



Reaching the heart of your community, edited by Rebecca Gough

Poet, environmentalist and a true community servant

A popular father who dedicated his life to work in the community has lost his battle with cancer.

George Beckford was an environmentalist who orchestrated numerous green events and organisations around his home village of Hethersett and was commended for his work by family and friends.

Chairman of Hethersett Parish Council, Mr Beckford, who was 89 when he died, was also a founder member of the Hethersett Environmental Action Team, campaigned against plastic bags and organised events everybody could get involved in, such as litter picking. He also established Hethersett in Bloom.

He was a keen writer and poet, contributing regularly to the Evening News' Poet's Corner and had begun to write a story of his life before he died.

Mr Beckford's son, Trevor Beckford, 56, a solicitor from Thurton, said: "He was very active, both mentally and physically. He was driving right up until recently.

"He was quite a private person in himself but not at all shy. He was an ex-local government officer himself so used to chair committees; he knew how they worked.

"He was a stickler for proper grammar and was very well respected in a professional capacity.

"He was a born administrator. When he was ill we would show him photos of the family, which he appreciated, but if you wanted to animate him you would give him the post and he would sort through it and organise it."

He went on: "He tried to do what he could for Hethersett.

He had a finger in lots of organisations. He not just consumed them but was actively leading it and contributed towards it positively." Mr Beckford lived

alone in Grove Road in Hethersett after his wife died and threw himself into community work.

Growing up in Tottenham, London, Mr Beckford was a lifelong Spurs supporter.

He moved to Enfield in 1952 and to Hertfordshire in 1975/76.

Mr Beckford settled with his wife in Hethersett in 1991.

His son added: "They always thought they would come back to Norfolk because my mother's family was connected to Norfolk so it was a sense of coming home."

Mr Beckford was diagnosed with bowel cancer in November and moved in with his son in February this year.

Peter Steward, creator of the Hethersett village website, said: "He did a lot for the village and the village owes him a great debt of gratitude.

"He was very open and very into life and very approachable. It's just remarkable he was so active until the last few months of his life.

"He wrote his own poetry and self-publicised his own work. He really loved writing which is why he wrote his life story. He also used his poetry to raise awareness of environmental issues."

Mr Beckford is no stranger to the Evening News and, in the past, received an award for outstanding contribution to communities in the paper's Local Heroes' Awards.

Mr Beckford left two sons, Trevor and Howard Beckford, and a daughter, Diane Cummins.

→ Mr Beckford's funeral will take place at 4pm on Thursday at St Remigius Parish Church, on Norwich Road, Hethersett.

→ Would you like to pay tribute to a recently lost loved one? Contact Local Life editor Rebecca Gough on 01603 772428 or email rebecca.gough@archant.co.uk

Rebecca Gough
rebecca.gough@archant.co.uk



Serving his community: George Beckford has died at the age of 89. Below, his children Howard Beckford, Diane Cummins and Trevor Beckford. PHOTOS: SUBMITTED/ANGELA SHARPE

Inside Local Life this week



Teacher goes back to school Page 19



Celebrating our patron saint Page 20



Helping the air ambulance Page 31

