

A SHORT OBITUARY - Dennis George Mansell

Dennis came to Leafield with his sister and parents in 1938 when his grandfather took over the tenancy of Potters Hill Farm. Some ten years later, his grandfather Fred gave Dennis enough money to buy a camera costing £165 which was then more than the cost of a new Fordson tractor. For the next few years Dennis was a familiar sight in the local villages taking photographs of all manner of functions - weddings, sports matches, fetes etc., as well as those of groups and individuals. These were taken at a time when photographic material was scarce and now form a unique record of that time in this area.

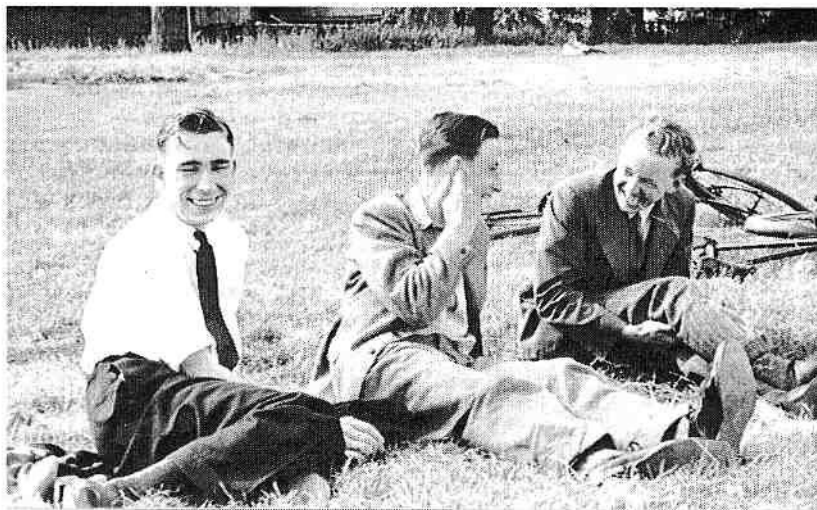
Following National Service, Dennis moved to Essex to further his career in a variety of assignments in photography. Latterly, he worked freelance with some concentration on photo-journalism especially that linked with walking - at home and abroad.

In Essex, Dennis married Sybil and raised a family of David and Sarah. However, Dennis did not become an "Essex Man" completely, for he always returned for the annual re-unions of the Old Burfordians. He was also using some of his photographic material of 40 years ago in articles on various topics - the last appeared in the March issue of the Limited Edition of the Oxford Times.

Most recently he was contemplating the production of a book, in conjunction with the Centre for Oxfordshire Studies, using that material of the late 40s and early 50s.

Sadly, Dennis died on 22nd June 1993, but it is hoped that his photographer son, David, and others, may preserve the work of Dennis - a modern craftsman of the countryside.

An Old Friend



On Milton Green - Doug Green, Dennis Mansell and Bernard Hawcutt - all now deceased.