

## Doree Griffin

1920 – 2005

Doree Griffin, who died on 18<sup>th</sup> June aged 85, was educated at Colston Grammar School, Bristol. She early displayed talent for art, sport and music, which successively enlightened her life. She studied commercial design at the West of England Academy and was first employed in advertising.

At the outbreak of war in '39 she moved to the drawing office at Bristol Aviation. Seeking a more active role in the war, she tried to join the Wrens, but was dissuaded by parental pressure and, instead joined the Women's Land Army. After training she worked on farms in Gloucestershire and eventually at Gawcombe. Doree entered farm life with her usual enthusiasm and soon developed a love of farming and the countryside, as well as for Mervyn Griffin, who she married in 1944.

By the 1950's Doree, whose family now included daughter Julie and son Martin, was heavily involved with tennis. She, and later the children, were members of Shipton Tennis Club, playing socially and competitively. Doree trained as a coach and worked hard to encourage local youngsters in the game. Doree was an accomplished pianist and

guitarist and guests at Hill Farm, Bruern could be sure of evenings of good food, Mervyn's stories and Doree's music.

As infirmities curtailed her tennis, Doree turned to her art. Her subjects were mainly flower studies and landscapes. Her knowledge of agriculture lent a special dimension to her landscapes. Looking at her pictures, one could tell precisely the time of year, the swathes of hay, dust-laden air at harvest or the shimmer of cobweb on autumn furrows.

In later life Doree turned again to sport. She took a lively interest in rugby, cricket and of course tennis and had a vast knowledge of games and players, particularly youngsters who showed promise. How she would have loved to see the Andrew Murray match at Wimbledon! Towards the end of her life her conversation naturally turned to reminiscence of her full and active life, but she retained a sharp and active mind and an interest in current affairs.

### David Wilson

*For more on Doree's experiences in the Land Army see our article in the February / March 2004 edition. It's also in the 'Wychwood Online' archive.*

## The Wychwood Online at [www.thewychwood.co.uk](http://www.thewychwood.co.uk).

Many thanks to all of you who have visited our new web site, the 'The Wychwood Online', and given us great feedback. Already we are seeing a massive increase in 'hits', doubling to just under 1400 a month. Based on the feedback we have received there are two new additions this month. A Photo

Gallery, showing a selection of photos from some of the recent fetes and a Wanted/For Sale page where we will host small adverts for 'Wanted' and 'For Sale' items. Please look at the Terms and Conditions of this page before you submit your adverts.

**Mike Watson**