

OBITUARIES

Edward Thomas Clark (1910-2004)

Ted Clark died on 12 January 2004 at Totnes, Devon, at the age of 93. He had been Editor of the *Banbury Guardian* from 1947 to 1965, and made a great contribution to our understanding of Banbury and its history.

Edward Thomas Clark, M.B.E., known to all as Ted, son of Theo, who built Clark's Mill in Station Approach, and his wife Ethel, was born at Wimbledon on 13th May 1910, the elder twin by half an hour of George, who later inherited the Mill.

He and his twin brother were named Edward and George after Edward VII and his successor George V.

The family moved to Banbury in his early childhood. Then after commencing school in Banbury, Ted was sent to Taunton School in Somerset where, apart from studies, he first learnt to play and to love cricket. Quality coaching combined with natural talent ensured that Ted would be considered good enough to play for Oxfordshire in the Minor Counties competition.

Before the intervention of the Second World War, Ted gained experience in journalism by becoming a reporter for the *Banbury Guardian* under the editorship of William Potts. He felt the need to widen his newspaper contacts and sought experience with the *Western Morning News*. It was while working for this newspaper that he joined the Royal Devon Regiment and later was commissioned into the Royal Berkshire Regiment. He was decorated for his war services.

After the war Ted returned to the *Banbury Guardian* where first he became advertising manager and later succeeded Potts as Editor. It was in this rôle that he will be remembered for his leadership of the paper and for his fund-raising skills. Also he and John Cheney prepared Potts' manuscript of the History of Banbury so that it could be published (in 1958).

Ted was Chairman of the co-ordinating committee for the National Savings Movement and was awarded the M.B.E. for his services to the campaign.

Outside of journalism, he belonged to several town organisations, notably Banbury Rotary Club, of which he was President in 1964-65, and later the Compton Club with its Rotary members in their advancing years.

In the mid-1960s when Woodrow Wyatt incorporated the *Banbury Guardian* into his press empire there was no place for Ted in his strategy and so he sought the deputy editorship of the *Stratford-upon-Avon Herald*. After ten years in this capacity Ted established himself as a local historian in Banbury. He lectured to many groups, was featured on the B.B.C. and sound broadcasts such as 'Down Your Way'. He will also be remembered for his book of postcards entitled