Nigel Crocker talks about Broad Town

Nigel in July 2019

Nigel's love of Broad Town stems from being born in Goldborough Farm on 16th Jan 1943.

Childhood memories on the farm are rightly treasured. The tone in Nigel's voice positively mellows as he broke into a kind-hearted smile recalling the happy childhood days cycling to school in Wootton Bassett until he left aged 15. Nigel's Father owned a motor car, however, it was only used on a Monday to go to market in Swindon. Below is Nigel's first car parked in front of Goldborough.

NATIONAL SCHOOL 1969.

LEFT TO RIGHT BACK ROW.

MISS JAMES (TEACHER) MARION SHARP. DIANNE PULLOM. JOSIE PAGE.
CHRISTINE HINTON. PAULINE KARNS DENISE GRIFFIN JOY SELWOOD
SANDRA MERRITT GLYNIS WREN ROSALIND AMORE, MISS NETHERCOTT

LEFT TO RIGHT SECOND ROW
SALLY TILL GARY HINTON CLIVE ODY CHRISTOPHER UPTON
PETER STERLING IVOR ANDOW JOHN OGBOURNE JIMMY CLARKE
NIGEL CROCKER KENNY COTTRELL IAN SHARPE NICHOLAS THOMAS?

LEFT TO RIGHT THIRD ROW
JOSIE ATKINS KATHLEEN SCUTTS GLYNIS HANCOCK CHRISTINE RAYNER
CHRISTINE BLANCHETT DIANNE CAMPBELL JANET EWEN
ELIZABETH PULLOM.

LEFT TO RIGHT FRONT ROW
C EMERY RAY FRENCH VICTOR HIBBERD BRIAN PURNELL
GARY CUFF CHRISTOPHR MERRITT DAVID WILTSHIRE

Ody family farmed at Hambrook farm

Children regularly played football on the road outside Goldborough. They made posts out of pullovers and coats and on the rare occasion they heard a car coming they grabbed their "posts" and stood at the side of the road in readiness to continue their game when the car had passed.

30-40 Irish cattle were bought to feed on the lush Cotmarsh grass for 6 months of the year and Nigel was "paid" a bottle of tizer for shutting gates and keeping an eye on the cattle, an added bonus was you got 3d back when you returned the bottle!.

Fondly reminiscing about the hospitable Sheppard bus business who laid on free village annual outings to either Swanage or Weymouth, Nigel stresses the specialness of these days and his fury on the occasion when his younger brother tripped hitting his thigh. That particular year ended up in hospital ruining the eagerly anticipated annual event.

Now-a-days we complain about the length of Broad Town and the lack of places to park if we venture from one end of the village to the other, however, back in the 1940's the length of the village was not an issue to walk or cycle. Nigel thought nothing of going from Goldborough to above Pantyick hangings scrumping. As with all courageous 10 year olds he equally well remembers encountering the wrath of the furious owner (Mr Topp)!

Albert Molden (Nigel's Grandfather) used to walk from Cirencester to Purton to date Nigel's Grandmother (Carrie pictured below).

Nigel's passion for farming led to his first job in Pound Farm Lyneham where he happily worked for 8 years. Enthralling stories about ladies in Purton bringing out their milk jugs to be filled and a horse that knew its way round all the villages led to Nigel wanting to follow in Mr Pagington's footsteps by buying his own milk round in 1966.

The milk came from Wootton Bassett dairy to the dairy (or latterly enlarged cold store) at Goldborough daily and covered a 30 mile radius covering Broad Town, Bushton, Tockenham and Clyffe Pypard. This enterprising and entrepreneurial 23 year old took on a 30 gallonage business and turned it into a 105 gallonage business employing many part-time staff to help with the round.

The business grew further by diversifying and adding 70 non-milk products to an already busy round.

Nigel experienced the socio-economic changes of the 60's and 70's first hand. His working day went from starting at 06:00 hours(7 days a week) to starting at 02:50 to ensure customers had their milk before they went to work.

