

A Double Diamond

Jack Busby was born in his grandparents' farmhouse in Ascott-under-Wychwood on the corner of the High Street, latterly owned by Harry Cook. Joshua rented the farm from the Cornbury Estate and his wife ran the little shop. In 1933 Jack and his family, he was one of six children, moved to Swinbrook Road in Shipton.



critics wrong as they prepare to celebrate their Diamond Wedding anniversary. Jack's father gave Phyllis away and her sister Kay stood as witness. The ceremony was followed by a reception at the home of Jack's parents.

On the Normandy Beaches

Jack's father had been badly wounded in the Battle of the Somme in the First World War and had been unable to work, so he took care of the family while his wife worked at Shipton Court. When he left school, Jack worked in the gardens at Shipton Court and Dean Manor. At the age of 17, in 1943, he signed up for the Royal Marines and spent his 18th birthday on the Normandy beaches.

Phyllis was born and grew up on a farm at Pudlicote; she was the youngest of a family of eight. When she left school she found work looking after poultry for the MacKinnons at Capps Lodge.

Jack and Phyllis met at a dance at the Beaconsfield Hall in January 1948; Jack must have truly swept Phyllis off her feet, because on 31st July that year they were married at the Registry Office in Chipping Norton. Phyllis recalls being told "you've made your bed and you must lie on it" but they have proved the

Prestigious Jobs

Jack took a job in the gardens at Bradwell Grove with free accommodation provided. When he asked for a pay-rise he was given an extra 10/- per week but had to pay 8/- in rent, so he looked around for another job. He joined Alfred Groves and Sons in the joiners' shop but rose to be foreman, supervising prestigious jobs such as the alterations to Gatcombe Park for Princess Anne and Captain Mark Phillips and works for Prince and Princess Michael of Kent and for David and Pamela (nee Mountbatten) Hicks.

On June 21st 1949, Jack and Phyllis were blessed with identical twin boys, Howard and Rodney, born in Chipping Norton Hospital. Until the first baby was born Phyllis had no idea they would be twins! They now have four grandchildren and one great-granddaughter, Jasmine, who will be joining them, along with many friends, for a very special lunch to celebrate sixty happy years. We send our congratulations and best wishes to you both.

Christine Halliday

Works Wonders!

Who would have believed that we could be celebrating two Diamond wedding anniversaries on the same day? But July 31st 2008 will definitely be a double diamond day for John and Cicely Miller were also married then. Cicely was born in Wales but moved to Milton, her father's home village, when she was 12 years old and has lived in the same house in Pear Tree Close ever since! She recalls that, when she first arrived in the village, Kath Cooper took her under her wing and they have been close friends ever since.

By Design

John was born in Mitcham in Surrey and was living in Brighton when war broke out. Not being fit enough for active service he was sent to Witney to work on Hurricanes and Spitfires in the de Havilland factory. And that is where they met, when Cicely, who worked in the office, was persuaded to go to a dance with John. In fact they only danced the first and last dances together on three separate dates, but he did not give up. The wedding took place at the church of St Simon and St Jude in Milton and Cicely was attended by four bridesmaids. A lady in Hailey, who was a Court dressmaker, made all the wedding dresses and the bridesmaids' hats. The reception was held in the old Legion hut. Cicely has been involved in amateur dramatics and performed in the Milton



pantomime for many years. She also sang with the Choral Society. When Mrs Scott started a Brownie pack, Cicely became *Tawny Owl* and eventually *Brown Owl* John's great love was also music; as a talented pianist he had taught himself to play the piano accordion! His Saturday nights were busy playing with a dance band called *The Stardusters* earning him the princely sum of £1 per performance.

Dance to the Music of Time

John served as Chairman of the Milton Village Hall Committee for 41 years. His 'retirement' from that voluntary job was reported in Volume 22, Issue No. 4. He has probably fixed most things that needed fixing over the years and Vi Miles frequently visited their house, letting him know what jobs were needed! They attended many dances in Shipton and Milton over the years. Cicely said that it cost 6d to dance in Milton, but Shipton charged 1/-! This wonderful couple still spend Friday afternoons at a tea dance in Witney - sequence and ballroom being their favourites. Their recipe for a long and happy marriage is to do everything together - even the housework!

And are they having an anniversary party? Of course they are! A dance party with their two daughters, their husbands and their two grandchildren, Elizabeth and Samuel plus many friends.

Long may you both continue to dance to the music of time!

Christine Halliday