

Josephine 'Edna' Warren née Welham

6th December 1928 – 7th May 2021

Josephine Edna Warren – Edna as she was known to most of us, loved Grundisburgh village, where she spent over 70 years of her life.

She spent her childhood at Manor Farm in Tuddenham, alongside her sister Phyllis and brothers Reg and Derek. She spent the War years on the farm, and remembered the arrival of evacuees from London. Herself a teenager – she enjoyed the occasional evening spent dancing with the 'Yanks' stationed at nearby Debach.

In 1947 she married Ivor Warren – who lived at Gull Corner in Grundisburgh. They moved to The Green to raise their 3 children - Judith, Andrew and David. Edna and Ivor spent a short spell in Cranworth Close, then settled at 45 Orchard End in 1978. She retired from her last job as Caretaker of Grundisburgh Primary school in 1989 when the school moved to the current site, directly opposite her home at the top of Orchard End.

Over the years Edna supported or was a member of many village groups. She and her young family travelled around the county to support Grundisburgh Football Club and Cricket Club. She attended Local History Society talks where she was able to share photographs and memories of the local area.

St Marys Church or Grundisburgh Baptist Chapel – she wasn't fussy about faith – so long as there was a bit of a sing-song, tea and a biscuit somewhere along the way. Following the death of Ivor in 1981, Edna entertained friends in her own home – hosting lunches for other widows in the village.

She often carried two cameras, one for photographs and one for slides – she took a great interest in the development of Grundisburgh village and often photographed building work in progress of significant sites such as the Old School.

She enjoyed many camping holidays across the UK, where she took numerous photographs (many turned into slides to be displayed to family and friends on her return!) Outside of the UK, she visited Italy, Croatia and Spain. She enjoyed bus trips alongside her friends.

The Horticultural Society provided hours of fun, encouraging and helping family stage exhibits at the village show. She tried her hand at many crafts – knitting and crochet, baking and flower arranging to name a few - she entered the over sixties classes, complaining that there should be an 'over eighties' class for old dears like her! She loved a trip to another village to take in their Hidden Gardens or Church flower festival.

Edna relished going out – Theatre trips, Ballet and Christmas Panto. She loved to join family or friends at a local pub for a meal, or a trip to the seaside for fish and chips. She took great delight in meeting up with friends at the village Luncheon Club. Latterly, as her mobility was reduced, she was always grateful to those who generously gave their own time to transport her to such meetings and events, which allowed her to socialise with other villagers.

She loved being outdoors – she was often found sitting out in her garden on the corner of Orchard End where people would stop and chat to her. She was always happy to spend time watching others at work in their gardens and was lucky to have enjoyed the well-kept gardens at Maynell House in Felixstowe during her stay there.

Edna enjoyed keeping her mind busy – she always had a word search or crossword book handy at home, and loved puzzles and quizzes. She took great delight in playing card games and Dominoes with her friends at Grundisburgh lunch club.

She supported village events wherever she could, Football club fun days, Village shows, School Fundraisers, Church Fetes etc.

Edna was often heard to say that she had a good family around her – and that what she was most proud of, her 3 children, 5 Grandchildren and 5 Great Grandsons.