

THE LIFE AND TIMES OF JACK CARPENTER

“Farmer Jack” as he is affectionately known by fellow Compton Dando Villagers was born on 7th January 1924 to Thomas & Beatrice Carpenter who were then living in Temple Street, Keynsham. Later moving to what is now known as Carpenters Lane, Keynsham, the family being so much a part of Keynsham the Council named the Lane after them. Jacks father owned a haulage business not lorries but Shire Horses and were amongst the first to deliver stone for the building of Fry’s Chocolate Factory which turned out to be the biggest employer in the area. Thomas could never have imagined for sure, that one day it would be turned into such the large community it is today. Thomas & Beatrice had 2 other sons, Thomas (Tom) & Robert (Bob) and a daughter Esther.

Jack was just 4yrs old when his father bought him his first pony and his great love of horses remains with him to this day. He remembers his father being a very astute horse dealer, one day taking an hour to bid for a shire horse to the last pound and was not at all bothered that it took until 9pm. At which time he told his 9 yr. old son Jack to ride the horse from Frampton Cotterell back home to Keynsham, poor little Jack was so tired a policeman helped guide him home; once there, he stabled the newly acquired horse and was thinking, because it was so late he would not be sent to school the following day.....he was.



Unfortunately one of the beloved horses accidentally stepped on Jack’s foot when he was still a young boy and although he spent two weeks in bed, his foot and ankle never healed, this being the reason he was not accepted for service, as he wanted, during W.W.2

When Broadlands School in Keynsham opened Jack Carpenter was one of its first pupils and indeed some years later when it was under threat of closure he took up the baton with others including Dick Ollis and stopped it happening.

At heart he was and always will be a farmer, enjoying milking cows for a farmer at a very early age. His father bought him a cow and he delighted in milking her every day. After a while, she was sold on to another, however, she soon was returned; as it turned out she would not give up her milk to anybody but Jack.

Jack met the love of his life Peggy Bates at a Compton Dando dance things blossomed and they were married in 1947 at that time he moved into Nutgrove Farm to help Stanley, Peggy's dad.

FORTHCOMING MARRIAGE

CARPENTER : BATES.—Jack, second son of Mr. and Mrs. T. Carpenter, of 62, Tempie Street, Keynsham, to Peggy, only daughter of Mr. and Mrs. S. Bates, of Nutgrove Farm, Compton Dando, at the Parish Church, **Compton** Dando, at 12 (noon) on Saturday, Sept. 13th. All friends welcome at the church.



In time along came their daughter Margaret followed 6 years later by a son, Roger, today they both are living at Nutgrove with Jack. Stanley bought the farm from the Church estate in 1946, Stanley's father had previously rented it; there were 21 milking cows and when Jack joined the household he brought along two shire horses, Dick & Royal, these two horses carried out all the work a tractor does nowadays. At that time there were 13 local farms producing milk, three of those farms still are in existence however, only one still milks.

Nutgrove Farm had no running water, Jack had dug by hand two wells in the garden; mains water came along in 1964. Electricity was installed in 1958. The Carpenter family had had the joys of an outside toilet and a tin bath was used weekly in front of the fire.

Jack's first tractor was a grey Fergy (Massey Ferguson) purchased in 1953 he also had a Morris 8 car which he bought from Charlie Barnes the then pub landlord.

As time passed Peggy's parents died; so Jack, Peggy and their family took over the running of Nutgrove Farm.

For more than 20 years Jack and Peggy held annual garden parties to raise money for St. Mary's Church, most villagers went along and a really good time was had by all.

A good night was experienced when attending Jack's Monday night's Whist Drive which he ran for more than 20 years in the Village Hall after which they would go next door to the pub where the landlord, Gordon Campbell was pleased to serve each a "swift" half. Jack still enjoys going with Roger for a game of Whist; sadly they are no longer held in the Village.

Each Harvest Jack would supply the Harvest Loaf which was blessed and then consumed at the following Harvest Lunch held in the Village Hall. He also provided the Church with some really beautiful chrysanthemums which decorated the Harvest Church, Peggy was one of the flower arrangers taking great pride in her lovely arrangements. She was also a much appreciated Church Choir member for over 75 years.

On 13th September 2007 the Village Hall was the venue for Jack and Peggy's 60th (Diamond) Wedding anniversary celebrations where they were joined by family and many friends.



Today Jack delights in his growing family with the added joy of his four grandchildren, Lucy, Daniel, James and John together with his Great grandchildren, Jack, Rosie. Megan and Harry.

At the time of writing Jack is Compton Dando's oldest resident.

By Margaret Boucher nee' Carpenter
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