

LAWRENCE WORKMAN

In December, Rudry bade a fond farewell to one of its legends, the inimitable and much loved Lawrence, who had been a major contributor to Rudry Recorder.



Photo courtesy of
Michael Dearden, Trethomas

Lawrence was connected to Rudry from his earliest days – his father’s family having farmed the Tir Jenkin farm in Waterloo, their neighbours being Ty’n-y-coedcae Farm, where the eccentric Dr William Price was born.

As a young lad, growing up in Llanishen, Lawrence was fascinated by nature and wildlife and learned his countryside crafts at a very young age and thus began a life long love of wildlife and all things country.

After demob from REME, Lawrence worked with the MOD and the Forestry Commission; he moved from the family home to his 300 year old shepherds’ cottage in rural Rudry. Throughout his working years, Lawrence continued with his love of countryside pursuits.

He was particularly interested in the sport of kings – falconry. Lorant de Bastyai, (Sir Peter Scott’s Wildfowl Reserve in Slimbridge) shared his knowledge with Lawrence, including how to

fly a goshawk, and it wasn’t long before Lawrence acquired his own bird from Austria - “The Jabberwock” was truly a wild bird and training was a real trial. Lawrence had her for seven seasons and they enjoyed hunting together.

In 1974 the hunting team (Lawrence, his friends and their dogs and birds) ventured to a cottage on the Thrumster House Estate, near Wick, North Scotland where they would control the Roe Deer population for the estate. This began a 25 year ritual. Lady Jessamine Harmsworth, the Estate owner became a very firm friend, inviting her tenants to her regular soirees.

One of “Meme’s” (Lady Jessamine’s) close neighbours was the Castle of Mey, the sometime home of the Queen Mother. Lawrence was honoured and delighted in Her Royal Highness’s letter to Meme: “it was great fun to meet some new people, such as your very nice tenants”. They were idyllic times for Lawrence, and he recalled them all with great fondness.

Lawrence enjoyed his final years with a quiet life in his beloved Rudry, particularly watching the wildlife in his garden. This stately gentleman with a tremendous sense of humour and a wonderful twinkle in his eye was highly revered in our local community and was much loved. He will be very much missed by many.

After a packed service at Thornhill Crematorium, Lawrence’s beloved Monte hosted an amazing wake for him. The hunt horn was sounded in his honour. He used to say that to have a good funeral you had to die young. I think he proved himself wrong.

RIP Lawrence Workman 1931-2019