

Hugh Fairgrieve 1922 - 2005

Hugh Fairgrieve, a well-known and much loved Fifield resident, died in February in 'The Old Prebendal', after a short illness.

Hugh and his wife Rona, who pre-deceased him in 1998, came to Fifield in 1982 after a distinguished career in the Army, which he joined at the age of 18, serving with the Ghurkhas and later in the Royal

Artillery. He saw active service in Burma and Korea; it was in Korea that he was awarded the Croix de Guerre when his battery stayed behind to give support to a French battalion under heavy fighting against the North Koreans and Chinese. Due to some administrative error on the part of the French he did not actually receive this decoration until 1991!

Whilst on leave in 1947 he married Rona, and Christopher, the first of their three children, was born in 1949, followed by Peter two years later. Rosie was born in 1962 while Hugh was attached to the American Army in El Paso, where he was involved with missile testing at the White Sands in New Mexico.

After retiring in 1974, with the rank of Lt. Colonel, Hugh became a Civil



Defence Co-ordinator for the North Yorkshire C.C., until he and Rona moved to Fifield. In retirement Hugh was active in the SSAFA as a case officer and as Treasurer of the PCC and Covenants Secretary for St. John's Church. They regularly opened their garden at Walnut Cottage for church and village

fund-raising.

Hugh was a man of great integrity, with a deep sense of duty who preferred a straightforward and orderly routine in his life. He had good manners, an easy smile and a teasing sense of humour. Always affectionately known as 'The Colonel', Hugh is sadly missed by all his friends and neighbours. Fifield High Street is not the same without him. In March, St. John's Church was full to overflowing for his moving funeral service.

Pat Yaxley

*Hugh was involved with the Wychwood magazine for many years as the Fifield distribution agent and, I believe, with assembling the magazine in the early days when it was put together in the old Beaconsfield Hall. **Editor***