

Philip Dodd, 1937–2021

Philip Dodd was born in 1937 in the Forest or Dean. His love of the countryside and all things rural took root at a young age. He and his sister, Margaret, would sit on Molly, the carthorse and ride around the fields.

During the war food was in short supply so he hunted rabbits to provide food for the table and to sell. As a child he was a regular visitor at milking time at 'Donald's Farm' in Longtown. He visited his grandparents at Glebe Farm in Malpas; they ran a large cattle-dealing operation which was most likely the start of his own cattle-dealing activities.



At the age of 12, he moved to the Lodge in Hempton to live with his Uncle Reg, Auntie Jess and cousins, Hazel and Ruth. Each morning before school Philip delivered fresh milk from his uncle's cows around the village by bike. He loved motorbikes and built them using spare parts which were stacked around the tree in the garden at the Lodge. He had a mischievous sense of humour and often rode his motorbike round and round the tree just to annoy his Uncle Reg. Philip's love of engines drew him into a career as a lorry driver for Lampreys in Banbury for the next 19 years.

He continued to live at the Lodge for 13 years, marrying Pamela in 1963 when they moved to Calthorpe Road, Banbury. Charles was born in 1966, followed by Heather in 1972. In 1974, the family moved to the Stores in Hempton where Pamela ran the village shop while Philip ran the smallholding. Purchases from weekly visits to Northampton cattle market included blocks of Stilton cheese to sell in the shop. It was not unusual for a calf or two to be brought back to Hempton in the car.

Another regular jaunt was to Wisbech market to buy vegetables for the shop. Philip had up to four Jersey and Guernsey cows which he hand milked every day with Charles' help. There were pigs, sheep, chickens, ducks and geese in the fold. Throughout his life, Philip had a dog by his side and often befriended any he met on his travels. In his later working life he set up his own haulage business, mainly for E.A. Goundrey & Son, delivering soil to many grand residences and sporting venues until his retirement at the age of 67. He encouraged Charles to follow him into the haulage trade.

Philip had a great interest in tractors and in 1997 joined the Banbury Ploughing Club. When his first grandson, Callum, was born he was soon placed on his Grandad's little grey Fergie. Philip was keen for all three grandchildren, Callum, Aaron and Nathan, to follow his love of the countryside and his little grey Fergies. He enjoyed weekends travelling around the country to ploughing matches with his vintage tractors.

He was the inspiration behind the *Vintage Scene* magazine published by his daughter, Heather, the proud cover star of the first issue with his Massey Ferguson. Philip loved his family. His passing leaves a huge hole for them, especially Pamela.

The Dodd Family