

## THE WYCHWOOD JEWELS

It is now 45 years since I left Milton to make my way in the world, but since then I have been a regular visitor to both Milton and Shipton because my parents have always lived in the villages. When Dad died seven years ago, Mum was accepted into Langston House, as recommended by Social Services, because it was deemed that she could no longer care for herself.

Some people speak of "putting" elderly people into "a Home" but it wasn't like that. From the outset, the staff of Langston House told us that we should regard this as our new family home.

It has been sad for me to see Mum decline over the past seven years on my weekly visits, but I have to say that every one of the staff warmly welcomed me and made me feel at home. Mum was treated with the utmost respect, and with love and care that could not have been surpassed by her blood relatives. She had the freedom to live her life as she wished, and she grew old with independence and dignity, whilst at the same time having privacy, loving care, security good food and clean clothing.

At the same time regular visits from both the Doctor and District Nurse ensured that her medical needs were met. Towards the end of her life special equipment was supplied by the Wychwood Surgery to ensure her every comfort.

Langston House is a special place to our family, because my parents first home was in The Square and I grew up there, so it was an appropriate place for Mum to be, both geographically and amongst local people whom she knew.

However, neither The Wychwood Surgery nor Langston House would be what they are without the people who work there and the purpose of my writing is to commend them all. Every single person there is both professional and well trained, but also, more importantly, I have found more genuine love and care amongst them than in any other institution during the whole of my working life.

For those readers who are unaware of the tremendous service you have in your midst, I would say, "count your blessings" – long may they thrive!

David Carpenter.

## ALF AND ANN CARPENTER

David and Audrey would like to thank all the people of the Wychwoods who have been so kind as to send messages of love, support, memories, flowers and donations at the time of their parents being laid to rest at Shipton.

Heart-felt love and thanks to everyone especially those who shared their lives with Alf and Ann during their long lives in the Wychwoods.

