

## Robert Harvey 1917 – 2017

### Memories of Bob

Bob was born on the third of May 1917 in Sutton, which would remain his home throughout his childhood and early adult years. He lived with parents Robert and Eliza at Post Office Cottages and when he was ten years old he became a big brother to sister Pat.

Bob left school at 14/15 years of age, he immediately gained employment with the Quilter Baronet family whose estate included Sutton Hall and Methersgate Hall. Bob worked the land by hand with the use of his trusty work horses, when he was not out in the field with them he would help to maintain and care for them back in the stables.

As you can imagine this was thirsty work, when he had time off Bob was known to swim across the River Deben from Stonner Point to Waldringfield for a pint at The Maybush. Nobody is quite sure however where he may have kept his pennies!

In those early days during his spare time Bob played in a band, his instruments of choice were the accordion, cornet, banjo and harmonica. The band would play at local dances and it was at one such dance that he met his future wife and lifelong partner Grace. Grace would subsequently go with Bob to many of the dances and he had many fond memories of dancing the night away with her.

Bob and Grace married on the thirteenth of September 1947 at Woodbridge Registry Office, there beginning sixty years of happy marriage. They moved from Sutton to Grundisburgh where they set up home in Laundry Cottage, soon to follow was their first son Robert and their daughter Jean. The family moved to 8 Park Cottages and here youngest son Allen was born.

By this time Bob had secured a job in Grundisburgh working for Mrs Bull the sister of the second Lord Cranworth. Bob was particularly excited to gain this employment as Mrs Bull's farm had its very own tractor, and later a combine harvester. Bob's children and grandchildren spent many happy summer days on the harvest fields with Bob on his combine. He would always stop for a drink of cold tea which Grace would make for him to rinse the dust from his throat as there were no air conditioned cabs back then.

Bob held Mrs Bull in very high regard and she was a generous and kind employer. Allen recalls many a time as a child he would be allowed to join his dad at work and drive the tractor and generally help around the farm.

Allen recalls one particular day when Bob ploughed Chapel field in the thickest of fog, when the fog had lifted the furrows were all over the place much to Bob's dismay. Priding himself on his furrows being the straightest around he jumped straight back on the tractor and ploughed the whole field again, this time with pinpoint precision.

This pride and attention to detail was reflected in Bob's day to day life, every morning whether a work day or rest he would dress impeccably in collar and tie.

Bob's pristine appearance was never more apparent than when he would be plodding the back lanes of Grundisburgh in full uniform during his service as a Special Constable. He

took great pride in this role and was awarded a long service medal upon his retirement from duty which spanned from 1950 to 1969.

When not at work Bob was kept busy with his chickens and geese, the later he raised for the purpose of selling at Christmas to earn some extra pennies for the family. At Laundry Cottage Bob also kept pigs which were raised for a similar fate.

When Bob did get some spare time he enjoyed nothing more than spending it with Grace and his children. Often at weekends the family would go out cycling with the children perched on Bob's trade bike or in the seat behind Grace. In later years when Bob had use of a 'motor' Sundays would be a regular day out to Felixstowe, as with every thing else Bob took great pride in his 'motors', still driving up until he was in his early nineties.

As the years passed Bob's family grew with the arrival of grandchildren Julie, Gary, Mark, Lee, Joanne and Sam. A warm welcome was always received with a visit to Grandad's, a few quips from his customary humour and a chance to feed the chickens and collect the eggs always made it an enjoyable experience.

When Mrs Bull died in the mid eighties Bob went to work for the third Lord Cranworth, this had some excellent perks for the elder grandchildren who used to get to use the swimming pool at Grundisburgh Hall.

Bob had four more additions to his family during his lifetime with the arrival of great grandchildren Joshua, Alicia, Katie and James.

Bob retired and he and Grace left Grundisburgh and settled in Otley where they made many new friends. They would spend their time visiting the family, lunching at a good pub and doing the car boot circuit around Suffolk. Bob was always looking for a bargain or maybe some tools to add to his collection. He would spend hours in his shed building various wooden items such as windmills and wheelbarrows, he would proudly craft these and give them to members of the family to display in their gardens.

Sadly Grace passed away in 2007 which unsurprisingly was devastating for Bob after a lifetime spent together. The family were extremely proud of the way he picked himself up and with the help of Robert and Jean and the support of his neighbours he managed to live independently for a further ten years. In particular Bob managed to adapt his own style of cooking which generally involved throwing all ingredients into a saucepan and boiling for hours on end, consuming a few tots of whisky while he waited, his favourites were pork belly and chicken wings. Well it seemed to work for him.

Bob will be remembered as a proud, hard working man, a loyal and loving husband, father, grandfather and great grandfather. He had the gift of wit, the ability to make you laugh, we will remember him with great love and affection. We are comforted that he is now back with his beloved Grace which is what he wanted.