

## Frederick William Archer (Jockey)

8th Feb 1925 - 19th Jan 2018

Fred was born and raised in Charsfield. He attended Charsfield school until he was 11 then moved up to Wickham market school which he used to cycle to every day no matter what the weather sometimes making the journey on his own. Fred freely admitted he wasn't a particularly good scholar in his own words "I learnt darn all at school". He was nicknamed 'Jockey' after the Newmarket jockey Frederick Archer a name some of the older Charsfield generation still know him by.

When Fred left school at 14 he went to work on a chicken farm in Clopton; when that was sold he started working for F Martin at Shop Farm where he worked for over 25 yrs. It was during this time that a land army girl named Myrtle was sent there to work and who later became his wife.

In his teens and early twenties, he played football for the Charsfield village team, which he enjoyed but later had to give up because of problems with his knees, but he continued to enjoy the game following Man United and watching any games on TV.

Fred and Myrtle married in 1949 and moved into a Nissan hut in Manor Road, where son Philip and daughter Hazel were born. Later they moved to Rouse Hall Estate where their daughter Jennie arrived a few months later.

A couple of years of ill health meant life was a bit of a struggle, money was short, but Fred made sure the family were fed and kept warm. He grew all the vegetables needed, this is where his love of gardening began. In the wintertime he would go woodcutting to fill the wood shed, so the children always came home from school to a lovely fire in the grate

Life changed for Fred in the late 60s, early 70s. He left Martins to work at the mushroom farm, and later Hubbards engineering. He had more spare time to garden and to potter about in the greenhouse and his shed. He also became a granddad for the first time.

On retiring Fred still enjoyed his garden although on a smaller scale; he made half of his veggie garden into a small putting green for the grandchildren and spent many a summer evening playing golf with them. His shed became his retreat; he would spend hours just whittling away making this and that his favourite being little wheelbarrows which Myrtle would fill with plants. He was happier still if one or more of his grandchildren joined him. He would give them bits of wood, nails and hammers and let them create masterpieces.

Fred was a quiet man who when not gardening or whittling bits of wood could often be found sitting in open doorway of his shed, radio on, having forty winks in the sunshine. Although his mobility limited his ability to garden, after they moved from no. 12 where they had lived for over 50 yrs to a bungalow a few yards up the road, Fred still enjoyed cat napping in his beloved shed.

Fred had many happy times, the birth of his children, grandchildren and great grandchildren, celebrating his and Myrtle's golden, diamond and sapphire wedding anniversaries. He also had sad times first with the loss of his grandson James in 1996, Myrtle's passing 2 yrs ago after nearly 67 years of marriage and last year when his younger brother Ted passed away.

Fred continued to live in his own home, at first he was able to do so with a little help from carers. He liked watching TV, reading the paper, watching the birds on the feeders. He was a man who had a quick wit and could be extremely cheeky with some great one liners. He enjoyed a bit of banter especially with his carers and took an interest in everything his family did and what went on in the world.

He enjoyed visits from his family and his weekly visit from his friend and neighbour Ken and look forward to great granddaughter Imogen visiting as she would sit with him and help him with his word search puzzles.

Fred was very proud of his children, grandchildren and great grandchildren being especially pleased to welcome his youngest great grandson Taylor James into the family a few days after leaving hospital last June after a serious illness.

Despite limited mobility and failing health, with help from carers, and her children, his daughter Jennie was able to grant his wish to stay in his own home until the end, passing away shortly after being admitted to hospital on 18th Jan. Fred will be greatly missed by his family and friends.