Nigel describes these happy years as a "privilege" in getting to know a lot of people. Listening to Nigel's story you can't help wondering whether it was the Customers who had the "privilege" of Nigel's amicable, amiable, warm-hearted kindly character. There can't be many business men who have poems written about them (see the poem and letter below written by Lyn and Paul Withey) and there certainly aren't many who have been awarded an MBE!

NIGEL!! The Slowest Milkman in the West

You could hear the tappits scream
As he trundled 'round the green
He rumbled into Wood Street
With his badge upon his chest
His name was Nigel!
And he was the slowest Milkman in the West

(Chorus: Nigel! And he drove the slowest milk-cart in the West)

Now Nigel had a wife
A lady known as Ann
She lived with him in Broad Town
(Where he always parked his van)
Folks said she was too good for him
She was haughty, fair and chic
But Nigel took her on his round
Three times every week

Chorus ... ...

She said she'd like to bathe in milk
He said "Alright, Sweetheart"
And one night after work
He nicked some off the cart
He said "D'ya want some yoghurt?"
(He had some going cheap)
She said "Nigel, I'll be happy
If you'll stop being such a creep!"

Chorus ... .

Now Nigel had a rival-
An evil looking man
Called Big Bad Paul from Bushton*
And he drove a Kennet van
He tempted Ann with his Market talk
And a promise of foreign trips
All Nigel had to offer
Was dodgy knees and hips

(Poor Nigel... ...and he drove the slowest milkcart in the West)

Nigel was only sixty
He didn't want to die
So he parked his van and went home with Ann
To enjoy a life of leisure
Determined to seek for them both
A retirement devoted to pleasure

Chorus

But a woman's needs are many fold
Poor Ann..she's stuck with Nigel
But as they laze at home....

...Is that the trees a-rustling...
or the hinges on the gate
Or Paul a rattling the gold tops
As they moulder in the crate.....

They won't forget Nigel... ....

Chorus... ... ...

* Yes!! We know it should say Clyffe Pypard ... but it doesn't work!!

6th November 2003.

Dear Nigel

Thank you for your letter. We were so sorry to hear that you will no longer be delivering milk to us.

We shall miss your bright cheerful demeanour as you deliver milk in all winds and weather ....I understand, from conversations with longer standing residents, that you were one of the few who managed to get here in the bad winter of 1963 ... we will really miss the wonderful service that you have given us

We were particularly touched by the fact that you stated that some customers had actually become friends over the years, I hope that we were included in that statement... ... ...

(Having said that... ..friends wouldn't leave us in the lurch in the way that you have elected to do... ... dodgy hips, wonky knees... what next... typical bloke!! You've got to whinge about it to all and sundry... ... ... I work in an office... .you'd know what pain was if you had a paper cut or two... ... ..)

TO HECK EVERY ONE ELSE.....WE HAVE A LEGALLY BINDING CONTRACT WITH YOU.....WE STILL EXPECT TO HAVE OUR MILK DELIVERED TO THE DOORSTEP....OTHERWISE WE WILL HAVE NO ALTERNATIVE BUT TO CONSULT OUR SOLICITORS..... SUEM, GRABBIT & SCARPER.....THEN YOU'LL BE SORRY!!!!!!!!!!!!!

