

Thanks for the Memory Grace and Jim Barnes

Well known local couple celebrate fifty golden years.

Grace and Jim have spent most of their lives in and around Shipton, although Jim was born and brought up in nearby Brize Norton. They spent the first four years of their marriage in Brize, where Jim was helping with the family business in the bakery, but soon moved back to the house Grace was born in at Judd's Grave, bringing all their belongings on the back of a tractor and trailer.

Down on the farm

One of Grace's early memories was taking the cows down to the Ascott Road each morning, on her way to school and collecting them again on her way home. In those days most houses had front gates, which kept the cows out of gardens along the way. As it was, she remembers one cow was rather partial to Mr. Arundell's privet hedge! At an early age she was helping with harvesting, potato picking and hand milking and remembers, when her brother had gone to a wedding, debating with her father about whether to hand milk or use the new milking machine that had recently been installed.

After leaving school Grace helped her mother on the farm; her father would not consider allowing her to train as a hairdresser in Oxford. She met Jim at night-classes in Burford when she was learning dressmaking and he was trying out his carpentry skills.



Bringing up the boys

While their three sons were small, their spare time was spent on encouraging the boys in their hobbies. Jim became very involved with the St. John Ambulance Brigade, being Superintendent for a time, until they decided to join the Bowls Club together. Grace hints that Jim

tricked her into taking up this hobby in collusion with Barbara and Colin Pearce; whilst on holiday in Seaton she was persuaded to play to give the others a game. It is a hobby that has given them much pleasure and many successes over the years.

Grace and Jim have enjoyed life together, with the added bonus of good health.

Christine Halliday