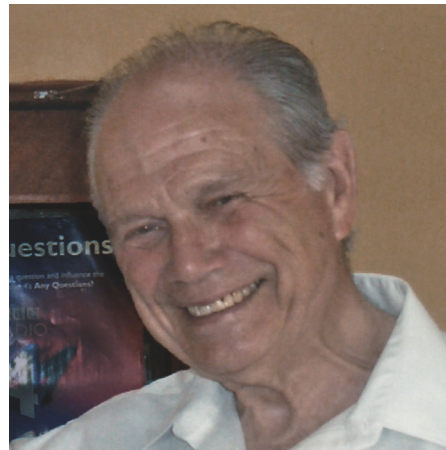


NORMAN STONE (1926–2010)

Norman Stone's involvement with Deddington parish began almost as soon as he arrived here from London, with his wife Angela in January 1986. His first official involvement was with the *Deddington News*. From February 1987 he and Angela took on its editorship for seven years, during which time Norman was also Parish Affairs Correspondent. They resumed temporary editorship in June-July 1997, and Norman was Parish Correspondent for various periods, notably from October 1997 to December 2004. Under their stewardship, the magazine expanded its advertising space considerably to become the economically thriving publication it remains to this day. Several new regular features were also introduced, such as Church and Chapel, Calling All Clubs, and Clifton and Hempton News.



In 1996 Norman became a founder member of Deddington Writers' Group and in 1997 a founder member of the recently disbanded art group, Art at the Holly Tree. His knowledge and contributions to both were highly valued by fellow members, as well as his dry sense of humour. An art group member told me, 'If we ever had a problem, we'd say "Wait for Norman, he'll sort it out"'. Similarly a member of Deddington Writers' Group reported that, after struggling at length to capture the right words to portray a new work, Norman solved it in a few minutes and in five words. In addition to their regular meetings, Art at the Holly Tree ran regular exhibitions and the Writers' Group continues to organise an annual writing competition to coincide with Deddington Festival, one of its prime aims being to encourage the young to develop their creative streak. In addition, he was an enthusiastic member of the Playreading Group.

In 1997 Norman was also a founder of the Deddington Map Group, responsible for the ambitious project of Deddington's Millennium Map launched in November 2000. This was three years in the making and involved the group in a specially commissioned aerial survey, painstaking hand colouring, artistic illustrations, historical research and computer technology. It is still on display under the Town Hall in the Market Place and at the Windmill. The Map Group was also responsible for the publication *Discovering Deddington* in May 2000.

Norman was a leading figure in the birth of perhaps Deddington's most ambitious project, the Festival, which first took place in 2003 and has gone from strength to strength since. Norman in particular was responsible for the huge task of researching and formulating the Festival into a charity. Indeed no one could have been better qualified to undertake this complex task, given his hugely successful career before coming to Deddington.

He was born on 27 April 1926 in Bristol. From a junior state school, he obtained scholarships to three independent schools and chose Rendcomb College. From here he joined the Royal Navy in 1944, working on radar until 1947, when he entered Cheltenham College of Art and subsequently the Central School of Art in London. Family commitments obliged him to go into industry before completing his studies, when he became test engineer and trouble-shooter on civilian and service radar.

From 1956 to 1985 he had a succession of appointments in the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research, the Ministry of Technology, as first Director of Information at the Metrication Board (earning him the nickname

of Mr Metrication), as Deputy Director of Information at the Department of Trade, and as Director of Marketing and Information at the Manpower Services Commission. Throughout his distinguished career, he specialised in communication: by the written word, through exhibitions, films and TV, and through the management courses he ran. For six years he ran his own public relations company from Deddington. He was the author of two major works on public relations: *How to Manage Public Relations Practical Guidelines for Effective PR Management*, McGraw-Hill 1991, and *The Management and Practice of Public Relations*, Macmillan 1995.

Few people can have made a greater impact on their community than Norman, not only for the present but for future generations. On a personal note, I shall miss him greatly as a valued friend and adviser.

Sylvie Nickels