

Jean and Ken Fincham

I was born in Mildenhall, Suffolk, at the Cottage Hospital on Kings Way on the 14th December 1931. My parents took me home to Lakenheath Village at the Bell Hotel, where they both worked at the time.

This is where I met Ken. I was sitting at the bar having a glass of lemonade as I didn't drink alcohol. He walked in the bar and he caught my gaze, he was a handsome dashing young chap. He was thinning a little on top. He had a beautiful smile and big brown eyes. He ordered a beer and we got talking.

Over the coming days love started to blossom. I was 18 and worked at the hotel and he was 23 just got out of service from the second world war, where he had served from when he was 18 years old and was called into duty.

We used to go into Mildenhall on the bus to go watch movie matinees at the Comet Cinema house on North Terrace. I didn't mind what we went to see as it was a luxury to be able to go. I also had the treat of visiting the hairdresser in Mildenhall, but I had to cycle to and from to go there.

During our engagement Ken bought me pretty bracelets.

We eventually got married. I wore a white dress and Ken wore a navy suit and he was carrying a pair of dress gloves, which was part of his suit attire.

Ken bought me a brooch to wear on the day, we had 3 bridesmaids. The 2 little ones wore white with a green trim, and the eldest wore a green bridesmaids dress.

We had bouquets of roses and both sets of parents attended our big day. We had a best man, we didn't need a car for our big day as we only had to walk across the road to the Bell Hotel from St Mary's Church where my father was the churchwarden. We went back to the Hotel for our wedding breakfast which was held upstairs in the wedding room. Some of our friends were unable to come to the wedding itself but were able to join us in the evening.

Ken joined me at the Hotel to live for a while; we lived there until our new house was built. We fell pregnant with Judith which made the move even more important. Ken and I lived there until our eldest daughter Judith was about a one-year old when we finally moved into our new home that was being built in the Village. We moved to the new house which became the family home and is still in the family to this day.

We holidayed in Yarmouth and Hemsby in the caravan with Judith during the summer time only. Judith was 6 when we fell pregnant with Margaret. We continued to have our holidays in the caravan as a family. On one occasion Ken fell ill during one of our trips and had to be taken to Addenbrookes Hospital for treatment. After the treatment, he was able to return to the caravan to finish his holiday.

Back to our home

We lived happily at Lakenheath but Ken sadly passed away and I lived at my home for another 30 years until I had my stroke and I had to stay in hospital for 6 months. The family rented out our home to Americans but they didn't stay very long. The house stayed within the family and my Grand-daughter Nicole now owns it.

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Ken and Jean's group wedding picture taken at the back of The Bell Public House, High Street, Lakenheath.