

Vi Smith 'A lifetime in the Wychwoods'

Vi Smith was one of the most well-known residents in the Wychwoods. Born Violet Miles, in 1910, she lived in Milton and Shipton but most famously lived at 9, High Street, the



Vi with her great grandsons, George and Edward

pretty cottage with the red front door on the corner of the Leafield/Ascott Road in Shipton. There Vi's sister Sybil was born. Vi's parents, Alfred and Millicent accommodated the telephone exchange in their house in the 1920's taking over from the Post Office in Church Street. At 15 Vi trained in telephony and took over at the exchange. There were 43 subscribers and the living room at 9, High Street was a hive of activity and never more so than when it also became the village library! Millicent checked books in and out and passed the time of day with villagers whilst Vi and other young ladies such as Dulcie Arundell and Doreen Shepherd ran the exchange.

Vi married Walter Smith in 1932. They moved to a cottage in Meadow Lane where Barbara, their daughter, was born.

A lifetime in the Wychwoods saw

Vi making one or two moves between Milton and Shipton but since 1998, Vi has been a resident of Bowerham. Anyone passing by on a sunny day will have seen her sitting outside Bowerham chatting to other residents and passers by. She had time for everyone and, as

Barbara says, 'she will be remembered for being a good listener.'

Colin and Barbara still live at 9, High Street which meant that they were always popping back and forth for visits and once a week Vi enjoyed Sunday lunch in her former home.

Vi's three grandchildren, Stuart, Trudi and Karen were frequent visitors along with her great grandchildren, two of whom are pictured above with her.

Vi had a passion for bowls and enjoyed her long association with The Wychwood Bowls Club. She was also an active member of the WI and loved to be part of village activities. Many residents of the Wychwoods will mourn the passing of Vi Smith (and the history she represents) but the warmth of her smile will be remembered for a long time in these parts.

Jan Harvey

Barbara and Colin Pearce, and family, would like to thank everyone who sent letters, cards and donations in memory of Vi. The donations have reached £600 to be divided equally between The Bowerham Residents Association and The Wychwoods Bowls Club. Barbara would also like to thank all those who gave the family love and support during Vi's recent illness.