

Obituary – Walter Campbell (1929 to 2020)



Walter Campbell's daughters, Jackie and Helen, are sad to report that their father passed away on 1st September 2020 at the age of 91 years.

Walter was born on 4th January 1929 at the old bakery (now called Willow Cottage) in Middleton. A true Middleton man, he lived and worked in the village nearly all of his life apart from a short time in his early married days in a caravan in his field on the Ashley Road and then in a council house at Berry

Field Road in Cottingham – no need for long commutes to work in those days! He spent much of his childhood at The Farm, 21 Main Street, Middleton and worked the farm in partnership with his father, Walter Swinger (Swin) until Swin died in 1959. He continued to work the farm with his wife, Cecile, until their retirement and only left the farmhouse a few months ago when he required specialist nursing care and had to move to a nursing home in Market Harborough.

He was a typical small livestock farmer and had fields around Middleton and Cottingham where he had a flock of sheep, raised cattle and grew hay. He was proud of his Large White pigs that he bred at the farm as they were sold as high quality breeding stock as well as being sent to the livestock markets in Kettering, Market Harborough and Melton Mowbray. However, he was probably best known in the local villages for being the milkman. For many years, he owned and ran a successful doorstep milk delivery service to Middleton and



Cottingham and later expanded to Bringhurst and Great Easton. He delivered milk 365 days a year – even on Christmas Day, collecting the money due every Saturday.

He retired from the milk business about 25 years ago when Ces (Cecile), his wife, was becoming increasingly incapacitated with Parkinson's Disease and retired from farming, which by then was mainly focussed on horse and pony grazing, in 2004. Ces died in 2015.

He had a very rural lifestyle and enjoyed horse riding, fox hunting and shooting. Until earlier this year, he still had his old retired welsh cob (horse) called Toby who was 35 years old. Toby was kept in the family's paddock on the outskirts of the village and was bred from a mare (Goldie) that his wife and daughters used to ride and had become a village favourite. Walter and Ces were keen car drivers and competed with a local car club in their younger days. He really missed the ability to drive when his medical issues prevented him from doing so safely. Walter was a longstanding member of the Cottingham and Middleton Copyholders, a historic, charitable trust and his daughter Jackie now continues that connection as the first female trustee.

After he retired, he enjoyed woodwork and had a workshop in one of the outbuildings in the farmyard. The things he produced were imaginative and practical but definitely built by a farmer and intended to outlast him! The family like to embarrass Walter's (now grownup) grandson, Sam, by reminding him that when he was about 5 years old at a school assembly given by the local vicar, Sam put his hand up to challenge the vicar's religious lesson, saying "...But God didn't make everything – my Grandad made my see-saw!).

Walter was diagnosed with mixed dementia about 5 years ago. The family managed to keep him living at the farmhouse with fantastic support from a team of domiciliary carers and in the later part of 2019, full-time live in carers. Sadly, as his dementia progressed, he required more specialised care and moved to Peaker Park Care Village in Market Harborough in December 2019. The staff there have done a great job in ensuring he was well cared for during the Covid-19 pandemic and he had settled well. Unfortunately, his condition continued to deteriorate and he was bed bound for much of 2020 and largely unaware of his surroundings. A further sudden and rapid deterioration in his condition meant he slipped away peacefully on 1st Sept.

He leaves two daughters: - Jackie, who lives in barn conversion next door to Walter's farmhouse; and Helen, who lives near Solihull. His four grandchildren live in Sheffield, Australia, Stockport and Solihull. He has three great-grandchildren aged between 7 years and 11 months.

Walter had a full and active life. He leaves many happy memories and a close, loving and growing family who will miss him very much.

Because of the Covid-19 restrictions, the funeral has had to be restricted to immediate family only but will be held at the end of September at Kettering Crematorium. Walter's ashes will be buried at Cottingham Church alongside those of his late wife. The family appreciate all the messages of condolences they have received from the local people who seem to have very fond memories of Walter and Cecile.

[Read Walter's personal memories on the Cottingham History website](#)
