

## ALEC WILLIAM CHARLES WRIGHT 1935–2024

Alec was a tall handsome man whose hobbies were growing vegetables, reading and travelling. He was born in March 1935 in Lydney, Gloucestershire, into a farming family of three generations: great grandfather, grandfather and father. He had an older brother, a sister and a younger brother.

In about 1948 Alec's father was offered the tenancy of a smallholding farm in Denham, in the south of Buckinghamshire where he attended the local primary school before passing the eleven plus examination and moving on to the Royal Grammar School in High Wycombe. By the time he turned 15 his father's health was deteriorating rapidly, from multiple sclerosis, and Alec left school to help on the farm. He worked very hard, getting up at 5.00am and milking cows twice a day until his early twenties. However, farming life began to take a toll on Alec's health, so he decided to look for other employment.

Initially, Alec worked for an animal feedstuff company but found this not to his liking. He was then offered a job at P & J Dodds, a haulage company in Gerrards Cross, working as a driver, which he did for some considerable time. Through Dodds an opportunity arose for Alec to manage a quarry in Marlow where he worked until his retirement.

Alec and Joan married in 1973, living for the next ten years in Loudwater. High Wycombe. They then moved to Widmoor, Bourne End, where they lived until they both took early retirement in 1995. The next ten years was spent in Stadbroke, in Suffolk, before they decided to move nearer to family, coming to Deddington in August 2005.

Farming was still in his blood and he just had to have an allotment where he spent many happy hours growing vegetables, from plot to pot. Joan used to count the number of vegetables on their dinner plates, usually about eight different varieties. Unsurprisingly, in 2008 Alec became chairman of the Parish Show where he exhibited his vegetables, on many occasions winning first prize. Alec joined Joan in distributing the *Deddington News* and they opened their cottage garden to raise funds for the Deddington Festival. In retirement Joan and Alec did an enormous amount of travelling: New Zealand, Australia, Africa, America, Canada and all over Europe. They enjoyed all these trips, especially Australia and Africa which left wonderful memories of life together.

Alec's health was always vulnerable and, in 1989, he was diagnosed with severe ulcerative colitis. After three major surgeries Alec was fitted with an ileo-anal pouch which served him well. In spite of his health problems, he challenged himself on DIY tasks; building an archway using stone from the local quarry, assembling a new greenhouse, laying tiles on the kitchen and hallway floors, to name just a few. He also had a flair for sewing. Joan's mother had passed over her old Singer sewing machine with which Alec used to make a bedspread with piping around the sides and pleats at the bottom.

Although Joan and Alec never had children of their own, they were blissfully happy and were devoted to each other. Alec was a wonderful, kind husband with a great sense of humour and as, Joan puts it, 'he really was the love of my life'.

Sadly, over the last few years Alec's health deteriorated significantly and greatly

affected Joan as his full-time carer. Ultimately, professional help was needed and Alec entered Wardington House Care Home which provided wonderful service.

***Joan Wright***