

TOM WILLARD – A FRIEND OF THE PARISH

Tom was born on 2 November 1919 and died on 24 January 2020.

A born and bred Chidham man, Tom started life at 1 Blacksmith Cottages, Cot Lane, moved into Brynhild, Chidham Lane and finally spent the latter part of his life at 12 Hamstead Meadow.

I remember him best as a Chidham Parish Councillor who worked hard for both the Council and residents. The Parish Council was later renamed Chidham & Hambrook Parish Council.

Tom and his wife, Dorothy, were devoted to their children, grandchildren and great grandchildren. They had two sons, Philip and Paul and the family used to bring a roundabout and other fairground equipment to the annual Chidham School Summer Fair; Tom always ran the Coconut Shy!

Tom served his country in World War II in Burma with the Welsh Regiment and later with the Royal Warwickshire Regiment.

In latter years, Tom would regularly be seen propping up the bar at The Old House at Home or outside his home in Hamstead Meadow.

The Parish Council formally acknowledged Tom Willard's long and faithful service at its February 2020 meeting and sends its best wishes to his family. Tom will join Dorothy in the graveyard of St Mary's Church, Chidham at his funeral on Wednesday 12 February 2020.

The photographs show Tom with his family and also with his regimental medals.

I salute Tom Willard who throughout his 100-year life was a true friend of the Parish.

Cliff Archer Chidham & Hambrook Parish Councillor