

Jack Foster 1921 - 2004

Jack Foster was born on 16th June 1921 in Tettenhall, Staffs. His father was one of seven brothers who all played cricket for Worcestershire, which became known as Fostershire.

During the war, Jack became a night-fighter pilot and served in 604 Squadron, flying Blenheim and Beau fighters, with the same navigator throughout the war.

In 1942 they were posted to Malta, patrolling the Mediterranean night skies. During this time they were each awarded the D.F.C. and bar. They converted to Mosquitoes and patrolled Northern France and Belgium during the Allied invasion. In June 1945 Jack was posted to Farnborough as a test pilot in command of aerodynamics. For this work he was awarded an A.F.C.

On leaving the RAF he went to Cambridge to read Mechanical Sciences. During his time there he pursued his love of bird-watching, becoming secretary of



the Cambridge Bird Club; he also played football for the University. In 1949 he married Patricia Fairs; the marriage lasted for 55 happy years. They had five children.

Most of Jack's working life was spent with the British Oxygen Company, the last years, some of his happiest, when he served on the boards of five African companies

and one in Pakistan.

On retirement he and Pat settled in Milton where he spent much of his time involved in Church work. He served on the Diocesan Board of Finance, was Treasurer of St. Mary's, Shipton and also sang in the choir there.

Always a country-lover he enjoyed fishing and bird-watching and all sport, especially football. His greatest love was his home and family. Despite Alzheimer's he was able to enjoy his family until shortly before he died.

Richard Foster

Real Life Story

Make sure you get a copy of '**Arthur's Life in the Westcotes**'

by **Arthur Hunt**.

The book is selling for £6 a copy and is available from Milton Post Office Stores or from Arthur himself. Arthur would say it is just life as he lived it but it is a fascinating insight into life as folk around here lived in simpler days.