

TERRY CLINCH, 1936–2022

Terry was born in London and grew up there during the Second World War, spending nights in an Anderson shelter in the garden during air raids and going out afterwards to check the neighbourhood for damaged houses, and hunting shrapnel and spent bullet casings after watching aerial dogfights.

As a young man he did his two years' National Service. On a couple of occasions he had to cut the grass with a pair of nail scissors. but was excused guard duty in exchange for playing the piano in the officers' mess. There was always a pint on the piano.



After his National Service Dad started as an apprentice at BMK Carpets in Scotland but soon moved to a job with Crossley carpets in Croydon, much closer to home and his girlfriend, Shirley. His boss, seeing Dad was good with customers sent him out to visit customers, wearing a bowler hat, no less. He was very successful as a rep; asked why his monthly expenses were so high, having spent £38 (this was the late '60s) on lunch and a few drinks after playing golf with two customers Dad said, 'Have you looked at the order I received?'. It was for 45 rolls of carpet, worth around £13,000. The account manager did not bother Dad again.

In the mid '70s Dad moved to Abingdon Carpets, a new manufacturer, where he continued his successful career and built a large customer base. In spite of being a top salesman he was made redundant when the firm restructured. Dad dusted himself off and, within a couple of years, at the age of 55, started his own company, Simply Rugs. He rapidly acquired a loyal customer base who considered Terry as a friend. Not only would his customers be shown rugs but eventually there was wine on offer too.

We moved to Deddington in 1982 when Monty Spencer quickly inducted him into village life at the Unicorn. Before we knew it he was on the school PTA, raising funds, not least selling the horses as well as getting sponsors and prizes for the famous 'Let's Go to the Races' evenings. He joined the Cricket Club, loving the Sunday afternoon games and the occasional beer afterwards, and joining the committee to raise funds.

He twice chaired the Parish Council, getting a fair deal on the sale of the Windmill School to developers and acquiring Deddington's coat of arms. He served on the Windmill Committee, then the Holly Tree Club, the Monday Morning Club, Friends of the Castle Grounds, Daeda's Wood and Deddington Farmers' Market. I did see him occasionally.

My dad was diagnosed with dementia, a truly awful disease, in January 2019. Every time I saw him, I lost a little bit more of him and could see the frustration in his eyes. My mother also has dementia and in March 2021 I took the heart-breaking decision to take them from their home in Deddington and put them into a care home. My Dad passed away aged 86. Terry loved the village, the people and village life and spent 40 years making Deddington a better place.

He also loved his dogs and could often be seen walking around the Castle Grounds or through the village with them.

Simon Clinch