

**Cambridge
& Uttlesford
CRUSE
Bereavement Care**

Offers FREE help with life's worst disaster – the death of a life partner, a child, a parent or close friend.

We provide:

Counselling in your own home by trained, experienced volunteers who are familiar with the problems you face

Information about the aid that is available from other sources

Can you help us; we need more volunteer counsellors, fundraisers and committee members

HELPLINE: 01223 302662

**ST CLARE
HOSPICE
SHOP**

**1 MERCERS ROW,
SAFFRON WALDEN**

Charity No. 1063631



Good quality donated items of bric-a-brac, books, jewellery, furniture – and anything else you can think of always welcome

**Please call 01799 523573
or 01279 639760**

**YOUR LOCAL HOSPICE
SUPPORTING LOCAL
PEOPLE**

OBITUARIES

George Rand 1929–2012

**MICHAEL RAND
(SON)**

My father, George Rand, was born to George and Ida Rand, then of Wicken Road, Newport, in March 1929. When Mr Salter built the Croft Cottages (known as the ‘Dutch houses’) in Gaces Acre, we moved into no. 1.

George’s education from five until fourteen was at the village school, then in Wicken Road, under headmaster E.R.A. Bayley. He was a paper boy for newsagent Stacey Revell and on Saturday mornings he worked for Mr Porter at the Co-op stores. Sometimes during school holidays he and his friend Don Sagggers were given jobs in Albert Sagggers’ shop, so it is not surprising that when he left school he started work at Emson and Tanner’s warehouse in the Market Square in Saffron Walden for a wage of 15 shillings (75 pence) a week. Although that was soon increased to £1, he moved on to join a small dimmer switch factory then at Martin’s Farm at what seemed a huge £3 a week plus bonus.

All this was during WW2, so all the local musicians had been called up, which left opportunities for youngsters like George (who had been in the Church choir), and some may still remember him as a teenage drummer with the Johnny Goddard Jazz Band, travelling the village halls of rural Essex, taking the mike for vocal solos and chatting up the girls – Newport’s version of Bing Crosby!

When the war ended and the Martin’s Farm factory closed, George went to work with plumber Fred Bunten, whom he later described in *Newport News* as ‘a wonderful tradesman and a good boss’. But the terrible winter of 1946/47 and the hours spent in icy lofts dealing with



frozen pipes meant that it was a relief to join the army for his two years’ National Service. Afterwards he decided to make his career with Sainsbury’s, and joined the Bishop’s Stortford branch. He remained with them, moving around their stores in many parts of the country, for 40 years, 29 of them as Store Manager.

In the early 1950s, with rationing still in force, George was working in a North London shop. A young woman gave him a piece of her mind when he tried to sell additional provisions to her mother which she couldn’t afford, and he got into serious trouble. That young woman’s name was Elaine Mathison, and she must have forgiven him, for she became his wife!

Sadly my mother Elaine died in 2001. George had retired in 1989 and the Lower Parkstone Conservative Club became an integral part of his life. Another important interest was football, and he had a beach hut at Sandbanks and spent long days with his grandchildren on the sands. In his latter days my father’s lifelong support for Arsenal grew even stronger.

To me there is really only one memory and that is one of a wonderful father. **NN**