Beatrice Kathleen Cooper

1920 - 2013

'Kath' was born to Fred and Hettie Timms and lived with her parents, brother and sister in Park Street, Milton (an alleyway at the side of the present Co-op shop). Her father was a blacksmith at Groves.
Kath went to school in Milton and then Burford. She was a real tom-boy, playing cricket and football on the Green. When she left school, age 14, she went into service first with Mrs Edgington at High Lodge Farm and then with the Hartleys at Manor Farm, Upper Milton. She would walk to work at 7am, often in the dark, to get breakfast ready for the workers. When all had been cleared away, she would help on the farm, driving the tractor and tending the animals.

She was 19 when war broke out and although not in the Land Army she "did a man's job, but not for a man's pay." When Mr Hickman the shepherd died she took on that role herself. Gradually the Hartleys gave up the sheep and Kath returned to working in the house.
She met Tom Cooper at the Churchill Arms, Ascott, playing dominoes. They married in Milton Church and started married life in a cottage at Crown Farm, where Tom worked for the Badgers. When they retired they moved to a bungalow in Shipton Road, where Kath lived until her final illness.
Transport was never easy in the villages so, in 1937, Kath purchased a Raleigh bicycle from 'Puffer' Willis' saddlers' shop in Shipton, which she continued to ride until she was well into her eighties.

All who knew Kath were struck by the number of friends that she had, her willing and generous nature and readiness to help anyone in need. She enjoyed the simple things, 'making do and mending' and working hard all her life. People mattered to her. She always said that it was important to visit the sick and comfort the dying; she took this as her Christian duty. Kath will be sadly missed by many - a true country woman, one of the best.

Taken from the address read at Kath's funeral and the three articles about Kath's life printed in The Wychwood.

Shipton Wedding Fayre

Sunday 6th October 11am to 4pm

New Beaconsfield Hall, Shipton-under-Wychwood. Everything you need for your special day in one perfect venue. Entry is free of charge, all welcome.
Contact Christine Halliday on: 01993 831134.