

**PRESS RELEASE**

26<sup>th</sup> August 2015

### **Rene makes a century at Russells Hall Hospital**

A patient at Russells Hall Hospital has celebrated her 100th birthday with family and hospital staff on the elderly care ward.

Irene May Savage of Wombourne was treated to a centenary celebration on the ward after her family got together with staff to make sure her special day was memorable.

Ward staff had a whip round to buy Irene a birthday cake and decorated her side room to help mark the momentous occasion.

Posing proudly for a photo with her son Mark, daughter-in-law Anne, and grandchildren Isobel and Rose, Irene said she was thrilled to have received her personal birthday card from Her Majesty, The Queen.

“It’s been great that, despite being in hospital, we’ve been able to celebrate with mum properly, and we’re all really grateful to the staff on the ward for making the effort to make mum’s birthday such a special one,” said Mark.

Irene also received a ‘This is Your Life’ family album filled with photos and memories from her 100 years.

Elderly care lead nurse Sarah Causer said she was delighted that her team was able to be part of Irene’s big day.

“Irene is such a lovely lady and is a real pleasure to have on the ward so when we heard such a big birthday was coming up, we knew we couldn’t let the incredible milestone go without a fuss,” said Sarah.

#### **About Irene**

Irene ‘Rene’ May Savage was born in Great Bridge in 1915 and lived there with her parents and two older brothers, Harold and Walter, until marrying in 1940.

She worked in the Pricing Department at electrical company Walsall Conduits – a job she secured through her friend Gertie on the recommendation she was ‘good with numbers’.

Irene married her sweetheart Ronald Taylor Savage at St Matthews Church in Tipton on 7<sup>th</sup> September 1940 – the first night of the London Blitz. Shortly after marrying, however, Ronald left to fight in the Second World War – a trip that would ultimately last five years without a single visit home.

After Ronald returned from the war the couple lived happily in Great Bridge for more than ten years before a stroke of luck saw them win the pools in 1959. Irene and Ronald used their winnings to buy a house in nearby Wombourne where son Mark was born.

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