



Edward Frank Clare 10.07.1923 - 12.12.2010

Ted Clare sadly passed away at the age of 87, at Combe Lea, Midsomer Norton, after a long and difficult illness. Ted leaves Amy [nee Whittock] his beloved wife of 67 years; son Stephen and his wife Pirkko; daughter Helen and her husband Les; granddaughter Jessica; and his sister Margaret Rose Williams.

Ted was born at Sunnyside, Farrington Gurney, and attended school first at Farrington Gurney and then at Paulton where he also went to night school. On leaving school at 14 he worked as an apprentice carpenter for F. Pratten at Midsomer Norton.

At the age of 17, Ted volunteered for a secret Auxiliary Unit of the British Resistance Organisation, and trained at Temple Cloud before receiving his army call up. He was initially based at Towyn North Wales in the Royal Artillery, and was later posted to 1HQ Royal Signals. Ted and Amy married in 1943 but unfortunately most of the photographs of the wedding were destroyed during a German bombing raid.

Ted went to France just after D-Day in June 1944 with the British Army of the Rhine, and delivered secret documents to General Montgomery's tactical headquarters in various countries by motorcycle and jeep. He completed an NCO course in 1945 obtaining Grade A, and was subsequently promoted to Sergeant. After WWII Ted became well known in many communities around Peasedown St. John. He worked initially driving taxis and lorries for his brother-in-law Frank Whittock, then at Frank's garage at Ashgrove, and later for 15 years as the local milkman.

Ted loved all sports but particularly cricket, football, and table tennis at which he excelled. Despite working very long hours he gave much of his free time to supporting Peasedown St. John Parish Council; Peasedown Athletic Football Club, and the local youth club. He was also an avid gardener, not only growing vegetables, fruits and flowers for his family and friends, but also for competing in and winning innumerable medals and trophies in local and regional shows.

Ted and Amy were committed members and regular prizewinners of Bath Wine Circle, and later became judges of competitions for home-made wine at many events including the Bath and West show. After more than 40 years living at Peasedown St John, they moved to a bungalow in Ham Grove, Paulton, and became popular team members for Purnells Bowls Club.

Ted was a very modest, generous, honest, hard working man, who was devoted to his family. He will be fondly remembered for many reasons but particularly for his sense of fun and good humour, and will be greatly missed by all who knew him.