

## Patricia (Paddy) Pryke - August 31st 1935 - March 14th 2012.

Paddy was born in the village of Harlington, Bedfordshire, the only child of Fred and Ethel Burrows. Her parents were farmers and Paddy grew up with farming in her bones. In 1947 when Paddy was 12 years old the family moved to Grundisburgh, to a bigger farm where the land was better suited to arable. Although the family was at first homesick for Bedfordshire Paddy settled well into the village school with Mr Busch as her teacher and Mr Wurr the head-master. She made friends there, and with two girls in particular, Hazel Last and Shirley Breen, a friendship which was to last a lifetime. Though Paddy was bright she had no wish to continue with further education - she was needed on the farm.

When in 1953 Paddy's dad died of T B at the young age of 44 years, Paddy and her mum kept the farm going with help especially from George Andrews and a certain young Rod Pryke from Laurel Farm next door who started calling in on a regular basis.

Paddy and Rod courted for four years and were married at Grundisburgh Church in March 1958 and their daughter Carol was born just before Christmas - hence the name!

Paddy was never 'just' a farmer's wife but a hands-on farmer, caring for the pigs, chickens and turkeys, driving the tractor and ploughing the fields. During the summer and harvest-time the family from Bedfordshire would often come up and lend a hand and great fun would be had in the evenings playing cricket in the meadow.

On the journey from Bedfordshire in 1947 Paddy had discovered that she suffered from chronic car-sickness so holidays away didn't feature much in family life. Two days each year at the Suffolk Show took the place of holidays and Paddy also became a speedway fan, cycling from Grundisburgh to Foxhall Heath with a group of other dedicated fans. Carol caught the bug from her mother and is herself a fan and season ticket holder.

Paddy was a very private lady, keen to do everything well. She had many friends in the village and she loved her dogs, her garden and flowers. A practical woman she was a keen knitter and enjoyed helping Carol in the shop, wiring ivy for wreaths for Christmas and helping decorate marquees and churches for weddings. Later, when she couldn't get out she liked to settle down to Sky and indulge herself watching sports of all sorts, tennis, Grand Prix, darts, and of course speedway!

That Paddy was well loved in the village was evidenced by the size of the congregation in the church at her funeral and Rod and Carol are most grateful to everyone for their warm and generous support.



*Madge Nicholas - with thanks to Rev. Clare Sanders.*