

## John Williams and Dorothy Bone

John and Dorothy were married in St Andrew's on the 22 September 1951 by Reverend Lesley Kingsbury.



Dorothy grew up at Manor Farm, (now Church Farm) in Cotterstock from the age of six to the time of her wedding in 1951.

This is Manor Farm in the 1930s.





This is Dorothy aged 7 years outside the farmhouse.

Her parents Walter and Alice ran a mixed farm with milk being the main source of income. The herd consisted of around thirty cows, the majority being shorthorns and a few red polls too, they all had names: Honey, Blackbird, Bluebell and Ivy being mentioned over the years. There was a bull, Boris, and cattle for fattening. The milk was picked up by lorry and taken to the dairy in Peterborough.

Dorothy and her sister Margaret enjoyed riding their pony around the fields.

The farm had a number of arable fields around the village and at harvest time carts went up and down the road pulled by heavy horses.



Dorothy is pictured here riding on the hay cart.

During the war Dorothy and her sister Margaret worked alongside handsome Italian prisoners of war pulling flax in pasture planted up for the war effort.

Walter Bone was the village Air Raid Warden and he was responsible for ensuring the blackout. Dorothy remembered waves of bombers overhead which she learnt later marked the start of Operation Overlord.

Dorothy went to Leicester Art College to study dress design, adopting her second name, Helen. In Leicester she met her husband John Williams, the son of a local vicar, who was studying engineering at Cambridge.

John worked in the power industry and in 1966 was transferred with the family to Buenos Aires. On his return he continued to work on projects overseas while Helen pursued a career in public service in the NSPCC, as a prison visitor and as a Justice of the Peace. In the 1980s she returned to college to take a BA and MA in Fine Art and became a well-known artist, exhibiting in the Midlands. Dorothy died in 2015 aged 86.

We are grateful to their daughter, Victoria Mills, for this information and delightful photographs.