

Happy 90th Birthday to Mrs White

Mrs Win White was born in the village of Lower Heath in Worcestershire, near Stourport-on-Severn on October 14th 1923. The family cottage was on the edge of the common and Win played there with her friends, often building sandcastles in the sandy soil. Her mother would come to the five-bar gate and wave a tea-cloth to check that the children were playing safely. The cottage had none of today's 'mod cons' - the privy was at the bottom of the garden and the lighting came from oil lamps.



Mr Hinds Came Too

Win was just three years old when her brother was born and she was sent to stay with her grandmother, which she hated. She played up so much that her aunt persuaded the local teacher to let her start school. Win walked to and from school in the care of the older children. The family moved to another cottage owned by Grandmother, which was a bit closer to town. This one had the luxury of gas lighting but it was decided to install electricity. Win clearly remembers Mr Hinds, who came to make all the arrangements. He was a dapper little man dressed in a morning suit and spats. When the great day arrived and the power was connected they celebrated with a tea-party - and Mr Hinds came too!

On leaving school Win started work in the office at Thomas Bond Worth and Sons, the local carpet manufacturers. She

carried on her education at night-school, learning accounts, shorthand and typing.

When war broke out Win was 'called up' and was accepted into the typing pool at the RAF station at Hartlebury. Win met her future husband Frank when they were just 12 years old, but they were not

married until 1st May, 1948. It was another long wait until their son Bill was born in 1962.

“Retire?” Not Likely!

By this time they had moved to Shipton, Frank having accepted the post of corn, seed and coal company rep. They moved into the house opposite the school, *Berwyn*, which was also the company office. Win took on the office work, very convenient to work from home when she had Bill to care for too.

In 1955 she became the Clerk to Shipton Parish Council, at the princely sum of £25 per annum. She finally retired from this post in 2002, but luckily her pay did increase over the years.

In 1974 Roger Rawlins asked her to join the staff at Groves, using her accounting skills to calculate the weekly wages. She was well in her eighties when she retired from that job!

Win does not manage to get out much these days but her memory is as sharp as ever and she does love a chat with visitors.

We wish her a very happy 90th birthday and best wishes for the years to come.

Christine Halliday