

Margaret Prew 1929 - 2009

Margaret was one of a family of five sisters and four brothers who grew up in the mining village of Mexborough in South Yorkshire. Her father was a coal-miner. When she left school Margaret was employed in the local bakery.

She, along with three of her sisters, joined the Land Army. She was billeted in a hostel near Woodstock and worked at Cokethorpe, near Witney. After being injured in a traffic accident she was unable to continue on the land so transferred into the kitchens of the hostel.

Margaret met her husband Jack in 1951, when her sister Mary married his 'best mate' at Chipping Norton. War had ended and the hostels were being closed; Margaret did not want to return to Yorkshire and when Jack proposed marriage she readily agreed. It was a snap decision that they were never to regret. They were married at Milton Church in 1952.

Married life started in Lyneham with Jack's father, in a farm cottage with no running water or decent sanitation. Their first son, Trevor was born there and when Martin was expected, they applied for and were given a council house in The



Sands. While Jack was building up the garage business she often said she was a 'garage widow'.

Margaret was always content at home and loved her flower garden. She was an excellent cook and made clothes for herself and her two boys. She took everything in her stride and could cope with anything, including the sudden death of

her mother when her parents were staying here for a short holiday. She herself was 'mother' to her extended family - they all knew they could come to her with their problems.

Jack would like to thank Wychwood folk for their kindness to Margaret over the years. She 'fitted like a glove' from the first day that she arrived in the village. She always said what she thought but was straight and fair and never made an enemy.

The family have been overwhelmed by all the kindness and messages of condolence received since Margaret's illness and sudden death. They would like to thank everyone for the generous donations made to the Wychwood Surgery Patient fund in her memory, which totalled more than £600.

Christine Halliday