

Jack Rayfield (February 1928 to May 2013)

Jack lived in Grundisburgh all his life. The family started off in Chapel Lane, then moving to Stoney Road and lastly to Meeting Lane. He was the second youngest of eight children. On leaving Grundisburgh School he went to work at Neeps of Clopton Hall as a gardener, before becoming as a farm worker in Hasketon and then onto Roadworks Ltd, which later became Jackson Civil Engineering Ltd, where he worked for many years until he retired in 1993.

He started courting Joyce, the girl next door at number 5 Meeting Lane and he lived at number 6. On Saturdays while they were courting Jack would take Joyce to Ipswich on the bus, where they would go and have fish and chip suppers before going to the cinema and Joyce said he always bought her a box of chocolates in the picture house, before catching the last bus back to Grundisburgh. And then on March 6th 1954 they married at Grundisburgh Church. The honeymoon was spent in Felixstowe, staying with Joyce's Uncle Jack and Auntie Lil – again Jack was not one for long distance!

Jack and Joyce started their married life at 24 Orchard End, Grundisburgh. In May 1955, Jane was born and then Suzanne came along three years later in April 1958. The family then moved back to Meeting Lane, where they have stayed ever since. In the 1960's, Jack was a member of the village cricket team where Sundays throughout the summer were then spent for Joyce, Jane and Suzanne watching him play along with other family and friends within the). Jack loved his sport, both watching and participating. He followed all sport, showing a keen interest in Football, Snooker and darts. He would often take Suzanne to Portman Road to watch Ipswich Town play.

Jack's main hobby was his garden, providing plenty of vegetables for his family and friends. When they were younger, Laura and Katie spent many days with Grandad in the garden, helping him plant the vegetables. He took it to the extreme one year, when he planted the entire front garden with potatoes - Jane and Suzanne said to him "most people have flowers in the front garden", he replied "well you cant eat flowers"

Jack also enjoyed listening to all types of music, he particularly enjoyed James Last and his Orchestra and he was lucky to see him at the Albert Hall. In the 1970's, Jack ran dances on a monthly basis at the village hall and the profit went towards establishing the Grundisburgh playgroup.