Yours, in a litigious frame of mind

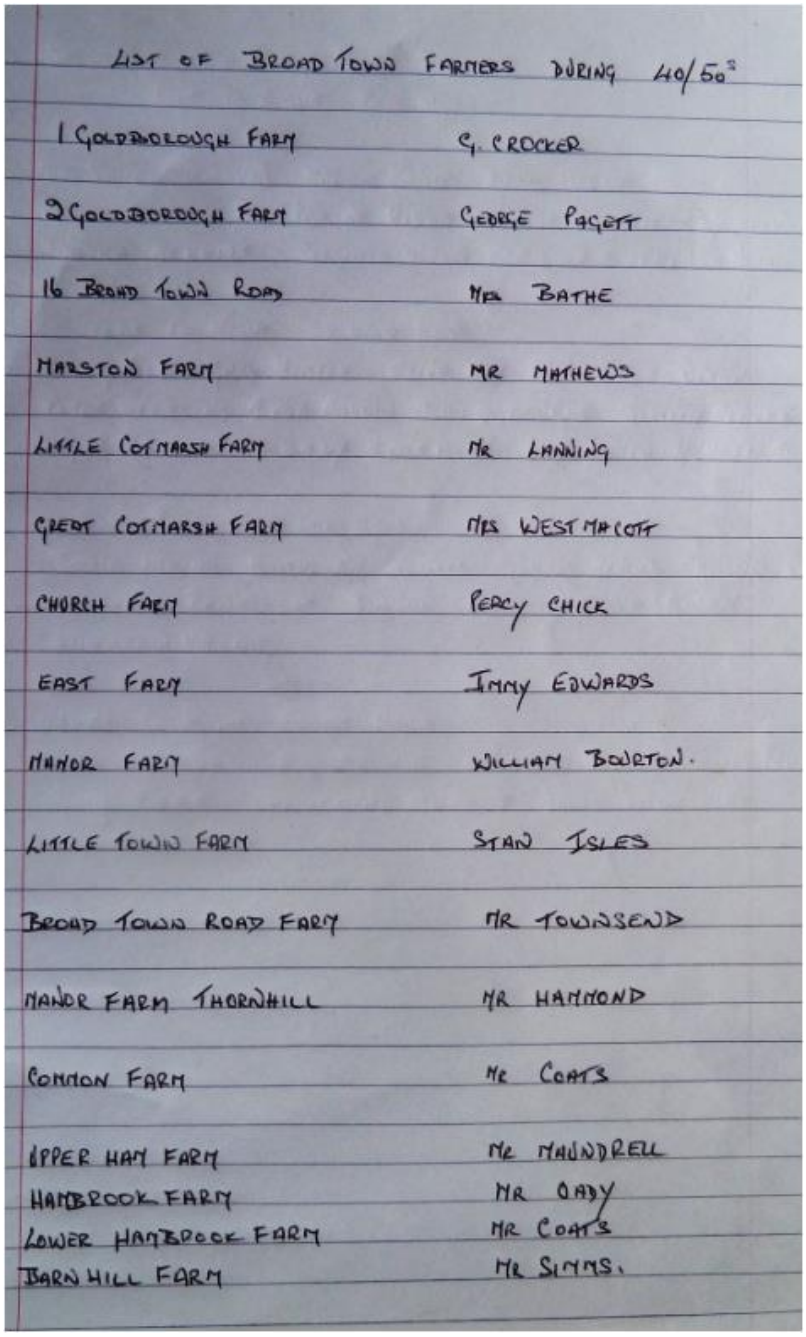
Paul + Nigel

As the adage goes "**behind every successful man**, there is a strong **woman**" and Ann was and still is that strong woman!

Nigel and Ann got together in 1992 following a longstanding friendship and they married in 1994.

Ann worked with Nigel from 2000 for 3 days a week starting at 6:45 am. After she finished the round at 09:45am she started her second job working for a Vet in Wroughton. Nigel and Ann retired in 2005.

Nigel remarks on how the village has changed. When he was a lad Broad Town had many farms all stocked with milking cows – today the farmhouses are now modernised contempory homes and the fields are empty of cows. In the 1950's school leavers could happily find employment in the local farms, however, today any youngsters with farming dreams find themselves devoid of local work opportunities.



