

TED TURNER: 1930-2012

Chris Sprent

If you came to live in Wheatley in the last 10 years you may not be aware of the significant contribution Ted made to the life of the village before he retired from his shop, 'Ted Turner Ltd', due to ill health.



Ted lived in Wheatley from an early age having been born in Forest Hill. He attended school here and, after serving as a Boy Scout and Army Cadet, and spending time helping his father who ran the garage Turners of Wheatley on London Road, later to become Highfield Motors. Ted spent his National Service in the Royal Engineers teaching people to drive trucks. After demob, and marriage to Joy at St Mary's in 1951, they set up shop in 1953 in the building next to the Merry Beils.

Actually, it was more of an emporium than a mere shop, meeting the needs of the village for a very wide range of goods and services including bikes and mopeds and their repair, electrical goods of all kinds including, from their introduction, TV and videos, fishing tackle and the necessary licence, hardware (he would sell you a single screw), toys, stationary and cards, shoe repairs, etc etc. Ted and Joy, with the help of their growing family (they had five children) provided a happy, friendly service to the village; ready to help find what you were looking for, or to obtain it if not in stock. In other words 'to fix it' for you.

Ted and Joy kept their children busy with swimming on Sundays, and outings on foot and by car to explore the local countryside and its history. Holidays were active with visits to all parts of the British Isles, with the whole family and kit packed into their capacious estate cars, latterly a Peugeot 505. Ted also encouraged the children to learn how to mend things, both mechanical and electrical.

Ted was a keen member of the British Legion and we miss his jovial smiling presence at meetings. It is a loss to all of us that he was housebound for his last years and that he could no longer take part in the life of the village to which he had contributed so much. It may seem that he left us some years ago but in fact it was in September this year that he bid a fond farewell to the family he held dear.