

Ronald Alfred Grout, known as Ron

Ron was born and grew up in Wembley, North London, where his father owned a jewellers shop. When Ron was twelve the school he attended was bombed and it seems Ron never went back to school but worked with his father in the shop. At sixteen years he joined the Royal Navy, stationed at Chatham, and it was there he met Jeanne who was serving as a Wren.

When Ron was nineteen he and Jeanne left the navy so that they might marry, and they went to live in Jeanne's home county of Yorkshire. Ron's interest in nursing had been sparked while he was in the navy, and he and Jeanne both did their nursing training at Huddersfield Royal Infirmary. Once qualified Jeanne remained in general nursing but Ron decided to specialise in psychiatric nursing - the money was better! Thus they came to Melton, to St Audrey's Hospital where they at first lived on site. In 1960 they bought a bungalow in Post Mill Gardens, Grundisburgh, which at that time had a view of fields and allotments across the road, and there their daughter Mel was born in 1962.

In the mid-1970s Ron was instrumental in the setting-up of Minsmere House, the psychiatric unit at Ipswich Hospital, and he was responsible for running the unit for many years. He left Minsmere to take up the post of senior nursing officer at St Clements Hospital from where he eventually retired.

Ron's parents had split up when he was a boy, and to his delight he latterly learned that he has a half-sister and brother who live in Tasmania, with whom Jeanne and Mel are still in touch.

Although he left the navy at nineteen, Ron never lost his love for the sea, and sailing his boat which was moored at Woodbridge. At his request his ashes are to be scattered on the river Deben, where he spent many happy hours.

Contributed by Madge Nicholas