LIST OF BROAD TOWN FARMERS DURING 40/50's

1 GOLDBOROUGH FARM	G. CROCKER
2 GOLDBOROUGH FARM	GEORGE PAGETT
16 BROAD TOWN ROAD	MR BATHE
MARSTON FARM	MR MATHEWS
LITTLE COTMARSH FARM	MR LANNING
GREAT COTMARSH FARM	MRS WESTMACOTT
CHURCH FARM	PERCY CHICK
EAST FARM	JIMMY EDWARDS
MANOR FARM	WILLIAM BOURTON.
LITTLE TOWN FARM	STAN ISLES
BROAD TOWN ROAD FARM	MR TOWNSEND
MANOR FARM THORNHILL	MR HAMMOND
COMMON FARM	MR COATS
UPPER HAM FARM	MR MAUNDRELL
HAMBROOK FARM	MR OADY
LOWER HAMBROOK FARM	MR COATS
BARN HILL FARM	MR SIMMS.

Nigel remembers no trees on the hangings in fact the Topps used to burn the grass on an annual basis.

About 20 years ago Nigel recalls a landslip where a large area of the hangings slipped on to the road depositing a white porridge like glue.

Nigel remembers both shops in the village and Mrs Mapson (Post Office) and Miss Little (Old shop) where 4 black jacks cost 1d! The Chapel in Chapel Lane was where Nigel as child went to have his hair cut.

Prior to the Broad acre development the land was glass houses where a market garden operated from.

Nigel's current house (Barbury) was built in the garden of the Post Office and East Farm used to be where Yew Tree Drive is currently. The current East Farm house was built when the old farmhouse belonging to Jimmy Edwards burnt down.

Broad Town show was another annual event that everybody looked forward to. There was a large barn to the left of Preacher corner (Chapel Lane) that housed an annual barn dance after the show. The barn was demolished and two houses were built on the land.

Nigel had the forethought to capture the life stories of Herbert Bishop, Lily Wheeler, Irene Chivers, Gwendoline Parker and Dorothy Hillier. These are shared below ……

6th November 2000.

Herbert Sidney Bishop was born to Peascilla & Alfred John in 1914 on the 6th April.

He shared the Family Home at 89 Moras Lane with his sisters Winifred (know as Winnie) Elsie, Mildred and Phyllis also Edward Stan and Alf.

In 1915, the family moved down into the village, to No 57 and there he lived with his mother until her death on 19th Jan 1970. He has lived there on his own ever since.

When he was old enough, he started school at Broad Town school and was taught by Mrs Finn and Miss Stocker who lived in the school house

(1)

After leaving school at 14 he started work at Wootton Bassett to a local coalman who used to buy a truck of coal and Herbert would hold the bags open for them to be filled to the correct mark before being delivered to houses in and around Wootton Bassett.

He

After six months he became old enough to apply for a job in The Factory, Great Western Railway.

He worked there as a boiler maker until he was called up to do service in the Army in 1940.

This he did and served 6yrs in the Far East enduring many horrific experiences in Jungle warfare and was glad to have weighing only 7½ stone But with 4 medals. He still takes an active part in the remembrance celebrations across the country whenever possible.

After the war he came back home and took up his former job at The Factory cycling to the Station at Wootton Bassett and catching the workmans train into Swindon for this a small charge was fixed.

After a while, another worker a Mr Len Sheppard,

purchased a small coach which he drove to Wootton Bassett station. There he left his coach and everyone boarded the train to work.

The coach also picked up anyone else who wanted to have a lift to the station to enable them to catch the train.

Much later, there was a regular coach service which took people into Wootton Bassett and Swindon on a regular basis, as many as three times a day. The last one returning at about ten o'clock and this enabled people to go to "The Pictures" or other social activities.

Mr Loveday lived at the Lawns and from the Chapel

As a young boy, Herbie used to attend the Weslyn Chapel with his brothers and Sisters also his mother when she had the time up to three times each Sunday and well remembers getting dressed into his clean shirt and trousers before taking his place on the Platform to give his recital. This was usually done in July at the yearly anniversary and involved all choirs from Swindon taking part. For this special occasion the Chapel was full, everyone enjoying the service a regular sunday school of about 80 children also attended regularly until probably in 1948 the chapel closed down and became a private dwelling.

