

Miss Dorothy (Dor) Thomson 1910-2005

The death has recently occurred, aged 95, of Dor Thomson, who came from Scotland in 1919 as a child of nine with her family to live at Shipton Court.

She enjoyed a privileged childhood educated by a nursery governess and surrounded by servants. A serious riding accident when aged thirteen encouraged her to seek her own amusements - gardening and reading. Later she attended a finishing school in Paris, but her father's premature death dramatically reversed the family's fortunes. Shipton Court was sold and the Thomson family moved to the south coast. Memories of Dor's childhood at Shipton have been chronicled by Trudy Yates in the Wychwoods Local History Society's journal no 19 'Shipton Court'. The outbreak of the Second World War provided Dor, as so many young women of her circumstances and upbringing, with opportunities to lead independent and useful lives. She joined the ATS but found the discipline irksome; instead she took a horticultural course at Waterperry



College, then joined the Aeronautical Inspection Directorate in London, finally serving at the Handley Page factory.

After the War, aged 38, Dor settled with a friend at Bampton, where she established a successful market garden. Dor became an Independent

Rural District and County Councillor, serving on the Education and Social Services Committees for sixteen years. Frustrated by her own lack of formal education, Dor was passionately devoted to furthering the educational opportunities of the County's children, and of promoting their welfare, especially those of the underprivileged. She was chairman of the Children's Committee and took great interest in the local primary and secondary schools, continuing to serve as a governor of Wood Green, Henry Box, Carterton and Burford schools and of the West Oxfordshire Technical College for ten years after retiring from local government.

Margaret Ware

Lady Reade Educational Foundation

A meeting of the Trustees of the above Foundation will be held on **Wednesday 11th January 2006**, when applications will be considered from young people resident in the Wychwood parishes of Shipton, Milton, Leafield and Ramsden, who have completed secondary education and are undergoing further education or training, for assistance to buy books or other educational aids. Preference will be given to those applicants who are in their first or second year of further education or training.

Applications should be made in writing please, before **January 11th 2006**, to the secretary: **Mike Brooks, 18, Jubilee Lane, Milton under Wychwood, OX7 6EW**