

John Farrow

John was the youngest of 10 children, born and brought up in Old Barrack Road Woodbridge. He attended school in Woodbridge and grew up on the farm where he looked after horses and learnt to work the land. He married Jill in September 1956 and shortly after got a farm worker's job at Manor Farm Culpho. The tied cottage had no electricity so they intended to stay only 3 months, but they ended up living there for 41 years, where they raised their 3 children Mark, Sarah and Claire.

John's life revolved around the seasons preparing the soil, sowing seeds, harvesting crops both at work and at home. He enjoyed gardening, growing vegetables for the family meals, and flowers for Jill. He entered the Grundisburgh Burgh and Culpho Horticultural Society Show for over 30 years, winning several cups and awards. He encouraged others to enter the show by giving tips on how to grow and display their vegetables and flowers.

During his life time John saw major changes in technologies. At the start of his career he worked with Suffolk Punch horses on the land, he started driving little grey Ferguson tractors, and finished with tractors with cabs, air conditioning and sat nav computers. Every year John was responsible for getting in the harvest, so drove the combine harvester. He would signal to the children rabbiting in the field if a rabbit or bird was running in front of the combine. During the harvest time John worked long hours starting work at 7am and sometimes not finishing until 9pm and working weekends if necessary. If the weather was dry the harvest had to be gathered in.

In the mid 1980s John and Jill finally got a telephone installed at their home, and on one occasion John used the farm telephone, and surprised Jill when he phoned and said "I just called to say I Love You."

John also enjoyed photography, he took lots of photos of the children growing up, not just at birthday's and Christmas but throughout the year. He took slide photos, so his family enjoyed evenings viewing his photos on a large screen put up in the sitting room. Once he even took his camera to work and managed to take over a 100 photographs of seagulls while ploughing the fields. The family say they are so lucky digital cameras and facebook wasn't around at the time as John would have taken thousands of photos of them and shared them with everyone.

When John retired he and Jill moved to a bungalow in Trinity Close Kesgrave. They moved John's greenhouse as well so he could continue to grow his carnation flowers and tomatoes plants. He still entered the Grundisburgh, Burgh and Culpho Horticultural Society Show and even won the cup in the over 60's Classes. John was offered so many gardening jobs he had to turn some down, so he and Jill could have days out and enjoy meals at local pubs. He and Jill took several coach holidays and visited lots of towns and places across the UK. John and Jill would treat the grandchildren to days out at Felixstowe where everyone would play on the beach and spend their money in the amusement arcades. John enjoyed the later years of his life watching his grandchildren grow up, and giving him a great grandchild.