

From the Diary Archives.....

In the **August 1998** edition of the *Diary* a letter appears from Kathie Roberts thanking all her friends who came to her surprise 90th birthday party at the village hall. Kathie was a Dolton girl. Born Hannah Katherine Hutchings at Hackwills, the daughter of Sydney Hutchings and his wife Sophia (née Bright). She attended Miss (Alice) Wadland's school between 1917 and 1924 at Arscotts (now called Shillings), before that school moved to Sages.

There is a photo on the Dolton website taken from the *Western Times*, July 1934 of her wedding at the Baptist chapel to Leonard Roberts from Courtiford. It says that she was living at the time at Fairlawn in Aller Road, which comes as no surprise when you learn that her grandfather William Hutchings, originally from Milton Damerl, built Fairlawn around 1890. Elsewhere on the Dolton website is an article from the following month (August 1934) indicating that Fairlawn was to be sold and it was at this time that Harold Bealey (Rosalie Allin's father) bought it and moved there from their current home in the cottage next door.

Kathie and Len farmed at Hackwills for many years. Later Kathie and her daughter Lorna moved to Barnstaple where, for many years, they ran a dress shop "Sally Richards" in Joy Street until the building of Green Lanes shopping centre meant the shop had to close in the early 1980's to make way for the new development. During her time there she made many friends and so it was not only Dolton which laid on a party for her 90th birthday; there were at least 2 others, maybe more. Kathie died at the end of 2005 at the grand age of 97 and her ashes are buried at Loxhore.