

## **Rita Mabel Dunnett 1939 – 2020**

Born in April 1939 in the Phyllis Maternity Home, Melton, Rita was the second daughter to Doris and Joe Dunnett, and a younger sister to Marilda. April that year was a very cold month, and Joe often recalled having to cycle from Grundisburgh through the snow to see his new daughter.

At home in their house at Pound Cottage, and after the war, in one of Lord Cranworth's new cottages, South View on Park Road, Rita spent a very happy childhood, gaining her life-long love of gardening from her father Joe, head gardener at Grundisburgh Hall, having many friends in the village and getting up to all sorts of mischief at her grandparents' shop in Chapel Lane! She was a pupil at Grundisburgh Primary School, before moving to Felixstowe Grammar School. From there she started work as a cashier at Barclays Woodbridge, and made many friends, who together with friends from Grundisburgh have remained close throughout her life.

In 1958 Rita met and fell in love with Robert Dunnett (no relation) of Last & Dunnett coal merchants of Little Bealings, and they later married in 1960 in Grundisburgh Church. Robert's job took the newly married couple to Kettering in Northampton, where their son and daughter were born, but the family were regular visitors to Grundisburgh for holidays with Doris and Joe.

However, the pull of Suffolk was very strong, and when Robert's job gave them the opportunity to move back, they relocated to Cavendish, and then later to Martlesham. Rita rejoined the staff at Barclays Woodbridge and remained there until she retired. She spent many hours in her garden and time with her many friends and family.

Rita had a very long and brave battle with cancer over the past 30 years, but unfortunately finally lost it in March. Despite living in Martlesham, Grundisburgh always held a special place in her heart.

Mark Dunnett (Son)



Rita and Marilda