

Phyllis Clarke

June 1919 -- March 2012

The youngest of five girls, Phyllis was born on mid-summer's day at Saddlers Cottage, Grundisburgh, the house that she loved and in which she spent most of her life. Every year on her birthday she would remind people that her mother always said "it certainly was the longest day" as her labour was quite long. She also loved reminding people that "from tomorrow the nights would be drawing in".

She attended Grundisburgh School where she admitted she was not a great scholar, however she did excel at sports and singing. She went to Sunday school and church services as a girl and was a member of the church choir for many years.

She loved to talk about her childhood, it was a very happy time for her. Some of her recollections that were included in the Grundisburgh Remembered CD were played at her funeral, reminding many friends and family of her memories spoken in her own words. Her family were never wealthy, her father grew all his own fruit and vegetables, he also made most of her toys and on November 5th every year he made homemade fireworks. She loved to talk about her trips to the Hippodrome in Ipswich with her father and sisters, she also happily remembered her twice yearly days out to Felixstowe on the bus.

She loved all aspects of the countryside, the flowers, birds, and fresh farm produce. She would reminisce about cattle and sheep walking through the village on their way to Ipswich market. At fourteen she left school and went into service, a part of her life she did not like very much and was not keen to discuss at any length, she clearly felt that not all aspects of the good old days were that good. After a few years she returned to Saddlers Cottage to help look after her father and in 1947 to start her career as a nursing assistant at St Audrey's Hospital in Melton which she continued to do until she retired aged 60.

Her Suffolk dialect was legendary, on emptying the tea leaves from her tea pot you would be instructed to "Hul it in the meeda" and she would always say that "a day without laughter is a day wasted" all of this would be accompanied by raucous laughter for several minutes. Phyllis was a kind and loving person, she will be re- membered by her family and friends for her compassion, and honesty, but most of all for her ability to laugh in al- most any situation.

Adapted by Iain Langdon from the eulogy given at Phyllis's funeral by Terry Tatum, her great-nephew,

