

Dudley Hopkins

1913 - 2006

Our father, Dudley Hopkins, who has died aged 92, lived in Shipton between 1952 and 2002.

He was born in 1913 at Mill Hill in North West London and went to Mill Hill School. After leaving school he took several jobs in the textile industry until he eventually went into partnership with an old family friend, Ronald Thackrah. The two of them were Sales Agents in London for Charles Early of Witney and George Williamson a worsted cloth manufacturer based in Bradford.

Dudley married Edith Berry in 1939 and soon after the Second World War broke out he was called up. His own modest description of his war service reads:

"Major (DAQMG) Royal Artillery. 6 Years service. UK 40-43. India 43-46".

After the war he rejoined Ronald and they rebuilt the business.

Roger was born in 1940, Martin in 1942 and Antony in 1943, some nine months after father departed for India! John arrived in 1948 and David in 1952 just



before we came to Shipton when father was made Sales Manager at Earlys. When he retired in 1978 he was Chairman of the Company.

A piece was published in *The Wychwood*, when father left the village in 2002, detailing our fifty years in Shipton but all five of us would like it recorded that we

count ourselves as very fortunate to have been brought up in such a happy and friendly village situated in the most beautiful countryside.

Following the death of our very special mother in 1982, father married Vivien in 1986 and it is thanks to her that father had such a happy retirement during his last 20 years. In particular he could not have managed without her patience and loving care over the last 3 or 4 years as his sight deteriorated and he became increasingly immobile.

There is to be a Thanksgiving Service for the life of our father in St Mary's Church, Shipton-under-Wychwood at 2 pm on Friday 21st April followed by a gathering at the New Beaconsfield Hall.
Roger, Martin, Antony, John and David Hopkins