

Mrs Marjorie Archer

It is not many people who live to the grand old age of 100, but Marjorie Archer celebrated her 100th birthday- here in Grundisburgh in March this year- with a peal of bells and the coming together of many friends.

Marjorie was a Suffolk girl through and through. The daughter of a shepherd, she was raised with her 4 brothers and sister Jean. Shepherds moved wherever there was work, so the family moved wherever the work was- Boyton to Bramford- Framsdon, Cretingham to name a few.

She went to school in Helmingham, it was a 4 mile walk there and another 4 miles back home at the end of the day. She was keen to learn, and was most frustrated when the Headmistress took her out of class to darn the Headteacher's stockings, which happened on a regular basis. Marjorie was very skilled with a needle from a very early age. Like so many of her generation she left school at 14, unusually she didn't go on work for other people, in bigger houses, she was needed at home to help her mother look after grannie! All 3 generations were living in a 2 up 2 down cottage! They slept top to tail. When the lambing season came along, father would disappear to find work.

She was to meet her husband George, while living in Framsdon. George was some 10 years older than her. He liked a drink and often frequented The Bell in Cretingham. On return he would lob a packet of crisps up through her bedroom window. He must have had a good aim! Romance became harder when the family moved to Combs, but it didn't stop George biking over to see Marjorie. They were married on June 4th 1938, at Combs Church and came to live in Otley, where George worked on a farm. They both loved sport, indeed Marjorie played Ladies football. She would often tell the tale of playing against the men, in aid of charity, but the men had to play with their hands tied behind their backs! She loved horse racing and always had a bet on the Grand National!

Marjorie and George had 2 girls, Maureen and Yvonne, born in 1942 and 46 respectively. They lived in Cretingham throughout the 50s and moved to Grundisburgh after George suffered a stroke. George died in 1971.

Mrs Archer was a member of the Mothers Union, the Golden Club and the Lunch Club. She had a good appetite and never turned down 2nd helpings! She had many friends in Grundisburgh and in Otley, from the early days of her marriage. Hetty Fox from Otley has been a life long friend.

Marjorie moved to Prince of Wales House in Ipswich, just over 5 years ago, she never lost her interest in village affairs and the support she received on her 100th birthday bore testament to the affection in which she was held.