

A Lifetime's Work Aunty Vi MBE

After years of fund-raising, for a wide variety of good causes and generally helping anyone in need, Vi Miles has been awarded an MBE in the New Year's Honours List. The presentation was made by Malcolm Cochrane, the Vice Lord Lieutenant of Oxfordshire, at her home.



Vi was brought up in a children's home and never knew her parents. At sixteen she left the home and joined the ATS but found that the regimented life was too like that of the home. Changing direction she signed up for the Land Army and realised that this was the life for her - she loved every minute of it!

After working on several farms she came to Fifield, where, through her good friend Agnes Earley, she met and married Don - the love of her life and the first person

she was able to call her own. They had one son Keith. Vi talks with great pride of her family, which now extends to two granddaughters and one grandson.

It is hard to know when Vi started helping others; anyone you ask can tell you of something that she did - always with a big smile and a good heart. Vi told me that she has loved everything about her life and her only regret was never having the opportunity to become Prime Minister because she knows she could have sorted out the problems of the country and I believe she could!

Sadly, Vi is very ill at the moment and is being cared for by Gordon and Wendy. Our thoughts and prayers are with her.
Christine Halliday

The True Christmas Spirit

As usual, a large crowd gathered round the tree on Shipton Green on Christmas Eve. Anne Hartley led the prayers and the carols were sung with great gusto.

The collection was for the Lady Reade Educational Trust. Emma Cuthbertson told us how she had been helped to buy books for her University course by a grant from the Trust and exhorted us to give generously. Everyone must have

been listening to her as the resulting collection for the Trust amounted to £511!

Many of us also attended the Service of *Nine Lessons and Carols* on December 17th and the *Midnight Mass* on December 24th, both at St Mary's Church, Shipton. The beautiful singing from the choir was truly uplifting. Congratulations to Bernard West, organist and choir master for his inspirational leadership.