

TONY WALLER (1935–2016)



Tony was born in India, to Harry and Gertrude, as his father was a sergeant in the British Army. Five years later in 1940 the family, having returned to England, moved to Barford St Michael where he went to school on The Green before going to the Windmill School in Deddington.

In 1950 the family moved to Batchelors Row in The Lane, Hempton. Tony left school at 15 and joined a local firm doing building work at the old Northern Aluminium Company in Banbury, later to become Alcan Industries. He also worked for Hinkins and Frewins, a well-known local builder at that time, and also worked for himself over the years. He met Betty from Duns Tew and the couple were married in 1963 and went on to have two sons, Keith, born in 1966 and Paul, in 1969.

The family was still living in a cottage in Batchelors Row but had bought some land during the 1960s and built their present home in The Lane during 1970 after demolishing three old properties. Tony was a keen outdoor man, enjoying the countryside and nature in general. He was a keen vegetable gardener, kept pigeons which he regularly raced, had pond fish (he was always calling my wife when the herons were around raiding ponds) and always had a dog. All his dogs had the same name, Jip. He was also a very keen sportsman, having played football and cricket, mainly for Barford when they had teams. He was a very good table tennis player, playing for Deddington at the British Legion Club, Hempton and Sibford in the Banbury and District League.

Tony was one of only two people that I knew when I moved here as we had played each other several times when I lived in Banbury. Tony was always ready to stop and have a chat with you and I miss seeing him around the village. His funeral service with a good congregation was held at St John's Church, followed by a burial in Barford churchyard.

Les Chappell