

Another Potterer's Profile

This month my Potterers Profile is slightly different. My subject is sadly no longer with us, yet I know her memory will live on for many reasons. She was cycling well into her 90's, always seemed fit & 'with it'; her mind was agile & active she genuinely appeared to love life. I like to associate my profiles with something or someone & I think of Madge Marshall as our Queen Mum.

Madge was born in Margate in 1910, one of four children. She told of her early memories when at the age of four the First World War broke out & the Zeppelins would fly over Margate on their way to London. The family stayed in Thanet so Madge went to school first at Salmestone then the Girls Central School, now Lausanne Girls School. Her favourite lesson was Domestic Science and this love of cookery was to last a lifetime, she became a wonderful cook over the years.

After leaving school Majorie Rosa, as she was christened, went into service, working first for a doctor then at a convent, later moving to the Kodak Company in Margate.

Madges love of the countryside and the great outdoors was probably

developed while on holiday at her grandparents farm in Brookgate near Goudhurst. Every year the children would spend their summers on the farm having a glorious time.

It was during her early years that Madge learned to ride a bike, it became a passion that stayed with her. She had a companion in her sister Grace & together they joined the Thanet branch of the CTC, enjoying weekend cycle tours over many miles.

On one occasion in the 30's the sisters arrived at a B&B and the proud Landlady gave them a room with running water, the norm was a jug and bowl. Having had a quick wash in a lovely basin of water, they pulled the plug only to find the waste hadn't been connected so - wet feet!

Another time they were on a CTC ride with some lads who arrived at a set of gates ahead of the girls. The cocky young males climbed the gates then passed their bikes over; when the girls arrived they promptly just opened the gates & walked through causing some very red faces.

Just before the Second World War Madge met & fell in love with