

NETHERAVON, HAXTON  
& FITTLETONS'

Past

Remembering our heritage



## 100 YEARS YOUNG...



SOME people might describe Mrs Dora Blake as being 100 years old today.

But after listening to her alert mind, snatches of poetry remembered accurately from her childhood, it's better to say that she's 100 years young.

Although she spends most of her time in bed at her home at Manor Cottages, Fittleton, this endearing centenarian still gets up to wind her clocks every day.

Mrs Blake (pictured left) is from an old West Lavington family, the Sawyers, who lived at Vine Villa. When she was six her father took over her grandfather's smallholding in the village.

Mrs Blake met her late husband Sidney, a carpenter at Fittleton, and they married at West Lavington in 1911. They had two sons and a daughter. Mr Blake died in 1940.

As a supply teacher, Mrs Blake taught at several schools including West Lavington and Pewsey.



## 108 and plenty to talk about!

FRIENDS and relatives helped Dora Blake celebrate her 108th birthday on Sunday.

Mrs Blake attended West Lavington village school a century ago, before moving to Fittleton, where she lived for more than 80 years.

Only last November, at the ripe old age of 107, did Mrs Blake move into a residential home.

She now spends her days listening to religious music on the radio while crocheting, but according to home matron Carmel Vincent, Mrs Blake's favourite occupation is talking to anyone and everyone!



## Happy 108th Dora...

WILTSHIRE'S oldest person, Mrs Dora Blake celebrated her 108th birthday on Sunday.

Although she now lives at Daleacre Nursing Home at Market Lavington, up until the age of 107 she lived alone aided by her home help.

Dora was born at West Lavington and worked as a nursery governess, later moving to London.

She returned to live in West Lavington and was a schoolteacher in Market Laving-

ton for some years. After her marriage she moved to Figheldean where she lived for more than 60 years.

Mrs Blake still crochets for several hours each day and sent the Queen a shawl.

The Queen wrote back last month to say how impressed she had been by Mrs Blake's skill.

Mrs Blake has no difficulty in reciting poetry she learnt at the age of seven.

● Pictured are Dora and her son, Arthur, and his wife.

## Dora's getting on royally



Dora gets a birthday kiss from her great grandson

Dora gets a birthday kiss from her great grandson

## Grand old lady - at 108

RETIRED teacher Mrs Dora Blake, probably Wiltshire's oldest resident, yesterday toasted her 108th birthday.

Surrounded by her family, Mrs Blake sipped a celebration sherry at the Daleacre Nursing Home, Market Lavington, near Devizes.

The grand old lady has only been there a year, having lived on her own at Fittleton, near Salisbury, until she was 107. She has so far had four

messages of congratulations from the Queen.

Mrs Blake, a widow with three children, four grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren, spends her time crocheting.

She has just received a thankyou for a shawl she made specially for the Queen and sent to Balmoral.