

## **Obituary - Mrs Philippa, Maria, Carmela, Josephine Billsberry**

It is with great sadness that we announce the death of one of the stalwarts of the village, Mrs Philippa (Phyllis) Billsberry, who passed peacefully after a determined fight against cancer at her home in Half Moon Lane on 26 August 2014 at the age of 89. Beloved mother of Trudy, Leonard (Lennie), Joy and Brian, grandmother to ten and great grandmother to seven.

Philippa came to England in 1950 and, when she looked out of the aircraft window and saw for the first time the multi-coloured patchwork quilt that is our beautiful English countryside, she immediately fell in love with the place. She could not believe just how many trees there were! "I am going to like it here" she clearly remembered saying to herself. You can imagine how this lush scenery contrasted with the brown and scorched soil and rock of her native Malta.

She moved initially to Army quarters in Kidderminster, where Joy was born and then, after discharge from the Army, the family moved to an old cottage in Alderton, where Lennie was born. The Alderton house was in such a state of dilapidation that, typical of her determined nature, she flatly refused to leave the maternity home because she thought the house was not fit to take a new-born into. She must have had a point because it was very shortly after this that the family moved into 14, Orchard End, which at that time had only recently been completed. It was whilst here that Trudy came onto the scene and where her four children grew up enjoying a very happy and carefree childhood.

When Orchard End became too much for Philippa to manage on her own, she moved into her bungalow in Half Moon Lane, where she spent 20 happy years and it was from here that she made her final journey on 11<sup>th</sup> September, which was very fitting.

Philippa lived in Grundisburgh for over 60 years. She absolutely loved the village and all the many kind and lovely people she had met over the years. These are too many and various to mention here. She was a devout Christian and thanks to the kindness of many over the years, was able to attend Mass in Woodbridge every Sunday. She also loved to attend Sunday services at St Mary's in the village. She was also a regular member of the Grundisburgh Lunch Club and was ever grateful to the lovely ladies that organised the lunches and many trips they enjoyed. The lunch club was very important to her and long may it continue.

All her family would like to express their deep gratitude to all those many friends and family that attended her Requiem Mass in Woodbridge and afterwards, the extremely well attended celebration of her life at the Grundisburgh Dog. May she rest in peace.