

## Joyce Rayfield

Joyce was born on the 4 August 1930 into the family of Stanley and Maggie Pipe at Pound Cottages, Grundisburgh, where she lived for a few years before the family moved to Otley and Joyce then attended Otley Primary School. Vera, Joyce's sister, was born 8 years later. Shortly after, the family returned back to Grundisburgh to live in Meeting Lane & Joyce went to the old Primary School on the Village Green until the age of 14.

After leaving School, Joyce went to work at Corders, a department store in Ipswich - in the baby department and then at the age of 16 she went to work at Reavells in Ranelagh Road, Ipswich (an engineering company) in the accounts office. This is where a friendship of over 70 years began with two very special people who Joyce worked with - Betty Podd and Jill Tymm both of them here today. They would often reminisce the good old days in the workplace and from what we heard they caused chaos in the office and at one time were split up - putting typewriter covers over each other's heads and deliberately dropping stationery on the floor to attract a young man's attention who did eventually go on to marry Jill. Joyce stayed working here until she married Jack in 1954, the boy next door - she certainly didn't travel too far to meet her man. Her treat when courting, usually on a Saturday, involved a trip on the bus to Ipswich - fish and chip lunch and then off to the cinema, with a box of chocolates, and very often missing the end of the film because they had to catch the last bus back to Grundisburgh. They married on the 6 March at Grundisburgh Church. Their first home was 24 Orchard End, Grundisburgh where Jane was born and then 3 years later Suzanne came along. The family lived here for a few years before moving to 10 Meeting Lane where Joyce lived until November last year.

While Joyce was raising her family, she chose to do part-time work in the village - field work, house cleaning, she also cleaned at the Dog public house and later worked in the Post Office shop. Joyce's priorities were her family - she always put everyone before herself & instilled these values into the girls. Jane and Suzanne remember having a happy childhood - a Mum that was always there when they went to school and she would always be there when they came home. They would always have a family holiday when in the early year's Jack would hire a car and they would go out for day-trips and occasionally went to North Wales to stay with Jack's sister. Joyce had relatives who lived in Canada and the family were fortunate enough to have a few holidays with them and the Canadians would regularly come to Grundisburgh to visit. Joyce and Jack would regularly travel to Lowestoft to visit Suzanne and Vanda and always loved a good day out at the coast with them.

In 1983 Joyce and Jack's first granddaughter, Laura was born, and then 2 years later Katie arrived. The girls have played a big part in Joyce's life - she always took an interest in their hobbies & later on their work always encouraging them to enjoy what they do & being proud of them in what they achieved. Many happy years were also spent holidaying in Cornwall with Jane, Richard, Laura & Katie, this involved lots of fond memories which they all treasure.

Joyce enjoyed village life, often being seen riding her bicycle. She was involved in numerous organisations - over the course of 25 years she collected for the Poppy Appeal and Lifeboat. Jack ran village dances regularly raising money for the Grundisburgh playgroup, which Joyce was also involved with - she also was on the Carnival Committee and in more recent years would help run the cake stall for the Village Show contributing her love of baking cakes.

Joyce was a keen knitter often making cardigans, jumpers etc for the girls when they were small - putting her hobby to good use by knitting squares which were eventually made into blankets & were sent off to third world countries.

Once Jack retired, they would go on numerous coach trips - both loved Scotland and they would enjoy many breaks away including holidays abroad and in this country with family and friends. Joyce also loved her weekly trip to Aldeburgh for fish and chips with the family, despite her constant slender frame she always had such a good appetite...she was one of the few lucky ones who could devour a box of chocolates & not gain a pound!

Losing Jack in May 2013 was a big shock to Joyce, they had been married for 59 years. Up to this point in Joyce's life she was always very active and defied her age and at the age of 82 when the family tried to encourage her to join the Luncheon Club she wasn't having any of it as she said 'it was for old people' - the irony being that she was probably older than some that were there. She eventually went in her own time and did enjoy it and wished it was weekly and not every fortnight, she made new friends and enjoyed days out with the Club, reminiscing about village life both old & new. In 2014 unfortunately Joyce's health deteriorated - she had been diagnosed with vascular dementia, but with the help of her family, friends, good neighbours and a wonderful team of carers, Joyce was able to continue living at her home. In November 2016 after a month in hospital, the family had an agonising decision to make because Joyce needed more specialised nursing care than the family could provide. The last chapter of her life was spent at Sidegate Lane Nursing Home, where she received loving care with people who understood her condition and were a great support to her & her family. Many of Joyce's friends from the village would visit her and keep her up to date with village life & although often her short term memory was a struggle, her long term memory enabled her to still interact & enjoy happy times & conversations. Joyce spent last Christmas at Jane & Richard's with all her family and this will always be treasured by all, along with her more recent 87th birthday where the nursing home & family gave her a wonderful party...a very special day that everyone will remember fondly.

A few months ago, Laura and Katie, along with a group of friends, decided to take on the challenge of the National Three Peaks - their chosen charity was one that is now very close to their hearts...Dementia UK. They achieved this on the August Bank Holiday weekend, not knowing they would be doing it in memory of their Gran. Whilst raising sponsorship, Laura shared this statement - Our Gran was funny, kind generous and incredibly brave with her battle against dementia. She was one of the most influential and inspiring women in my life who we all had absolute admiration and love for - she always put her family first and partly taught me to be the person I am today. She was fiercely loyal, strong and determined all in that she did, even defying this horrific disease and continuing to fight against all the odds even until the bitter end. Dementia, along with all mental health, is incredibly cruel and sadly on the increase - watching someone you love lose their mind and eventually all their capabilities, particularly when like Gran, they were always so able is heartbreaking to witness and so difficult, as all you can do is stand by and watch their life deteriorate and diminish in front of you. However, this was only part of her life's last chapter & although it was sadly this cruel condition that took her from us it was by no means what defined her as a person. Today we want to remember & celebrate 'Joyce' the sister, wife, mum, gran & friend who was a remarkable lady in so many ways, she was strong, stoic & had an amazing spirit...taking pride in all that she did...including her appearance...always with lippy to hand!!

The family have been overwhelmed with the many cards they have received all saying what a lovely and much loved lady Joyce was - everyone here today has played an important part in

Joyce's long and happy life and each and every one of you will have your own special memories of Joyce.

Jane & Suzanne