(2)

Herbert's father was a Draymen, working for the local Brewery in Broad Town. He drove two horses delivering to Public Houses as far a part as Calne and Devizes (Devizes) working very long hours. closed about 1917 He later took a job with Herbert at the Factory

Herbert remembers visiting the Post Office which was being run by two brothers, Henry & Paul Bathe they also owned premises at No 76 Horns Lane which they used as a slaughter house known as

The Cellars.

Blood would often run down the stream that still flows behind 76/77 Horns Lane..

killing pigs by hanging them up on a joist attached to the roof when in this position their throat would be cut and the spilling blood would fall into the stream which flowed down at the rear of the premises they would then butcher the pigs before delivering and selling the meat to their local customers.

After the death of one of them and the closure of the Slaughter house, many carcasses were found partly buried and decomposing. The Health Authorities ordered that they be removed and buried properly which they were in the corner field under the hill above the Allotments.

Miss Priscilla Bishop also was the caretaker to the New Village Hall, a series of huts bought from the government and surplus to requirements after the 1914-18 war. It was built on staddle stones on land owned by a Mr Paine who lived and farmed at Manor Farm, he leased the land for a small sum of money. and soon a youth club was formed where children could play on billiard tables tennis tables play cards & dominoes and other activities

When people died they were placed on a cart known as a Shelley Bearer, a crude four wheeled cart, pulled by two people in front and pushed by two others at the rear. This cart was kept at the Vicarage and was wheeled down to the church where the vicar, Mr Faucher performed the ceremony

Harbin had a passion for motor bikes and had several over the years a B.S.A being one of his favorites.
In 1960 he purchased his first car of which he has had several his latest being a Mini.
When he has time he enjoys doing the garden, growing vegetables and flowers and relaxes listening to music, watching T.V. or reading.

Interesting facts about Broadtown

(2) A Waterwheel was attached to the rear of the Brewery and was fed from the stream running alongside believed to be the source of the river Avon. The wheel was the only power used to drive machinery at the Brewery It used to grind corn amongst other things and had its own mill pond. Closed down probably 1916.
Corn was stored at the Rick Barton, now the site of East End cottage.

East Farm House (now the site of Yew Tree cottages) was lived in by Mr Mascal who with other farmers would drive their cattle into Wootton Bassett on Wednesday: which was market day.
With the help of a hand cruise
On returning, they would bring cow cake! back in open wagons known as boat wagons. drawn by two horses.
Cow Cake was delivered into the station by truck and came loose or in slabs. for ease of transporting.
Horton's who farmed at Wintercombe Monkton were the first Farmers in the area to own a Lorry which they used to take their milk into Wootton Bassett Mkt. Station

where it was loaded straight onto waiting trains, all other farmers used horse and cart to do the same thing. The "milk train" waited in a siding at the west end of the station and the churns were loaded strait onto the train.
Later a siding was cut from the main line into the dairy from the east side of the station and bulk tanks were shunted in overnight to take milk after treatment had been carried out up to London probably Wood Lane Dairy. After a few years road transport became more popular and more efficient so that road tankers took over, eventually in about 1980 the siding was closed and filled in.

Annie Maud was the publican at the Queens Head at about 1920 and always wore white starched aprons, these she kept hanging on nails around the saloon whilst waiting to be worn. Her husband Mr J. Maud kept horses and and used them pulling a Tub! as a taxi service. Later Mr & Mrs Sheppard took over the Pub.

Mr Henry Ledgrove (Frank's grandfather) lived at the back lane in the 1920 whilst keeping his six cattle in a shed and a field at Elmside. Twice daily after milking he would carry the milk in buckets on a yolk over his shoulders up to his house for cooling. Here he would strain the milk and with the house of a seperator take off cream. His wife would then take the milk cream and seperated milk around the village door to door selling the liquid which she would ladle out into a jug using a pint measure.

