

Rose Upton

Reaches her 90th birthday on a day of the same temperature in August

Rose was born in Shipton “down Church Street, the 4th house down the alley”. She went to Shipton School near the Church and sang in the choir. She remembers Shipton when Plum Lane was nothing but plum trees, and Sinnels Field, was just a field with 2 old cart horses in it who would wait patiently to be fed carrots by passers by. She loved the village, and describes a special feeling of closeness that existed in her childhood, and now she says people in the village don’t seem so close.



bicycles to Chipping Norton, then came home on a steam engine driven by their father Robert Watton, who was a wizard with all things mechanical. Rose’s mum would insist she and Eva change into old clothes for the inevitable

dousing with motor oil. And they would keep a close watch for the sparks which emitted from the engine, because they could ignite the hay stacks in the surrounding fields. She was also a founder member of the Evergreens.

Many Friends

Like the old woman in a shoe, Rose is well known for her love of children, everybody’s children, and from the days when she looked after young people in Shipton, she has many friends who live in far off places, with whom she is still in touch. She is very proud of her own two children, Margaret, who lives in Kentucky in America, and has five grown up sons, and her son Robert and his two children. Although Geoff Miles is her 1st cousin, she thinks of him as a son.

Rose’s sister Eva, speaks of an idyllic childhood in Shipton, in which all the children knew one another, and rode

Flying along

Rose worked at the PX in Brize Norton for quite a while whilst it was still under American control after the War, and was then transferred to Little Rissington, when Brize Norton reverted to the RAF. At Little Rissington she made friends with all the Red Arrows, and enjoyed a daily banter with them. She made her way to work on a motorised bicycle, which got persistent flat tyres due to the conditions of the back roads on which she travelled.

The fiercely independent Rose still chops the wood for her fire!

Peggy Walmsley