

## Vera Shepherd (nee Trinder)

Vera Ellen Trinder was born on 22<sup>nd</sup> January 1921. Her father, Percy Upton (b.1892 d. 4/02/53) was foreman to the Walkers of Rectory Farm. He married Naomi Ruth Knapp (?) (b.1897 d. 3/11/84) who had been in service at Burghclere House (?). Vera, her brother, Percy, and sister, Sylvia, were brought up in Chillingworth House, on the corner of Bell Lane and the High Street.

When Rectory Farm changed hands and Andrew Bell, a Scotsman took over, Percy did not enjoy the change of management, so, on Armistice Day, November 11<sup>th</sup> 1918, he gave in his notice and left.

In 1924 he acquired Hill Farm which consisted of fields to the east of Ladder Hill and barns, known to some as Howe Barns, on the opposite side. They had a mixed herd of about eighteen cows, which were milked here and had to cross the road each morning and evening. *(There is a photograph in the Archive of this, and another of the haymaking.)* Water was pumped up from the stream, running down from Coombe Wood and piped across the road to the sterilisation unit in the barns. Vera remembers this water as 'clear, sparkling, and very good to drink'. They also had a few sheep, (tegs), which were bought in the market at Binsey Lane, and there was a sheep fair every autumn. Crops were sowed in rotation: wheat, oats, barley and root crops for the cows. They also kept Hampshire Down sheep which were sold for £5 each. *(There is a photograph in the Archive of Sylvia 'with a lamb.)*

Percy and Vera's father continued to farm but, when he died on 4<sup>th</sup> February 1953, aged 61, Percy (junior) was unable to secure the tenancy as the land was more valuable for building.

Vera was a member of the Land Army from 1939 - 1945 working on her father's farm. She remembers going round the village during the war delivering milk from a chum balanced on the handlebars on the front of her bicycle. By the end of the war, the milk was bottled. As there were seven milk rounds in the village, the bottles were labelled so that they could be returned to be re-used.

Vera is also an active member of the Congregational/United Reformed Church in Wheatley, and was married to Frederick Bruce Shepherd on 11<sup>th</sup> May 1946. They moved in to Breach Close (now known as 29 Littleworth Road). They had two children, Adrian b.2/10/1947, and Isabel b. 26/6/1953. Vera died in July 2004.