Behind village Hall

Mrs Reeves & Miss Telling kept the village shop around the 1930 onwards. and whilst clearing some cupboards out one day came across the paper pattern which Her uncle a Mr Symmond used when he cut the White Horse many years earlier. He lived at a place called Cobbler Hall

* Beyond Kilkenton

later the shop was closed down and sold to two school teachers 1970?

A Mr Sloper who managed a diapers shop in Marlborough travelled down through the village fortnightly selling clothes and shoes from the back of a small truck. When the business failed after several years he committed suicide by cutting his own throat. about 1930.

October 2000

Lily Margaret Wheeler Nee Bishop was born in a thatched cottage built next to the road at the lower end of the village next to Thorncroft in or about 1930. She had three sisters Eileen Pearl and Kathleen and a brother John.

Her father worked and owned a market garden, now the site known as Broadacres, for many years along with his wife Mary.

Eventually a Mr Scratchley formed a partnership with Mr & Mrs Bishop and together covered a large area with greenhouses growing tomatoes & lettuces for local markets.

Lily went to school at Broadtown Church of England and then later Euclid Street Secondary School Swindon.

She married Douglas Wheeler and had two sons Nigel Robert & Phillip Douglas. When she was able to she returned to work as a Cook Supervisor at Foxdale School where she stayed for 23 years until she retired.

On the death of her mother she returned to 50A Broad town, Mary's Place and is still living there at present. Although Douglas died in She has 4 grandchildren Joanne, Greig (Nigels) Ricky & Tracy (Phillips)

Her hobbies are gardening, Line dancing, Ballroom, dancing Swimming Gym and Computers!

Fred Poole was a cobbler who lived with her sister in law and worked in a small shed in the garden of Jasmine Cottage. He also drove a coach for Mr Len Sheppard taking workmen to Lyneham Camp.

Irene Beatrice Mary Clivers was born to William Thomas & Elizabeth Agnes Clivers on 26th February 1936 at No 83 Back Lane Broad Town She has two Sisters Princess Elizabeth, November 29th 1914 Elsie Joy April 13th 1924 and one brother William Edward August 19th 1921 After a while they moved to 82 Back Lane and then down to No 55 Red Hills before moving to No 59 Red Hills in 1961 where she continues to live.

She started School at Broad Town where she was taught by Miss Skelley and Mrs Wise. Mrs Reece was the Head teacher and would administer the rules as a deterrent for any trouble.

On her way to school she would often encounter a Billy goat which would torment her whilst being tethered in the Close. Race horses being exercised up and down the Hill were also a threat as was Mr Edwards cows as they were driven down the road from East End Farm to their fields next to the school. It was not unusual to encounter American soldiers, accompanied by outriders on motorcycles driving tanks and armoured vehicles up the Hill during the early mornings.

As a young girl she would exercise neighbors dogs, sometimes receiving a half penny or preferably a toffee.

At the age of 11 in 1947 she was struck with Polio and spent 2 weeks in the Chippenham isolation Hospital She was then moved to Bath on Nov 3rd 1947 to the Orthopedic Hospital where she stayed until Dec 22nd 1948.

During this time she was visited ~~one~~ on two days each month

the first Sunday and the second Saturday by her mum and dad who paid Mr Sheppard £20 for the journey. During this time she received schooling two days each week.

When she left Hospital and returned home it was with a caliper on each leg, steel brace around her body and splints on both hands and it was necessary to be taken to Stratton Hospital twice weekly for Physiotherapy until she could manage without her aids.

She left school at the age of 15 and was very good at knitting which she enjoyed doing for anyone who wanted jumpers scarves gloves etc also baby sitting at the age of 17 she was paid 18/6p per week for her disability and started caring for older people Elsie Bull, Mrs Wise and later Mr Dyer.

Her own parents died in Feb 22nd 1978 (Father). and 1981 (Mother) both are buried in Broad Town Churchyard.

Whilst growing up she was encouraged to go to church on Sunday mornings and afterwards she stayed on to help Mrs Wise ~~took~~ with the Sunday School. which she did for many years.

