

Norman/Gramp eulogy

Good afternoon everyone, for those that don't know me my name is Becky and I am Norman's Granddaughter.

First of all can I on behalf of all the family thank you for coming today to help us celebrate and remember Norman's life.

The number of people here shows us how well liked and respected Norman was and we hope you will join us afterwards for refreshments and to raise a glass to Norman and also to swap stories & memories of him.

Norman was born on the 16th April 1933 in North Aston to Frederick & Emma West he had 3 brothers Harry, Godfrey & Les who have all sadly passed away and a sister Mary who is still carrying on the family West spirit.

Norman was born in North Aston and spent nearly all his life at 22 The Green apart from a short while when they moved in to Gardeners Cottage whilst 22 The Green was modernised.

He did his schooling in the village and when he left school he went to work at Park Farm in the village until he was called up to do National Service which he did for 2 years in Korea. He was always ready to tell stories of that time including how during his weeks at sea to get to Korea and back he suffered dreadful bouts of seasickness. On leaving the army he started working for a local building firm Hippersons at the camp in Upper Heyford first as a teaboy and then as a buyer. He stayed in this job for 40 years until he retired.

In 1960 he married Eileen and 65 years later they were still happily married. They had 2 daughters Linda & Tracy, 3 Grandchildren Karen, Paul & Me and 4 Great Grandchildren Noah, George, Arthur & Mabel. His family were his life.

Where to even begin with all the memories we all shared, my Gramp was just simply the best, one of a kind and he would do anything for anyone nothing was too much trouble for him.

When I was younger I was always told I was my Grampy's shadow where he went I went along too I'm not sure if he actually got fed up with me being constantly at his side. Gramps would happily teach us Grandkids anything we needed to know, he even took the bull by the horns and gave my brother driving lessons. He was also caught out one time trying to teach us how to skin a rabbit much to my Nans disgust.

Norman liked nothing better than playing with Noah, George, Arthur & Mabel at one time the boys managed to get him on the their trampoline (he did come off that looking a bit worse for wear) the boys thought this was hilarious. With Mabel he just loved to sit her on his knee and read stories and draw. They all loved him and he adored them.

As you all know Norman's biggest passion was his gardening come rain or shine he would always be in the garden finding something to do. His biggest passion was his vegetables, chrysanthemums and not forgetting his famous strawberries, nothing gave him greater pleasure than being able to share these with anybody who came knocking at his door.

Norman was also known as the North Aston mole catcher, one time I remember he was so chuffed with himself for catching a mole in his garden he decided to wave it through the window to Mabel who was 2 at the time, Mabel of course thought this was hilarious.

While growing up in North Aston Norman was a devoted church goer, choir boy and bell ringer. He has taught many North Aston residents to ring the bells including Karen, Paul & myself. He also helped to maintain the churchyard over the years. Norman also helped to set up the village cricket club and played for many years in the team, he became a keen batsman, many Sundays through the summer would see all the family being involved, Norman playing cricket, Eileen doing the teas and Linda & Tracy running after the misplaced balls.

He also enjoyed playing football in his youth and was also a keen Oxford United supporter. During this time he gained the nickname 'Shant' we don't know where this came from or what it means, if anyone can enlighten us on this?

Norman was Deddington's Royal British Legion club treasurer from 1975 - 2001, President from 2001 - 2008 and the Branch treasurer until 2017. Norman was also the local organiser and seller for the poppies and

every Remembrance Sunday come rain or shine would take part in Deddington's Remembrance day parade, he was immensely proud of this and we as a family were immensely proud to watch him.

We thought it only fitting that he was led into church with the standard bearer and we would like to Thank Robert Forsyth and the British Legion for organising this.

Gramp Thank you for all the wonderful memories we have all shared, you have been an amazing Husband, Dad, Father in Law, Grampy, Great Grampy and friend.

We will all miss and love you so much. We will never forget you.

God Bless.