

## Daphne Viola Rose Edginton MBE

1921 - 2008

I have known two MBEs from Milton-under-Wychwood very well - sadly Vi Miles had only days left to live when her medal and citation arrived. Daphne Edginton, on the other hand, enjoyed the pleasure of buying a new hat and visiting Buckingham Palace for her 'services to the community' award in 1997. Between them these two women contributed tirelessly to the comfort and wellbeing of their village and the surrounding area.



Daphne was born in 1921 at Churchill Heath Farm to Tom and Lilian Buxton Rose. The Roses already had three sons, assuring assistance for Tom on the farm. The arrival of a daughter boded well for Lilian in the kitchen and Daphne, aware of her responsibilities from an early age, was always at her mother's side. By the time she married farmer Bryan Edginton in 1940, one day BEFORE her nineteenth birthday and one day AFTER the harvest was in, she was an accomplished cook, housekeeper, seamstress and farm assistant. This prepared her for her new life at Crow's Castle, a farm at the extremity of Milton parish.

There was no electricity or telephone at Crow's Castle but there were beautiful views over the Barrington estate. Here, Daphne made her garden, bore her two children - Anthony and June - at home, cooked for German and Italian prisoners of war housed on the farm, plucked poultry, skinned rabbits, made clothes, nursed baby lambs in the kitchen, cooked

for the haymakers and threshers, raised chickens, sold 60 dozen eggs a week and shot pigeons in the winter.

In 1968 the Edgintons left Crow's Castle and moved to Frogmore House in Milton. Bryan died in 1992. Daphne was the Centre Chairman for Chipping Norton Red Cross for 15 years, raising record

amounts of money. She served as Vice President of the Oxfordshire Red Cross receiving the Badge of Honour of the Red Cross Society.

Daphne helped at the Blind Club and War Memorial Hospital in Chipping Norton, St John Ambulance in Milton, Neighbourhood Watch, Milton WI, Wychwood Singers, Mothers' Union and Wychwood Local History Society.

Frogmore House was known as the 'convalescent home'. Many locals needing help were invited to stay and nursed back to health with good food, care and friendly companionship.

Daphne's care of Milton's two Latvian prisoners of war from the end of WWII until the mid 1990s was devoted. She later moved to her daughter's farm in Adderbury, making the move while she was still able to help June bake an endless supply of cakes for the farm and for St Mary's Church. Daphne never forgot the words her mother underlined in her prayer-book "Not only on our lips but in our lives."

Countless people will miss Daphne Edginton; no one will replace her.

**Trudy Yates**