

Marrying a Rainbow

Jessie and Jack Strike Gold

Jessie and Jack Rainbow celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on 31st July; visiting Bourton-on-the-Water with friends and rounding off the day with a drink at the Shaven Crown.

Early Days

Jack, one of ten children, was born at High Lodge Farm, Milton, where his father was a carter. Jack can remember living at Hill Buildings on the Burford

Road and walking to school in Shipton; these days children get taken to school by bus or car! Jack was called up for the army during the war, starting his service with the 15th Scottish Regiment, which was attached to the Tank Corps. After contracting lead poisoning he was moved to the Catering Corps and trained as a chef. He still has the book in which he wrote out all his recipes for feeding up to 400 hungry soldiers. After the war he returned to working on the buildings, using the traditional ways with stone.

Jessie was born just across the border at Westcote, in Gloucestershire and moved around a bit before settling in Shipton. Her father, a shepherd by trade, was a keen dancer and although he turned down the chance to be a dance teacher he always encouraged his children to dance. When Jessie split up with her German boyfriend her parents persuaded her to go

with them for a drink at the Red Horse. They told her there was a nice young man there who would be just right for her. She met Jack and went on to the Shipton dance with him but decided that although she would like them to be

friends he was really too old for her (he's 15 years older). When she told her parents this they said she was silly and that Jack was the perfect match for her. She decided to apologise to

him and bought him a packet of cigarettes to say sorry! The rest, as they say, is history.

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When they married at Shipton church, Jessie carried a mixed bouquet because 'she was marrying a Rainbow.' One of the hymns that they chose was "The King of Love My Shepherd Is", which was very apt as her father was a shepherd.

When they set off on their honeymoon the next day, Jessie gave her mother the address of where they were going to stay in Paignton. Unfortunately they had not put labels on their suitcases and when they arrived they had no idea where they were staying. They went and asked the local police for help; the police paid for a taxi to take them round the town until they found their hosts, Mr. & Mrs. Williams. *Continued on Page 43*



Dream Holiday

Jack and Jessie have recently returned from holiday in Ross-on-Wye, arranged through the Royal British Legion. They stayed in the Merton House Holiday Hotel, which is adapted for people with disabilities and the staff were able to take care of all Jack's special needs. They had a wonderful two weeks there, staying in a beautiful room overlooking the river.

They were taken by bus to local beauty spots and places of interest and the weather was good enough to enjoy picnics on these outings.

On their first evening they were able to sit in their bedroom and watch a splendid

firework display over the river, a magical start to their holiday.

During the second week of their stay they were treated to a nostalgic '40s' week, right down to dinner of authentic corned beef hash and lumpy rice pudding.

Jessie and Jack thoroughly enjoyed their break and are looking forward to going again next year. They would recommend the hotel to anyone in similar circumstances to themselves, particularly if they need a bit of extra care.

We add our own congratulations to this happy couple and may they enjoy many more years together.

Christine Halliday

Out and About Wychwood Forest Fair

Glorious summer weather brought the crowds flocking to Lower Farm, Ramsden for this year's Forest Fair on Sunday 5th September.

This event, now firmly established in our annual calendar, was packed full of interesting stalls, Farmers' Market, Craft tent and displays by local members of the Rural Crafts Network, all set out in the fields and outbuildings surrounding the beautiful, old farmhouse.

There was something for everyone, whether browsing through the vast



Hedge -Laying

bookstall, enjoying tea and homemade cake, riding on the fairground rides, sitting back and watching the Morris dancers or just enjoying a pint in the sun.

The amount of work and organisation that goes into making a success of such a big event is enormous and thanks must go to all concerned for providing such a wonderful afternoon.

We hope that the success of the afternoon can be measured by the enjoyment of the crowds and the money raised for the **Wychwood Project**.