

Margaret Vera Nicholson

1921 - 2012

Margaret was born in the Lancashire mill town of Blackburn growing up during the Great Depression. She was spared the worst of those terrible times, but never forgot that life means getting out of bed and getting on with things without losing your sense of humour or forgetting that there are always folks worse off.

Margaret's life was irrevocably shaped by the war. Dreams and plans were put on hold, war work meant shorthand and typing in a local office. She married Len in 1942; a wartime bride and a husband with a three-day leave pass.

In 1948 Margaret and Len, who was by then back in the Civil Service, moved to East Kilbride in Scotland, where modern houses and schools were springing up amidst the fields, to start building the family that the war had denied them. Margaret and Len chose Shipton for their retirement in 1978 to be nearer two of their grandchildren, Peter and Caroline, who loved coming to stay at half-term. They would walk along the lanes and through the Wild Garden, collecting pieces of moss, stones and flowers.

Friends and neighbours saw Margaret as always involved in Shipton activities, always behind a tea-urn at the village fete, always giving back to the community that had embraced her and Len. She was president and secretary of the W.I., for many years an active member of the Bowls Club and Book Club, and a dedicated church warden at St. Mary's.

Margaret and Len were both very active in the appeal to build the new village hall, and even in their eighties they went round delivering *Meals on Wheels*, often to people several years younger. Margaret's love of books and desire to help others came together with her volunteer work as a reading assistant at Milton primary school.

Many will remember her appearances in those WI pantomimes as the fairy appearing in a puff of smoke or the Genie of the Lamp with a leg in plaster.

None who knew her will forget her beautiful smile.

Brian Nicholson

Bealicious Bakery Presents

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Friday 8th February

10am to 12 noon and 3pm to 4 pm

Thursday 28th March

2pm to 4pm

All proceeds to Helen and Douglas House

If you wish to donate a cake please ring

Bea Bates on: 01993 832857.

