

WINIFRED BRAIN (1938–2010)



Winifred was born in 1938 in the Tchure in Deddington to Florence and Wilfred Harper; she was one of seven children. On leaving the Windmill School Winifred became a machinist at Spencer's, the corset makers, in Banbury. She married Stan and they had five children. Married life began at Great Tew, but Stan moved from his quarry work there to employment at Castle Farm, Deddington and the family was raised at Field Barn on the farm.

Winifred was pretty firm in the way she brought up the children. You were made to eat what was on your plate and if you got really difficult the copperstick was wielded. But she looked after the family well and there could be some wild fun – as with Winifred chasing her son David through the house brandishing her false teeth.

When the children were old enough, Winifred took cleaning jobs and eventually went to work in Tuckers Stores, which she greatly enjoyed. After this she worked at the Hotel Russell, moving on, following its closure, to the Sue Ryder shop in Banbury. Highly sociable, she loved helping her customers and made friends wherever she worked. When she and Stan divorced, Winifred moved into Windmill Street. She met Colin Summers and Colin and she worked the Windmill Street garden assiduously, Winifred's flowers being widely appreciated. Winifred was a member of the Deddington Ladies, the Friendship Club and of the trophy-winning ladies' darts team at the Crown and Tuns – this the more surprising considering the problems she had with her eyesight.

A great participator in village life, Winifred knew everyone and never had a hard word to say of any of them. A Deddingtonian born and bred, she was true and faithful to the community she loved.

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