

SIDNEY MUNSON (1934–2014)



Sid was born on 11 February 1934, the sixth of nine children born to Dora and George Munson. The family lived in West Ham but during the war the family was evacuated to Knowle Manor, Timberscombe, on Exmoor. After that a council house in Dunster became their home and Sid attended Minehead School.

At the age of 17 Sid joined the Fleet Air Arm and served on HMS Eagle as a pilot's mate. He remained a proud Navy man all his life. When stationed at Culdrose Bay Sid met Brenda and the couple married in Bodmin in 1957. After a period in Croughton they came to Church Street, Deddington, and then to 4 Windmill Street as its first occupiers in 1961.

Sid had a varied working life. He was a fireman in Banbury and Kidlington, and then worked for CSE Aviation at Oxford Airport. He became a safety officer for Cherwell District Council and then worked as an inspector for the Severn Trent Water Board. A heart attack at the age of 56 led to his retirement.

Sid and Brenda had six children but their second, Angela, and their last, Helen, both died in childhood. The eldest, Robert, was killed in a motorcycle accident in July 2011. A real hands-on grandparent, Sid adored the 11 he had and he taught them a great deal. He was a disciplinarian: never unkind, but firm. He liked neatness and order and good table manners. He enjoyed family seaside holidays featuring the legendary camper van; he loved to watch the birds and quietly to contemplate the sea. In his retirement he took up bowls and was greenkeeper at the Deddington Club, something of a contrast to his earlier sporting life which centred on boxing.

Firm in his opinions, Sid didn't tend to stand corrected, but this didn't prevent him being held in affection by many. A good neighbour, Sid's passing is a loss for the whole community.

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