

Miss Patricia Mulcahy-Morgan

Pat Mulcahy-Morgan was born on 27th May 1920 in Kenya where her father, a Wing-Commander during the First World War, had bought a coffee plantation. She was educated at Limuru Girls School, Kenya and later, at Cheltenham Ladies' College. Her two brothers and sister, Anne, were all brought up and educated in Kenya.

She came to Oxford in 1938 where she did a degree in Modern History. During the war (1944-1946) she signed up with the British Red Cross as a Welfare Officer, working in military hospitals in Italy.

Her teaching career began in 1941 at Twyford School in Winchester. This was followed by a year at the Dragon School in Oxford, and another at Bartrum Gables School in Woolacombe, before she moved back to Kenya.

She taught at Kenya High School for a year in 1947 and, between 1948-1954, she was an executive in the Kenya National Farmers' Union.

In 1957 Pat became a Teacher-trainer at Kagumo College and later, Headmistress of Embu Girls' School 1964-1969.

She returned to Oxfordshire in the 1970's and bought one of the new terrace houses in Crown Road, Wheatley. Between 1970 -1974 she was a teacher, housemistress and, later, second mistress at St Felix School, Southwold.

When she retired, Pat became very active in village life: she was a member of the Women's Institute, the Merry Bells Pensioners Club, the Conservative Club, and a devoted member of St Mary's Church. In 1991 she became a member of the Parish Council and served on the Merry Bells committee, up to her death. She held the keys and was clearly 'In Charge'!

Pat was highly intellectual and she enjoyed doing the Daily Telegraph crossword puzzle every day - often competing with like-minded friends to see who could complete it first. She was a keen member of the Wheatley Scrabble Club and somehow always managed to arrange that she was the player who had the board directly facing her - a huge advantage! Her formidable mind remained sharp - right up to within a few days before her death.

She was a great hoarder: she saved every newspaper, every notice that she ever put up on the village notice-board, and it was often extremely difficult to open her front door wide enough to be able to get inside!

She died, after a short illness, on 21st June 2008. She was truly, as stated in the Oxford Times, a 'stalwart of the village'.