

Nancy Elizabeth Young (2nd October 1929 – 18th January 2021) – A True Village Person



Nancy sadly passed away in Mostyn Lodge Care Home on 18th January. However, this last phase should not overshadow a full life spent almost exclusively in village environments. Nancy lived for 60 years in Compton Dando after moving to 1, Fairy Hill when her house was built in 1957. Her husband Bert moving to the village to become a cowman working for Brian Maggs.

Nancy was village born. Her parents were Cornish and she grew up in the village of Tideford between Saltash and Liskard. Here she went to school with her brother Ernest. Her father was originally in the Royal Navy, but later in life became the village postman as well as being a local cobbler in his spare time. During her early years Nancy would travel with her mother 'Aida' to visit her father where his ship

was in port elsewhere in England.

On leaving school at the age of fourteen Nancy worked in local shops before, like many girls her age, going into service for a family in Saltash. The family named 'Trehornes' were owners of Farley's Rusks. She claimed that her ability to cook came from the times she accompanied the family to their summer retreat near St Just. The family's cook did not travel and so, under instruction from the local butcher, Nancy learned to cook for the whole family.

In her early twenties Nancy met Robert (Bert), who at the time worked in a local market garden and delivered to the house. They married in 1953 initially living with Bert's parents in Saltash. It wasn't long before they felt the need for more independence and having applied for a farming job moved to the Buckinghamshire village of Wing. They did not stay for long as the farmer had a 'no children' rule and in 1954 their first born, Jean, came along. The next move was back to the west, but only as far as Wiltshire where they settled for the next few years on a farm at Kingston St Michael just outside Chippenham. The final move to their own house and home for the next 60 years came in 1957 with the move to Compton Dando.

Nancy and Bert became a firm part of the village at a time when cows were driven through the village centre twice a day for milking. In those days, with car ownership not common, Bath and Bristol seemed a long way to go! Nanette was born in 1960 to join Jean, now nearly six years old. Then in 1965 their son John was born to complete the family. All three attended the village school prior to its closure.

Both Nancy and Bert became central characters of Compton Dando, involving themselves in the Church and Village Hall. Indeed, the current Village Hall was developed from a very basic building to its current form whilst they were both committee members. A keen member of the Chew Valley Shove Ha'penny League. Nancy spent many happy evenings travelling with Bert to local hostelries to take part in matches. Later, after Bert's death, Nancy continued to play a full part in village life. She took up line dancing and worked with others to form the Compton Dando Community Association. Her White

Elephant stall was an annual spectacle at the village fete and her Lemon Meringue Pies were renown at other village functions.

Nancy continued to live at 1, Fairy Hill until March 2016 when failing health forced her to seek care at Mostyn Lodge in Keynsham. She continued living with the same spirit that marked her out as 'a true village person' until her passing in January. The family are holding a service and gathering in her memory at Compton Dando Church at 1.30pm on 19th July and afterwards in The Compton. It will be good to see people who knew Nancy at both events.