

IVY WELLS

1913-1995

IVY was born in Portsmouth on 26th November 1913 at 33 Cobourg Street, youngest child of WILLIAM TERENCE WELLS and MARY ANN JOSEPHINE WELLS.

IVY's mother had two families, the first were the THOMAS family and the second were WELLS.

The wells children were WILLIAM, LILIAN, CAROLINE, ALBERT and IVY, and they had a saying which gave the order of birth. It was "Will Lily Carry Bert and Ivy."

WILLIAM TERENCE, MARY and the children moved to 19 Coburg Street in 1918.

IVY attended Besant Road School, which was only a couple of hundred yards from home. When Ivy left school she started work at the Coop Bakery which was situated in Fratton Road. Her sister Carry had also previously worked there. She continued to live in Cobourg Street until her marriage to ROBERT (BOB) in 1936.

Ivy had four children TERENCE (TERRY) ROBIN (BOB) CHRISTOPHER (CHRIS) and WENDY. TERRY was born at Denmead, Ivy stayed with her sister Lillian for the birth, but the other children were born at home at "IVYDENE" 40 Lonsdale Avenue Portchester.

IVY was an accomplished pianist and gave piano lessons to local children for the princely sum of 6d a session. The piano was a black "PAPPS" upright, kept in the front room at 13 Nelson Road.

Once all of her children had started school Ivy worked full time at the Smith's Crisp factory in Mill Lane, Mile End (close to Dickens birth place). She worked there for 7-8 years, before moving to the College of Art in Anglesey Road as a catering assistant.

Ivy retired about 1973 and continued to live at 71 Cardiff Road with Bob until his death in 1988 and subsequently until her death in 1995.

An interesting tale from Ivy's childhood was the occasion when a drover was taking pigs to a local slaughter house on a hot summer's day.

Driving them through Cobourg Street, one pig took fright and bolted through their open front door, and promptly became stuck in the passageway. Apparently it took a lot of pushing and shoving before it could be returned to the street.

PS. early maps of Portsmouth show Coburg St
Later maps Cobourg St.