

Memories of Roy and Di's life in GREAT Ashfield

I was going to start this with Di visiting on our first day in Great Ashfield, always Great never Gt and so on but.... A few weeks ago we had the grandchildren for a sleepover and around 6pm I was minding the youngest as she played in the bath. I felt unwell, struggled for breath and had a pain across my chest. Gail found me on the floor, gasping and fingers turning blue.

Her first call was to Kiln Farm. Could they arrange to get the defib to my house as she thought I was having a heart attack? Needless to say Di and Roy arrived quickly with the defibrillator and stayed until I was en-route to A&E. (During the Covid pandemic Kiln farm had a list of volunteers and they arranged all sorts of help).

We will miss the help and support that Roy and Di provided at so many levels. *Arthur Peake*



In the 1980s we had a very severe cold spell and deep snow with no milk deliveries etc, so Roy went to David Johnson's farm at Hunston and collected buckets of milk in the back of his landrover, then collected me and we went round the village knocking on doors delivering milk basically filling people's jugs. That's Roy being his usual thoughtful self. We certainly wouldn't get away with buckets of milk today!!

Stephen Miles



Probably, like everyone else who comes into the village, Di and Roy welcomed us with open arms, introducing us to the village and the Church, which meant that we felt at home immediately. Their support and enthusiasm for anything to do with the village was outstanding.

Roy could always be seen going around the village in his magnificent old Land Rover, dog by his side. He is a very respected person in the community, always ready to help anyone with ideas and information.

Roy is always ready for a laugh, I remember once when he turned up in the Members tent at the Suffolk show wearing a toupee and an arm sleeve of tattoos standing alone at the bar (I wonder why). We didn't realise it him at first. We couldn't stop laughing for the rest of the day.

Di was a founding member of 'Open The Book', a group setup in 2008 to go into local schools (Walsham-Le-Willows and Badwell Ash) playing out bible stories to primary age children once a fortnight, the group dressing up as the characters in the story and acting out the parts. Props and costumes were made by us and others.

Chris, Denise and Lucy Wasmuth



To set the scene, I have a phobia of birds/feathers, so was very alarmed one morning when my dog flew into the lounge and I could hear a rumpus – squawking, flapping and growling. I pulled the door nearly shut, shrieking at the dog to come out which thankfully she did, slammed the door shut and wondered who to call for help as I was alone in the house.

This had happened before, and a neighbour had come to the rescue, but on this occasion was not at home. My next thought was Roy!

Of course when I phoned he was out, but Di came to the rescue, armed with a linen basket and gauntlet type gloves. You go outside she said, and I didn't need telling twice! I stood on the lawn outside the lounge window listening to the banging and crashing going on inside. Eventually a triumphant Di came through the back door with not one, but two angry jackdaws in her basket. "Stand clear" she said as she released them. We then blocked up the chimney as a temporary measure and I'm glad to say the chimney now has a very secure cowl on it, and there's no way they can come back.

This happened some 25 odd years ago, and sums up their willingness to help those in need, and I am happy to say we are still firm friends. *Nancy Calderbank*

Di has always been there for me ever since we came to Suffolk in 1988 – through thick and thin – in good times and bad. Roy and Di are true examples of 'really good friends'.

Di helped me to bring our daughter up with her experience as a primary school teacher at Great Ashfield Church, where we attended on a regular basis. Roy and Di were there at her Christening, Di prepared her for Confirmation and she and Roy attended the Service. Roy and Di were at her wedding in 2021. My memories of carol singing around Great Ashfield led by Roy and Di are laughter, singing, eating, drinking mulled wine, snow, rain, sleet, tinsel, flashing fairy lights and above all the hilarious abiding memory on one very dark night of Roy leading us all (and getting us all lost – himself included – among the trees) through a garden in Great Ashfield in the pitch black of night! Oh happy days!

No words can convey my thanks to them for their support and love since we came to Suffolk. *Julia Dunncliffe*

Welcome to your celebration party!



The Lord Thurlow Hall
VILLAGE HALL
 For the Community of
**GREAT
 ASHFIELD**



**"Been at the heart of village life
 for 45 years"**



**"Encouraging and supporting great team
 work along the way"**



**"Presented £250 for them to purchase
 something for the village"**



**"Part of so many events and
 committed a lot of time and effort"**



**"Looking back of the years, the thing that stood
 out was how the village celebrated the year 2000.
 A committee chaired by Roy spent two years prior
 planning and fund raising, to produce the modern
 doomsday's book, new oak doors on the Church
 Porch and a special party held on the airfield.
 Through many events £12,000 was raised to pay
 for the three things the village had voted for"**

