



MELFORD MEMORIES

Jean Frost [4/2023]

I was born in 1941 and I came to Long Melford to live with my sister to start a new life as I had just divorced. I found it difficult at first getting use to country life after living in a city. Then unfortunately my sister passed away after two ½ years. -Then I met a gentleman and was married but after 23 years he also passed away. I found that coming South from the North that people were friendly, but not too involved with you and want to be friends.

Before my sister died, I worked at the Police Station in Bury St Edmunds, -and at the courts which was an interesting job. It was very difficult at times, as if there were any problems with the cases coming up it was my job to get in touch with everyone concerned to cancel the hearing, summons along with the date and times etc., I was working here for a few years, but was very stressful. During this time was when my sister died and I just couldn't cope as we were very close indeed and lost my job.

That was when I got into sewing and opened my business in the Sewing Cabin in Long Melford. The business has grown ever since as so many people do not sew anymore and need our help with alterations etc. We also had a lot of trade from retail shops. We used to have a Sewing Forum where people used to come back to the various shops after purchasing new clothes with the alterations required so that they fitted them perfectly. We came highly recommended from customers and from here the business prospered. I was able to take on more staff and when my daughter showed an interest, she came to work with me and now runs the business in a premises still in Long Melford as this is a niche market. Of course we use industrial sewing machines, and now have our own website so that people know exactly where to come for their needs, we are open from 10.00am to 4.00pm.

We still have work from local shops where customers may need alterations done as well as other customers contacting us directly for their needs. We do not make clothes from scratch though as clothes these days are easily to find in stores. However we do household items like cushions, curtains etc which may need alterations which is a very busy side of our business also. We are known for our talents and professionalism in everything our team are required to do. Our team have been well trained from scratch so I am very proud of the standard we give, even when it comes to hand sewing which is also required for our customers and hope that our good name will be well known for many years to come.

Before my daughter came here to live she had not done much sewing at all. She was head of the production line in a factory in the North, which was making make up brushes. But she left it and just picked up this type of work sewing straight away and inherited the job.

I used to belong to the U3A -- (University of the third Age) I studied Architecture and go on excursions. However no longer study this, as I had a lot of trouble with my arthritis in my spine at the time and felt I should give it up.

I just loved the antique shops when first arriving it was a nice little village in Long Melford, as it used to be called the antique centre of Europe. The street was just full of antique shops. One little episode I remember when a programme named Lovejoy was on the television, a lot of filming was done here in Long Melford, the actor Ian McShane having the main role was staying at the Bull Hotel. One day we came out of our workshop as he was filming next door we had some interesting conversations with him. I was lucky enough to get some nice photographs too. These memories are still with me today.