

In memoriam - Florence Davey (10.03.25 – 13.04.2018)

Florence was born in March 1925 and was the daughter of Charles and Elsie Forsdike. Her older brother was Arthur (born 1922) and the family moved into Church Cottage in Pettaugh adjacent to St Catherine's Church a few months after Arthur was born. Members of the Forsdike family lived in the cottage until 1980 when Florence's two younger brothers George and Harold moved out. Florrie (as she liked to be known) joined the Land Army in 1942 and worked as one of the Land Girls at Bocking Hall in Helmingham. Florrie married Thomas Davey from Framsdon in 1956 and they moved to Cretingham in 1981 when Tommy retired. Florrie continued to live there after Tommy passed away in 2006 but recently moved into a retirement home in Barham where she passed away peacefully.

Florence was the second of our interviewees when I visited her in her home on 8 January 2008, her brothers, George and Harold, being the first of the former residents of Pettaugh who I interviewed in October 2007. The primary purpose of the interview was to establish facts about the Pettaugh Mission Hall property which was the subject of controversy in the village at that time, particularly whether the property was part of the village green. On this subject Florrie was quite clear that it was quite separate from the green which was a small triangular shaped piece of grass at the intersection of the roads in Pettaugh. The interview soon progressed into stories of the village and its people. When the Pettaugh History Society was formed she was a keen member, attending social events and a group interview with other Pettaugh folk she had known. Florrie really enjoyed meeting her friends and recalling life in Pettaugh. Florrie had an excellent memory and regaled us with stories of family life.

Our sympathies are extended to her sons, Jim and Tony, and the family.