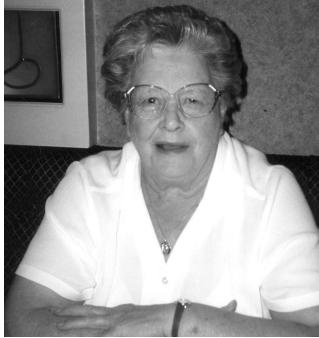


Dorothy Harrison 1924 - 2005

Many of you will have already heard of the death of Dorothy. She was a valued contributor to this magazine with her tales of times past in the Wychwoods. Local historians found her a great source both of information and of photographs of the times she lived through. She was able to put names to old photos and recall details of local events and had almost total recall of her childhood.

She was born in Ascott to parents Kate and David Simmonds and attended Ascott primary school and then Shipton School. When she was 14 years old she went into 'service' at what was then Chestnut Close. She joined the WRAF at 17 and was soon in charge of a group of WRAF who were manning the barrage balloons in London's East End during the Blitz. She told many tales of this time, and of later when she retrained as an aircraft mechanic, and met her future husband, Al, a pilot based at the same airfield.

They married in Ascott Church on 8th May 1947 during the severe winter and a path had to be dug to enable them to reach the church. She would laugh in later years when asked if she'd had a 'white' wedding. It couldn't have been much whiter! After the war Al joined the Metropolitan Police and Dorothy moved to London. As Al rose through the ranks to Inspector they moved house several times, living finally in Wembley. Their



only child Diane was born in Hackney. When Al left the police they decided to move back to the Wychwoods and settled in Milton in 1980.

They enjoyed village life and joined the Wychwood Bowls Club where they spent many happy hours and made

many good friends. For Dorothy it also meant she was reunited with old friends and family and this was a great joy to her.

Dorothy's mother and friends formed the Wychwood Women's Branch of the British Legion and she joined when she came to Milton. She was a very active member and made great friends with her fellow members and it was with great regret that they had to close the branch and 'Lay Up' the Standard in Milton Church in June this year.

Dorothy died peacefully in her sleep after a short illness and is survived by her husband of 58 years Al Harrison, her daughter, grandsons Adam and Ross, her younger sister Carole Hawtin and family. Family and friends will remember her as a kind, good natured and happy person who was content with her life. She will be greatly missed by us all and her family are comforted by the knowledge she ended her days as she started them in the Wychwoods that she loved. Money collected in her memory has been donated to Diabetes Research, and at the moment totals £350.

Diane Harrison-Fuller