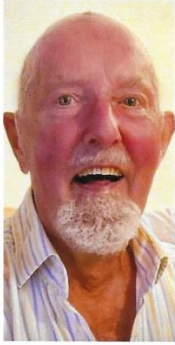


NIGEL WICKENS

27th July 1937 to 1st December 2022



On 1st December, the day before our 'Christmas' lunch, we received the sad news that Nigel Wickens of Stanhoe had died. He had been a branch member for some 10 years, along with assisting in Poppy Appeal collections for much longer. At his 85th birthday party in July, he had been on very good form as usual, but his health began noticeably to deteriorate, and a number of visits to King's Lynn hospital culminated in a week as an in-patient, ending with his death. Well known for a wicked sense of humour, and for relating fascinating experiences and interests, he will be much missed.

Having graduated from Pembroke College, Oxford, Nigel worked for many years at Cambridge University, teaching music and singing in five different colleges, as well as having many private students both there and in Norfolk, and eulogies at his cremation remembered this; his emphasis on pronunciation and enunciation, and the exercises with which, among others, he certainly used to torment the members of Heacham based West Norfolk Singers - singing scales both up and down, using the words "fluffy floppy puppy" or "cricket critic". You try repeating those quickly eight times, never mind up and down the scales, and keeping in tune, too!

Well known in the village, he took responsibility for opening and locking All Saints church, building in some practice on the organ ready for the next service to be held, as organ playing was not originally his priority. Residents were used to him singing a solo at the annual carol service, and for several years he also led carol singing house to house around the village. The service was conducted by branch Chaplain Peter Cook, who recalled, among other things, Nigel's customary (and appropriate for this occasion) comment on departure from any gathering: "Right, I'll bugger off now!".

Nigel's Memorial Service was held at

All Saints' Church, Stanhoe on 18th February 2023

