

Myrtle Esme Archer

18th March 1928 - 4th October 2015

Myrtle was born and raised in Old Barrack Road Woodbridge, the second youngest child of John and Florence Farrow's 10 children. She spent a happy childhood playing with her elder sister Marjorie and younger brother John to whom she was particularly close. She attended St Mary's school, which she loved and had to walk to and from twice a day. Myrtle also sang in St Mary's Church choir when she was older and later helped with the weekly cleaning. She was baptised, confirmed and married there. Leaving school at 14 Myrtle worked with her father and her brothers on the farm. It was during this time she fell in love with the Suffolk Punch horses.

At 17 she joined the land army, working first on a farm in Nacton, which she did not enjoy, after a few months she was sent to Fred Martin's farm in Clopton, where she spent 4 happy years. Years later she was extremely proud to receive a medal and certificate from Gordon Brown recognising her time in the Land Army. It was during her time at Martins farm she met her husband Frederick, they married in 1949 and moved into a Nissan hut in Manor Road Clopton where the first two of their three children Philip and Hazel arrived. In 1952 they moved to Rouse Hall Estate, living in the same house for over 50yrs and where their youngest daughter Jennie was born.

For the next few years Myrtle worked in the fields, picking fruit, potatoes, peas and beans, to help bring in a little bit extra. In the 60's Myrtle became a home help, something she did for over 30yrs and again was justifiably proud of the medal and certificate she received on her retirement. As the years passed Myrtle had more time to spare which she filled with working in her garden, which she loved, learning to crochet, knitting and making crafty things. She also became more involved in village life. Especially with any event for the church and the new village hall, holding coffee mornings, baking apple pies for the harvest suppers and helping with the collection of newspaper for recycling. She also loved placing entries in the flower show when Clopton held one and was pleased to win a cup for her cooking.

In 2004 Myrtle and Freddie moved in a bungalow just a few yard from no 12. It was a wrench for her the to leave behind their beloved home and garden of over 50yrs but took some comfort that they hadn't moved far from their family. It was here that Myrtle and Freddie celebrated their diamond wedding in 2009 and were very surprised and really chuffed to receive a card from the Queen and their 65th sapphire anniversary in 2014. Myrtle was very independent even with her failing eyesight, hearing loss and the onset of dementia, she still insisted on doing her own housework, cooking and looking after Freddie.

She also still carried on with gardening although on a smaller scale and was still insisting on cutting the grass herself right up to her breaking her hip.

Myrtle spent her last few months first in hospital, then in Allonsfield care home to recover from breaking her hip and whilst in hospital breaking her wrist, then her left arm and just as that had healed another fall resulted in her breaking her right arm badly. She never really recovered after the last fall and was admitted to hospital, suffering from pneumonia, where she passed peacefully away early Sunday 4th October. Leaving her husband Freddie, their children, Philip, Hazel and Jennie, grandchildren and great grandchildren.