

Rosa Proll 8th March 1925 –9th September 2010

The sad news of the death in a traffic accident on the A420 of Rosa Proll on Thursday 9th September shocked all those who knew her in Faringdon

Rosa was originally from the town of Lintz in Austria and arrived in England in 1954, hardly speaking a word of English, to work for Countess Munster in Bampton. A few short years later she was coaxed by Robert Heber Percy to become housekeeper at Faringdon House. There she remained for the best part of 30 years, caring for him devotedly right up to the end of his life in 1987. She did leave for a spell to work for Alan Heber-Percy (Robert's nephew) in Gloucestershire, but returned to Faringdon to look after Robert in his final years.

Rosa's life was one of hard work, caring for many people. Her cooking, needlework and gardening skills were widely admired. She was also very fond of animals.

After leaving Faringdon she took up residence in a flat in @Gravel Walk and worked for many people in Faringdon including the Webb family.

Her final journey to work was to Little Coxwell, where she worked for Mr and Mrs Crossley Cooke every Thursday. She insisted on walking to work and would ignore offers of help with transport. Rosa was fiercely independent, proud and suffered no fools, but was incredibly loyal to those she cared for.

She moved to Brackendale House earlier this year, reluctantly leaving her home in Gravel Walk. She has been described as devoted, loyal, and stubborn thoughtful with a life of giving.

Nina Chandler, one of her neighbours in Gravel Walk, wrote this ' I miss Rosa's radio pips coming through my bathroom wall at 6am giving me the farming weather news. She loved gardening and would call me to look at some precious bush she had tenderly nursed back to health ' Nina, Nina come and look und (sic) see.....' Then last view I had of her was of her hands wielding a pair of secateurs, appearing over the top of my wall cutting off offending tendrils of ivy which were encroaching onto her side.

She had more energy than most of us put together and a in a terrible portent of her last walk- I met her almost a year ago to the day striding down to Little ~Coxwell at 7am.

Another near neighbour ~~Denise Cocquerel, also spoke about her early morning meetings with Rosa, when she was out walking her dog. She has memories of Rosa walking towards her meeting at the walnut tree that overhung the street. They would both look to see if any walnuts had fallen overnight and exchange a few words.

Rosa Proll's funeral is taking place at the \Blessed Hugh Faringdon on Tuesday 5th October, 10.30am. This is to be followed by a committal at Kingsdown crematorium at 12 noon.

Faringdon Folly October 2010