

Day of surprises for golden couple

THE GOLDEN wedding of Phyllis and Harold White, of Lindsey Way, must have been one of the best kept secrets in Louth last week. Or so the couple thought! But at the weekend much to their amazement their family threw a surprise party for them to celebrate their fifty years of happy marriage.

It was back in 1935 when the couple first met in Louth. Phyllis was in the town for the day, and stopped to talk to Harold and his friend. Harold was much taken with the pretty young lady from Market Rasen, and three times a week, come rain or snow, he would cross the wolds on his motorcycle to visit her. Happily in those days petrol was only 18 old pence a gallon! Eventually Phyllis made life easier by moving into Louth, working in service. First in Newmarket, eventually ending up in the household of Mr Latter, the well-known local headmaster.

In March 1939, after four years of courting, Harold and Phyllis were married in a ceremony at Louth Register Office, Phyllis wearing a blue dress and navy coat and hat. "The licence cost 7/6 in those days, the same price as a dog licence," Harold said with a smile. "It used to bring about a lot of comments!"

Harold took his wife back to Alvingham, where he worked for four generations of the Shucksmith family, on their farm. Here they brought up their family of two sons, Graham and Jeffrey and daughter Brenda. And now they are also the proud grandparents of five youngsters, and one great-grandchild too.

The family were all great motorbike fans, and Sundays would see them all out on the Ariel, one sitting behind father and the others snugly fitted inside the sidecar. They owned three of these powerful English bikes, and spent many happy hours touring the countryside on them. But to-



day, since moving into Louth a year ago, they enjoy more sedate pastimes. Harold enjoys a good long walk, and Phyllis is a regular churchgoer at Holy Trinity.

Delighted to be celebrating their golden day, they put their long and happy marriage down to not being afraid of hard work. "We don't believe anyone who says they never have an argument," they both agreed, "of course we have had a few but we've never come to blows. We haven't done so bad over the years."

Mr Harold White worked on the Shucksmiths' farm for a total 36 years (over 4 generations). He was always extremely reliable and very hard-working. His wife, Phyllis, assisted Mrs Maureen Shucksmith with household chores whilst bringing up their family. Before retirement, they lived at "The Cottage", Church Lane, Alvingham.