

Alf Flexman February 1922 to September 2010

Born in Nunhead, South East London, Alf was brought up solely by his grandmother, as his mother died in childbirth.

At just 19 years of age, he joined the RAF to play his part in the war effort, successfully completing his training as a wireless operator/gunner on the famous Halifax bomber and was later promoted to the rank of Warrant Officer.

In 1943, he married Irene (Rene), his life-long partner. They celebrated 68 years of marriage in 2010.

At midnight on February 24/25th 1944, Alf's aircraft was shot down during a bombing raid over Germany. Sadly, three of his crew mates died when the aircraft was engulfed in flames and crashed, but Alf and three other crew members deployed their parachutes and, although sustaining some injuries when leaving the stricken aircraft, Alf landed safely in snow-covered woodland. He became a prisoner of war in Germany for the final 18 months of the war. He was repatriated in October/November 1945.

Alf and Rene moved from Surrey to Grundisburgh in 1992 to be closer to their daughter (Christine), son-in-law (Alan), and newly born grandson (Ian). The move was considered somewhat risky at their age, both 70 at the time, but it proved to be the best move they ever made, quickly making friends in the village, all of whom he treasured for the rest of his life.

Alf joined his local bowls club, with some success, and continued his life-long passion for football, supporting Crystal Palace - something that provoked much good-humoured banter from the locals. He was also a loyal supporter of the Grundisburgh teams.

The fine turnout for Alf's funeral was a tribute to his popular face around the village and was greatly appreciated by all his family. Sorry we were unable to thank everyone personally on the day.

Alf is survived by his wife Rene, his three children and two grandchildren.

The family