

## **MONTGOMERY (MONTY) SPENCER, 1944–2018**

Monty Spencer, aged 73, passed away peacefully at home on 11 August after a short illness. He was born on 17 November 1944 to Florence Annie and Eric Denning Spencer at 6 Castle Street, where they lived with his two sisters, Margaret and Pauline and his brother John.

Monty attended Deddington Primary School followed by the Windmill School and as a youngster would often be seen driving his goat cart around the village – yes, goat; he kept goats on the old allotment on the Clifton Road.

When he was the Honorary Secretary of Deddington Football Club in the late 1960s, he and other members and players, erected the football pavilion on Castle Grounds. He was involved in all aspects of Deddington life as a retained fireman, a very keen footballer who played for Deddington Town Football Club and, in later years, for Deddington Cricket Club. He was a member of the Deddington branch of the Royal Antediluvian Order of Buffaloes, became the owner of the Deddington Bowls Club's grounds in the early 1980s and was one of the original founders of the Deddington Golf Society.

In 1970, whilst working away in Nottingham for Midland Felt Roofing, Monty met Susan Humphreys whom he married in 1973. Because of his experience with felt roofing, Mont, along with Sue, decided to set up their own company, Deddington Felt Roofing, which, due to Mont's dedication, became very successful.

Monty had very strong feelings about the sale of land on the old Windmill School site and in October 1978 applied to become a parish councillor in order to have greater input in any decisions made. There was a tie between Monty and another applicant. The casting vote lay with Donald Welford, the chairman at the time, who said, 'Mr Spencer was born here and has his heart in the village', and voted Monty in.

Monty was involved in the later negotiations over the Windmill site when a group of residents successfully established a higher value for the land than the OCC's District Valuer had advised the PC to accept. Even though not one for public speaking, he presented a powerful case, one which benefits the people of Deddington today. The PC was also in discussion about lighting on High Street and it was Monty who pushed the Council to canvass the parish which voted in favour of the lighting, and the rest, as they say, is history.

In 1981, Monty became Deddington Carnival Committee leader, and he was very proud of their achievements. He wanted to make sure the carnival was a fun day for everyone and the amount of work that went into the planning was phenomenal. Despite one or two hitches, I'm quite sure that everyone who came to the Market Place and Castle Grounds on Saturday 4 July 1981 would remember that day for a very long time. It's fair to say that, throughout his life, those who had the pleasure of meeting Monty would have lasting memories of him.

Monty was very proud of his children, Mark, Richard, Ian, Kerry, Andrew, Florence and Lauren and in his final few months took great pleasure in seeing as many of his 16 grandchildren as possible.

Unfortunately over the last few years Monty didn't go out much but he always knew what was happening in his beloved Deddington. He was born in Deddington, he never left Deddington and he will be buried in the joint grave of his parents, a couple of hundred yards from where he was born in Castle Street. As Norman Drake said in his tribute at Monty's funeral, Monty will forever have Deddington imprinted on his heart. Monty Spencer, a true Deddingtonian.

***Sue Spencer***