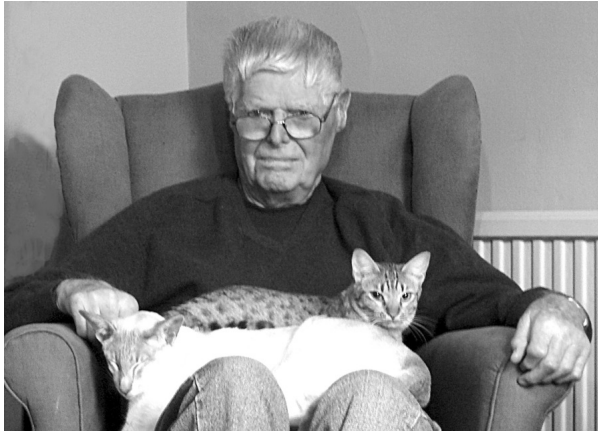


Bill Thompson 1915 - 2010

Bill was born in Formby, a village north of Liverpool. He was the 'middle' of a family of five. His father was a chemical broker in Liverpool and his mother had been a nursing sister in Liverpool.



Henley Regatta, as he relished meeting up with these old friends.

On his return to England he became a stalwart of the London Rowing Club as a Vet

His early years were spent in Formby in a close-knit family. Things changed when his father died in 1929, when Bill was just 13, bringing a sudden end to his education at Merchant Taylors' School. He started working for a firm of shipping agents based in the Cunard Building in Liverpool.

When war broke out Bill joined the Royal Navy and, whilst on mine-sweeping patrols in the Bristol Channel and the Western Approaches built up quite a cottage industry selling mackerel blown from the water as the crew fired rifles at German mines. After the war Bill joined Procter & Gamble staying with the company for 10 years as a buyer before moving on to Metal Box as purchasing manager. It was with them that he made his way to Calcutta in the late 1950s.

Bill's passion for rowing came to the fore in his years in India and many close friendships were forged there. He organised the Calcutta Rowing Club dinner on the closing Saturday of the

rower keen to pass on what he had learnt to a younger generation.

His involvement with Mansfield College Rowing, both men's and women's teams, also brought him great pleasure. Each year Bill entertained the Men's and Women's First Eights to summer lunch in the garden of his cottage in Bruern.

Rowing was not all there was to Bill's life, his involvement with local sports clubs and the Oxfordshire Playing Fields Association took up a lot of his time and energy. The photograph of himself receiving a certificate from Prince Philip, honouring his work with the OPFA, took pride of place on his bookcase. Donations in his memory were sent to the OPFA. He had a passion for gardening, growing his plants from seeds. He was proud that the local Conservative Association chose to hold their annual Garden Party in his garden.

He was a singular individual with a generosity of spirit and effort.

Taken from the funeral tribute paid to Bill by Jeff Phillips.