One of the chores which she had to do each day was to collect water from the stream which flowed down through the garden close-by there being no running water as such. It was also necessary to place socks over her shoes to avoid slipping over the cobbles which ran Between Nos 88 89 90 and 82 and 83. She also remembers sliding down the hill through the snow and in the summer in the grass getting her knickers green. Also Mrs Mary Bishops House Owner of the tasks was to being burnt down. 1944.

Whilst living at 82.

born 1889. Irene's father was a carter working at Cockscoost Farm for many years. In 1914 he joined the Veterinary Corps and was sent to France to look after the injured horses. He was also a very keen gardener, kept chickens and pigs whenever possible.

Her mother was born in 1890 probably in a house at Littletown known as Snowhill and worked as a cook at Cockscoost until she was 16 when her father died. She purchased a Mrs Beaton cookery book for 1/- and with this extra knowledge and confidence went to London and became a general cook with her sister until the time of her marriage. Her uncle Richard Comely also lived at Snowhill until he fell asleep after having a pint! and a candle which was lighting the room, fell and set the house on fire.

They were married at Broad Town church on August 29TH. 1914. ~~and Her father~~

Her father died on February 22ND 1978
" mother " 1981

both are buried in the churchyard

Irene's grandmother would tell her the story when she would send her daughters down to the Brewery with a halfpenny for a jug of Balm. This was the froth of the yeast which was then used to make home made bread - very delicious!

She is a member of the British Polio Fellowship. visits the Day centre at Marlborough to practise Handicrafts Broad Hinton for Happy Hour and Contact at Wootton Bassett

Her hobbies include crosswords, jigsaw puzzles, sewing knitting embroidery handicrafts and reading.
She also has a very keen interest in all wildlife including butterflies and birds which she feeds daily.

Farmers

Mrs Little	at
Mr Stan Matthews	
Mr Couch	Church Farm
Mr Edwards	East Farm.
Mr Boulton	Manor Farm
Mr Townsend	3 or 4 cows milked at bottom Holes Lane.
Mr Hicks	Little Town.

January 2001

Gwendolin Rose Pallot nee Hayward was born to Frederick Charles and Alma nee Webb on March 22nd 1913

Mr Webb was a boilermaker by trade while his wife Alma worked at Compton. They lived in Gorse Hill and Alma died in 1970.

Gwen had two brothers!

She started school at Queendown School in College Street being taught by Miss Holliday, she progressed to Head girl before leaving at 14 yrs.

Her first job was as a shorthand typist with Skurrays a garage and Showroom in Old Town she had returned to night school in order to learn her skill.

Gwen and Tony met at Clarence street School and they both joined the Great Western Sports Club. Tony worked in the Mileage office at the Factory then entered the School of Economics

They married in St Marks Church Swindon on 7th Sept 1940 and travelled to Salcombe for their Honeymoon. where amongst other things they watched fireworks from across the river.

They returned to 38 Southview Avenue Swindon which they purchased for £530.00.

Tony taught at night school in order to earn extra money and was soon made up to Deputy Manager for British Rail.

Their daughter Josephine was born on January 7th 19 and the family then moved to London

On April 14th 1972 they moved to GWAR HAPSI in Broad Town the name being that of a Maltese Bay which they had grown very fond of during their many visits.

After retirement they helped run the Wootton Bassett Luncheon Club at Ridgeway House which had 30 members for about 19 yrs.

Gwen was also a member of the Town Womens Guild, Westbrook Bowls Club where she reached County level, Treasurer to the Church, President to W.I. and served on Hgve Concern Committee

Gwen and Tony enjoyed many holidays together over the years, visiting especially America Alaska, Canada and Africa many times. The Caribean, Malta and Spain were also favorite places.

In June 2000 whilst having her hair painted she fell off a chair, resulting the breaking of her right Femur in her leg. This meant a stay of 5 weeks in Princess Margarets Hospital and 13 weeks convalescing in the Cedars Home Purton.

