised Ian Beale on drums, Eddie Hunter on guitar and Simon Wicks on keyboards.

The most successful band member turned out to be Nick Berry who played Wicksy. Every Loser Wins was a no.1 hit for Berry knocking Madonna's True Blue off the top slot.

The Banned split after political activist Eddie scuppered their performance in the contest. It was for the best.

How many times has Sharon Mitchell been married in EastEnders?



"It was like Phil was a nice side of Grant..." Playback of the damning cassette (Credit: BBC/YouTube)

Three times. That's a brace of Mitchells, Grant (1991-95) and Phil (2014-present) and Dennis Rickman (2005-2006)

With Dirty Den as her adoptive dad it was inevitable that Sharon should be attracted to bad boys. Although not at first.

She had a teenage fling with Ian Beale (Adam Woodyatt) and even got engaged to church curate Duncan Boyd in 1987 but she got bored of the vicar and his sensible knitwear.

Sharon started dating Falklands veteran Grant in 1990. Insanely jealous, Grant did buy her The Queen Vic as a wedding gift.

Her affair with Phil began in 1992 after Grant smashed up The Vic frustrated that Sharon didn't want to have children. The following year Grant was imprisoned for assaulting Sharon.

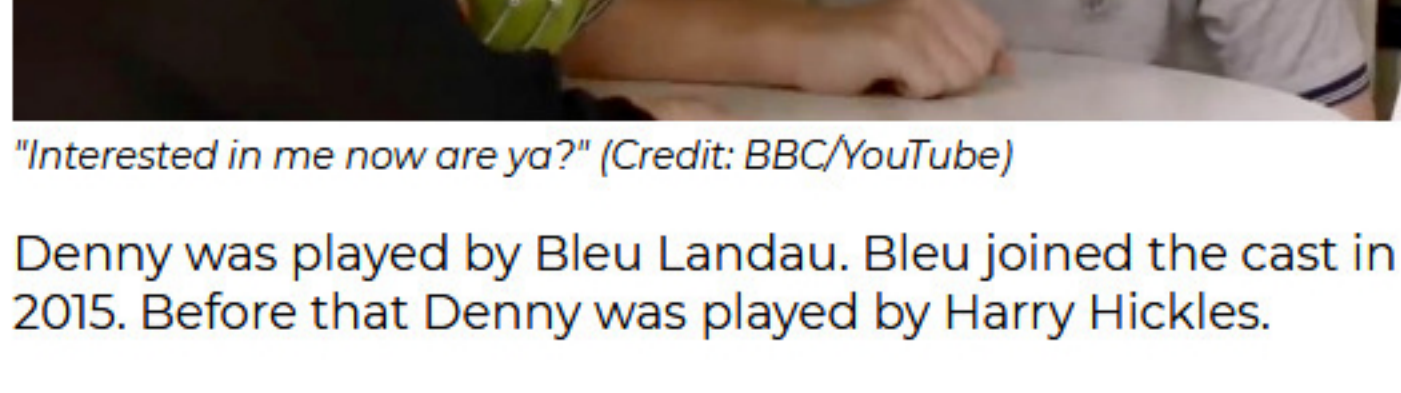
A chat between Michelle and Sharon accidentally recorded by Michelle's journalist boyfriend provided the smoking gun. Grant played it to a packed pub at Phil and Kathy Beale's 1994 engagement party and kaboom.

Phil and Sharon got together properly in 2001 when Sharon anonymously bought The Queen Vic back off Peggy Mitchell (Barbara Windsor) but it all went wrong when Sharon thought she was infertile.

Non-Mitchell husband Dennis Rickman showed up in 2003 revealing that his dad Dirty Den wasn't actually dead.

Sharon and Dennis married 29 August 2005 and Sharon got the shock of her life when she discovered she was pregnant on Christmas Day that same year.

Who killed Dennis Rickman?



Sharon's love for Dennis (Nigel Harman) ended in tragedy (Credit: BBC/YouTube)

"You can't keep hiding behind dead men." Those were Den Watt's illegitimate son, Dennis' sadly prophetic words.

With Sharon pregnant she and Dennis were planning a new life in the States but on New Year's Eve Dennis was stabbed as he made his way across the Square to his love.

The hooded assassin's face was covered but it was Johnny Allen's henchman Danny Moon (Jake Maskall), a revenge killing after Phil encouraged Dennis to beat up Johnny.

As Sharon rushed to him and saw his blood-stained sweatshirt he reached out and stroked her bump.

"We did it," were his final words. Or were they? Fans still hope that [somehow Dennis can return from the dead one day](#).

Who played Sharon's son in EastEnders?

"Interested in me now are ya?" (Credit: BBC/YouTube)

Denny was played by Bleu Landau. Bleu joined the cast in 2015. Before that Denny was played by Harry Hickles.