

# Douglas Trevor Sheldrake

Doug, was born in Capel and his family moved to Woodbridge when he was a baby. He has one brother Maurice and also a half-brother and sister. He and his wife Kathy married at Woodbridge Registry Office in July 1972 and came to live in Grundisburgh in July 1976.

Doug had a variety of jobs including foundryman, groundsman and mechanic. Kathy says, he was good with his hands and liked to 'tinker with motorbikes' indeed, he once built his own motorbike. At one time the family had a combination motorbike and sidecar, and later a car in which they enjoyed travelling all over the countryside.

Doug and Kathy have three daughters; Mandy was born in 1974 when the family were living in Woodbridge and Joanne and Monica were born after the move to Grundisburgh, both in the same year, 1978, although they are not twins! All three were very much 'Daddy's Girls' says Kathy, and he was very fond of his grandchildren - Joanne's son Ryan, and Monica's children Jordan, Brandon, Ayesha and Shannay.

It is a matter of sadness to the family, that Doug did not live to see the latest addition to the family, Mandy's daughter Shayla, who was quite poorly at birth and had to stay in hospital, but is now safely at home.

Doug suffered his first heart attack in 1997, and his health gradually deteriorated, he had been subject to muscular dystrophy for many years. In October 2009 Doug had another head attack, and it was considered that surgery would not be successful and he therefore came home, where he was made comfortable, and where he died in the village he had come to love, with his wife holding his hand. Kathy would like to express her thanks to Rev'd Canon Clare Sanders for all her help and support, and for a beautiful funeral service - to neighbours and friends for their help and sympathy. And her gratitude for the charity gift which she says was a 'Godsend' at Christmas.

Contributed by Madge Nicholas

