

## Cicely Miller Celebrates her 90<sup>th</sup> Birthday

Cicely Miller of Milton is becoming a bit of a regular on our pages as we have already congratulated her and John on their Diamond Wedding in 2008.

This time the celebrations are all for Cicely on the occasion of her 90<sup>th</sup> birthday on May 6<sup>th</sup>.

Cicely was born in South Wales where her father was working in the coal mines. They moved to Aylesbury when she was about ten years old, but soon after, when her father became ill due to the effects of being gassed in the trenches, the family decided to move back to his home village of Milton. They were lucky enough to be granted a house in Pear Tree Close, where Cicely and husband John still live.

### Firm Friends

Cicely began school at Burford in September 1932, soon after moving here. One of the first people she met in the village was Kath Cooper and they are firm friends to this day. When Cicely was seriously ill Kath visited every evening to sit with her.

After leaving school Cicely went to work at London House, the ladies' outfitters in Milton High Street. When work broke out she went to the offices of the de Havilland factory in Witney. The workers were picked up from the outlying villages and bussed to the factory. It was a long day



for Cicely, who was up at 6am and did not arrive home until 8pm.

It was here that she met John, who plucked up the courage to ask her to a dance. Cicely was so popular that he only managed to get the first and last dances with her, but he never gave up and they were married in 1948.

### A Life of Dancing

It would be fair to say that Cicely has danced her way through life, with ballroom and sequence dancing being her favourites. She recalls that weekly dances at the Legion Hut in Milton were three-penny or sixpenny hops. Dancing at Shipton was a chance to dress up in long dresses but cost 1/-. John and Cicely still enjoy dancing at Friday tea dances in Witney and over the years have made many friends. With friends they have recently enjoyed a dancing break at a hotel in Teignmouth.

Cicely has been involved with many village activities including WI, the British Legion Ladies Section, running the local Brownies and Guides, singing in the choral society and taking the part of principal girl in the annual pantomimes. We wish Cicely a very happy birthday for May 6<sup>th</sup> and best wishes to John who will be celebrating his 90<sup>th</sup> on November 14<sup>th</sup>. I wonder if the family are planning one surprise party or two?

**Christine Halliday**