

# What's Beane Happening?

The newsletter of The River Beane Restoration Association  
Issue No 31 Special Edition 2021



## A tribute to George Sandell MBE (1927 – 2021)



George, who was a founder member of the RBRA, died last month. He was always present at RBRA meetings, always encouraging, always optimistic and very knowledgeable. He will be greatly missed. The RBRA sends their sincere condolences to his family.

Dave Stimpson, our former chairman, has written the following tribute.

As a young man George was a keen member of the scouts and stayed involved as a leader in later life. He joined the army when he was 18, just before the end of the war, and

achieved the rank of captain. He left the army sometime before 1950 and returned home to Holloway where he married Joyce. They moved to Stapleford in 1967 and George commuted to work in Highbury where he became managing director of a firm of shop fitters specializing in jewelers.

George became a key figure in Stapleford. He was a committed Christian and became a church warden and bell ringer, he tidied the church yard, organized repairs, flower festivals, monthly tea afternoons, classical music concerts and links with a church in Bethnal Green. He was instrumental in a major refurbishment in 1970. He was a Parish Councilor for many years and involved with the village school and the village hall. He campaigned against further gravel extraction and was influential in engaging the Wildlife Trust to turn the old gravel pits into a nature reserve. And, of course, he was a founder member of the RBRA. He was awarded the MBE for his services to the community.

The RBRA formed in 1991 and was initially a small group of people from along the river valley who were concerned about the reduced flow in the river causing the upper reaches to routinely dry up. George represented Stapleford. In 1999, following promises of action from the Environment Agency, the group disbanded. However, in 2004, realizing that nothing had happened, George was one of a group of people who reformed the association. This group decided that in future, all our meetings would be held in a publicly accessible place, and be open to anyone who wished to attend. George offered us the use of Stapleford Village hall at a very reasonable fee so this became our base. George's contributions to meetings were always thoughtful and always to the point. When we produced our film in 2014 George was interviewed in his garden on the river bank (see the photo to the right). He described his recollections of the river over many years describing it now as a ditch after the river bed had been dredged. It was a powerful segment and contributed to the success of the film which won a CPRE award. George will be missed.

### Online Funeral Service 21<sup>st</sup> May at 11.45am

Please pass this on to anyone you know who may be interested  
Kind Regards  
Peter, Pauline and Family

Please see below link, the login in details are shown toward the bottom of the notice.  
If you wish to view the service later it will be available up to 7 days after broadcast.  
There is also a direct link to make a donation if you wish to Alzheimer's Research in George's Memory.

<https://www.dignityfunerals.co.uk/funeral-notice/23-04-2021-george-sandell/>



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