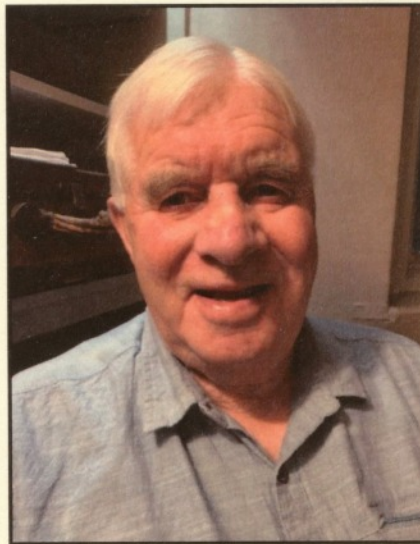


ROY COLLINS

The only son of Barney and Daisy, Roy had three older sisters, Florrie, Mary and Doris. His father was a gamekeeper on the Greenwell Estate and they lived in a minute tied cottage set in Carman's Wood, Butley. Roy walked to the school beside the church, but the teacher used to say that he lived the nearest but was always the last one in! When he was small there were only two teachers and up to 90 children. Some older boys were issued with a Council bike, a sou'wester and a cape so they could cycle in all weathers to school in Hollesley or Orford.

Roy recalled that there were not many naughty children, and he thought highly of his teacher, Mrs Richardson, who used the cane sparingly, started the Butley Flower Show and raised money for the first village hall with socials and pantomimes. There were no school dinners until 1946 when a prefabricated canteen was built next to the school. When large numbers of evacuees from the East End arrived in coaches, he saw them standing in the roads crying because they were waiting to be accommodated by anyone with a spare room. Their teachers had to give them lessons in the church.

Roy did not like school, but was pretty good at maths. The school leaving age had just been raised, so he left when he was 15 to work on the Estate. However, National Service in the Coldstream Guards enabled him to further his education. He rose to be farm manager at Butley, implementing enormous changes in agricultural practice. His knowledge of the land and its management was second to none. His wife Marian was a teacher at Butley Middle School attended by his daughters Deanna and Becky who were brought up at Buttons Farm in Capel. After he retired they moved to a house he had built in Hollesley. His memory remained needle-sharp even in his eighties and it was a delight to listen to his pure Suffolk as he reminisced and willingly talked about the past.



Roy Collins 28 September 1933 – 20 December 2020