

Walt Pickering



Walt and Lilah
Pickering cutting the
10th anniversary cake
at Alvingham Social
Club – Nov 1990

Walt Pickering was born in Grimsby during the First World War and attended Welholme Road School. Out of school hours, he had a job selling milk both in the morning and evening which he collected from a local dairy farmer in containers to fit an adapted cycle, which he dispensed using a ladle to customers' jugs or cans.

He moved to London in the thirties to seek work. He had been brought up in a Methodist home and went to the local Chapel, I believe in Poplar in London's East End. Here, he met a girl called Lilah who unfortunately developed T.B. which in those days necessitated long convalescence in a sanatorium. He maintained his friendship, visiting Lilah in a sanatorium in Surrey every weekend, a distance of over 20 miles. He used to cycle one way and put his cycle on the train to return or vice versa. Lilah recovered and they married in the late thirties or early forties. He was called up and served with the RASC in the Far East, leaving behind a young wife and baby daughter, Hazel. On his return, they returned to Grimsby and he became a Post Office engineer. He was innovative and keen to help, active in the TOC H.

A son, Martin, added to the family and they came to live in Alvingham in 1966. He felt his way patiently into village life, firstly the chapel and then the Village Hall. A man with ideas to revitalise the Village Hall was needed to develop its potential after the euphoria of the new Village Hall had gone somewhat sombre. He was the man who had the ability to encourage people who would help him to liven things up and he did so.

He was a founding member of the Louth Male Voice Choir; he was a keen member and served for several years. In 1980, he instigated the social club; he would be delighted to see it today. Age and infirmity reduced his activities later but the time, energy, work and motivation he gave are an example to us all. Alvingham has a great deal to be grateful for in Walter and Lilah Pickering.

By P H Shucksmith