

Frederick Quinton

1927 – 2017 aged 90 years

Fred was born and raised in Grundisburgh.

Son of Arthur and little May, of Berkeley House, Chapel Hill. Fred has one brother who he was very close to and a lifelong friend. Allan now lives in Cheshire.

Fred and Allan went to the old school at Grundisburgh village green until they went to work at the age of 14.

From the age of 12 Fred worked for a few years as a Saturday boy in the garden for Carlton Holmes at Hasketon. This garden work is where he gained his love for growing fruit, veg and flowers. Fred had a fascination for Guns, owning an air rifle which was good for target practice. He also had his own 12 Bore Shot Gun, this was handy for the odd pheasant or two in Sooty Smith's pit at the back of mother's house,

When working at Morse's Farm he took pot shots at a German aircraft with his 12 bore only to find, the pilot had bigger and better guns - Fred had to dive for cover in a ditch full of stinging nettles.

Through his gardening work Fred made enough money to make regular HP payments and buy a second hand bike. Some Saturdays Fred and Allan would cycle to Woodbridge, leaving their bikes at the Angel pub, walking down to the picture house --- when they could afford it to catch the most recent film. They would also spend many hours just getting on their bikes and going for a ride around the villages.

This was the start of Fred's love of travel.

Fred would bike to Hollesly every day to work as site labour for a building company. Rain, snow, bitter biting winds never seemed to stop this bike.

At the age of 18 Fred was called up for National Service. Here he gained the love of motor bikes and became a dispatch rider. His love for speed and ability to hang onto the handlebars on rough roads and riverbeds earned him the nick name "Twist Grip"

During this time he also gained the love for big trucks and became a driver.

Later towards the end of his service he worked in the Quarter Masters Store and this is where he gained his love for traditional food. He was based at Aldershot and was responsible for deliveries around the country.

Fred had his 303 Enfield army issue rifle at home and was known in the area as a 'Dead Eyed Dick'. He could hit a silver 3p piece on the range at some distance. This was not much larger than the bullet being fired.

When serving Fred met May his "little Yorkie" then aged 16 at Encliffe Park Sheffield. It was not long before he was ferrying her on his motorbike back and forth between Dinnington and Grundisburgh. He encouraged May to come to Suffolk and she worked and lived in a local Nursing Home until marrying Fred and moving to Grundisburgh to live with Fred's

parents, where they were sharing the small property with Fred's Mum and Dad, Allan and his wife Ellen.

At the age of 20 Fred bought his first Car - an Austin 7. No heater or air con in those days. This car made several trips to Dinnington, Yorkshire, to visit May's family.

Fred married the love of his life May, in August 1948 at Dinnington Church.

In 1953 they were lucky enough to take possession of their first and only home at 36 Orchard End, Grundisburgh, Fred's home for more than 64 years.

Fred made most of the furnishings for his home. Table chairs, sideboard, dressing tables, Wardrobes etc. All highly polished, using French polish which was a bit of an art.

1954 their only son Tony was born. At the same time Fred was keeping an ear for the new born babies cry as he was putting the finishing touches to the fish pond he was building. He was very proud of his pond and told the story often throughout his life.

Fred was very fond of fish and was a keen gardener and very proud of his flowers and veg garden.

At some stage during Fred's busy life he resurrected the Coits (Quoits) league. He and a bus full of locals would travel round the villages for a game of coits.

Fred worked for the local council as a driver. His favourite job was mechanical sweeper driver but in bad weather would drive the largest snow plough the council owned, to clear the roads at all hours of the day and night.

This love for his trucks and hard work earned him the nick name of "Tonker" – Remember those tough toy trucks we may have played with?

One of Fred's hobbies was tinkering with cars. He was pretty good at it. He would fit clutches, brake pads, gearboxes and even whole engines. He built a pit in his garage to get down to the nitty gritty stuff, Fred was kind and helpful he would repair cars for friends

In his spare time he would take Tony and his friends fishing, they didn't catch much but enjoyed each other's company and time together.

Fred said he loved his retirement and was able to travel with May the length and breadth of Britain, there was not many places he had not been.

Losing May in November 2006 was a big shock to Fred. They had been married for 58 years and were a devoted couple. They loved their days out together, particularly with Allan and Ellen and their visits to Nacton, Aldeburgh and Felixstowe where they would walk along the seafront or wonder around the shops.

Helped at this sad time of his life by his niece Gill, Fred found companionship in a cat - Phoenix who would now get the best of everything. Phoenix has now adopted Tony and Olive.

In January this year we celebrated Fred's 90th birthday at the Shepherd and Dog restaurant. This last family meal out together was a memorable one and we've got some lovely pictures.

In typical no nonsense Fred style, he was unimpressed with the wooden chopping board his steak came on.

Fred loved the country way of life and enjoyed the many activities that were here in Grundisburgh. He enjoyed the lunch club, the men's club and the Lyttleton club and all those people that took the time to be very much part of his life – He looked forward to Andy helping in the garden and Friday was the day Charlett would help in the home - Thank you to all these kind people.

In his last few days Olive had a “must do this” conversation with the hospital consultant and Sister on Claydon Ward. Phoenix his cat was granted a visit. This was one of his last wishes granted.

Tony and Olive have been overwhelmed with the number of cards they has received and all without exception say what a lovely and much loved man Fred was.

The cremation took place at 7 hills interchange crematorium Ipswich 27th June and after at the Village Hall. Collections were made and raised £300 for the Claydon Ward at Ipswich – Thank you all. The service and hall were well attended. Tony and Olive would like to thank all those for taking the time to be with us. Thank you all for appreciating that flowers look much better in the garden.