She later returned home and with the help of a Zimmer frame and sticks managed her life very well. Her home became a bit much for her and so she looked for a Flat in Wootton Bassett This she managed to buy and in February of 2001 moved into 21 The Mallbury's

Thank you Karen for your wonderful words of love and reflection and comfort...

And it's to Dorothy's calling and welcome into the kingdom of heaven... that we come together in song for today's chosen hymn 'Lord Of All Hopefulness'

Hymn: 'Lord Of All Hopefulness'

Page 101
Green Books

words as per OOS

Dorothy Hillier; A Life Well Lived

As you can imagine it is impossible in just a few minutes to portray in words the life of a woman who has lived such a full and varied 92 years, and no portrait no matter how good will be a complete reflection to those of you who knew Dorothy well.

All I can really do is sketch her picture, but I will ask for you to fill in the colours of this proud, hardworking, thoughtful and kind, family orientated woman..

Born into a close and supportive family in Wootton Bassett (*as was known back then*) on the 29th November 1923; Dorothy was one of 10 children to her parents Mary and Charlie Hacker, (*who passed away when Dorothy was a young girl*).

Now as you can imagine growing up in a large family, in the depression years of 1920's and 30's without their dad, life for Dorothy and her siblings was no bed of roses; times were often very tough.. indeed Dorothy thought nothing of walking the three miles to go to school and in later years many more miles to complete her work commitment.

And it was in all those kinds of environments that Dorothy's own strength of character was forming, particularly her strong will, determination and resilience....

Determined to do things her way, Dorothy was resolute, focused and fuelled by a need to be her own person, which in fairness, she accomplished in countless ways until the very end...

She was certainly unwavering in her love for her husband Reg whom she married on the 19th September 1942.

Throughout their good, lengthy and meaningful marriage, Dorothy and Reg shared so much, especially their pleasure in going dancing.

Dorothy derived so much pleasure from those dance meets with friends and family alike; she loved to get dressed up in her gowns.

They set up home together in Redhills (*the family home ever since*). It was a house that they chose themselves, and at that time it didn't even have a road leading to it... but it a house that Dorothy quickly set about turning into a home with a

warm welcome for everyone to visit ... *not that she went house-hopping herself I hasten to add.*

It was indeed a loving home where Dorothy and Reg raised their seven children David, Brian, Bob, Susan, Daphne and the twins Allan and Keith; all of whom they wanted the very best for... *well except when Allan brought another tractor home to refurbish that is!*

That aside, Dorothy was always there for them, in-fact she was more than simply her children's mum, she was an engaging, positive influence, offering support, guidance and encouragement. *Nothing was ever too much trouble when it came to her family, even getting up at 3am in the morning to cook them a good breakfast!*

But then, that was another talent of Dorothy's, she was a good cook, providing it was traditional meat and vegetables, pies and puddings that is... *oh, and a good fry up* for breakfast!

But looking after seven children who were busy in their own pursuits, Dorothy needed to maintain order and was very punctual when it came to meal times...

Lunch was 12.00 noon
4pm was tea.

And it was that same loyalty, love and counsel that Dorothy afforded to her 36 grandchildren; 19 great grandchildren and 7 great-great grandchildren; all of whom she loved and adored and so looked forward to seeing whenever possible or hearing of their news, developments and achievements.

Exceptionally proud of her ever growing family, their photos adorned Dorothy's walls, ***in-fact the filled just about every inch of wall space***!

But no matter what the size of her family, she never forgot a birthday, Christmas or celebration; she never failed to buy a special gift or Easter Egg.. *in-fact whenever you visited you always left with something extra*; be it vegetables that she'd grown in the garden (*indeed Dorothy was tending her garden well into her late 80's*) or one of the many Christmas cakes, chocolate logs, or puddings (complete with a thrupenny bit and lots of Brandy!) that she'd made!