

ARTHUR LEWIS (1927–2016)



Arthur Thomas Lewis was born on 26 February 1927, into a family of two sisters and a brother. He went to Deddington School before going to work at Lamprey's at Wykham Mill near Bloxham. He cycled there from Monday to Friday and also on Saturdays before playing football in the afternoon on Castle Grounds.

In August 1945 Arthur joined the Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire regiment where he served as an infantry weapons instructor and achieving the rank of sergeant. He met his future wife, Joan Green, whilst travelling home on a bus. They fell in love, married and had two sons, Stephen and Peter. At this point Arthur was working at Pressed Steel Fisher in Cowley, now BMW, where he became a production line foreman, and stayed for 32 years. Arthur took early retirement from Rover and then worked at the Upper Heyford RAF base, assisting a British wing commander and a station warden. He went on to do charity work as a minibus driver for Banbury taking people on day trips.

In 1949 he joined the Royal British Legion, serving as a committee member until 1960 when he also became club secretary and then service secretary from 1980 to 1996. In 1982 he became vice-president of the branch and then president in 1991. In 1982 he received the RBL badge – one of the organisation's highest accolades. Arthur also helped with the Poppy Appeal collection for 30 years between 1960 and 1990. He was a keen gardener and grew vegetables and flower borders which looked a picture at the bungalow. In his spare time he also enjoyed playing snooker on a Saturday afternoon at the RBL.

In the early 1990s Arthur became a grandfather to Nicole and then Ben and a great-grandfather in 2014 with the arrival of Freddie. He was a very caring person who looked after Joan with great dedication when she developed Alzheimer's in later life. When she eventually went into a care home, Arthur visited her every day but still found time to visit friends in the village too. He loved to play cribbage with Joan when she was well and also with Peter on his Saturday visit before going off to play snooker.

Over the past couple of years Arthur's health suffered, eventually leading him to be admitted to the Horton Hospital where he passed away peacefully two weeks later. He will be greatly missed by his family and the local community who knew and loved him so well.

Revd Annie Goldthorp