

## Kath Cooper: 90 Years Fit!

This is the third time that Kath Cooper has been featured in *The Wychwood*, but when you get to be 90 you have plenty of tales to tell! In 1993 we reported that, at the age of 73, Kath was still riding her trusty bike. She had purchased that very same bike in 1937 from 'Puffer' Willis in Shipton for the princely sum of £6.7.6d. She cannot remember

exactly when she gave up cycling but it was not that long ago.

Beatrice Kathleen, known as Kath, was born in 1920 to Fred and Hettie Timms. Kath lived with her parents, one brother and one sister in Park Street in Milton. That was an address that I had never heard of before - it was the alleyway at the side of the present Co-op.

Kath started school in Milton in the school beside the chapel before moving to the 'big school' in Church Road. From there she went to Burford School, leaving at 14 to go into service with Mrs Edginton at High Lodge Farm. From there she moved to Hartley's Manor Farm at Upper



Kath Cooper (left)  
with Mary Camp

Milton, a step closer to home but still a long walk to and from work each day. During the war she moved from house to farm work, "doing a man's job but not for a man's pay". She enjoyed the work, especially with the sheep. In 2008 we told the story of how, in 1958, she helped a ewe deliver quad lambs, a rarity in those days.

When Kath married Tom Cooper in 1957 she moved

to Ascott, as Tom was working for the Whittakers at Crown Farm.

Kath recalls that she was always a bit of a tom-boy and loved to play with a whipping top or skipping rope. She liked to play football but in those days they did not allow girls in the team.

To celebrate her 90<sup>th</sup> birthday Kath had a party for about 50 relatives and friends in the Red Horse in Shipton.

She puts her good health down to hard work and all those years riding that bike! Our best wishes to you Kath, may you enjoy many more years.

**Christine Halliday**

## Local Musical Honoured with Diana Award

The new rock musical *David V Goliath*, written by local writer Lee Wyatt-Buchan, has been honoured with the Diana Anti-Bullying Award 2010.

This prestigious award gives public recognition for outstanding work especially to young people who make an exceptional and selfless contribution to their communities and demonstrate the qualities associated with the late Princess;

compassion and a commitment to improving lives.

The musical has been chosen for the award because of its inspirational qualities and for the show's commitment to tackling bullying head on. The creative team and I are totally thrilled to have won the award and will celebrate with the entire cast later in the year.

**Lee Wyatt-Buchan**