



Barry Jackson, 1938 - 2013:

One man, many roles

By Ian Clarke

If you've watched TV or been to the cinema or theatre in the last 50 years you will doubtless recognise Barry Jackson; a glance at his CV reveals over 200 parts across a varied career. But his friends and family knew Barry best for his many roles away from acting: Barry the gardener, the beekeeper and the wood turner, to name only a few.

Barry was extremely popular, easily recognisable driving his old red van. A favourite destination was his allotment near Queen's Wood where he spent many happy hours growing a fine crop of fruit and vegetables. Often neighbours would come home at harvest time to a wonderful bag of freshly picked veg on the doorstep.

The allotment was also home to Barry's "girls", as he referred to his bees. Barry was a passionate natural beekeeper and made his hives by hand in the garden of the Park Hall Road home he shared with his wife Denise and son Aubrey for 18 years. He would gladly introduce you to his bees but never wore protective clothing, preferring to listen carefully to the bees' buzz to decide when it was time to leave.



Barry Jackson and his bees.

Woodworking was another passion, with many a piece of salvaged wood being hand turned in Barry's shed into a beautiful bowl, pen or garden tool. Indeed lots of friends use a wooden 'Barry dibber' each year to plant seedlings.

Barry gave much to East Finchley. For many years he delivered *The Archer* and enthusiastically organised the local Neighbourhood Watch. He was also a big supporter of the Phoenix, which he discovered whilst filming the title role of the 1985 film *Mr Love*. Barry became a friend and sponsor and even introduced a special screening of *Mr Love* in 2001.

Barry passed away on 5 December and was buried in the Chiltern woodlands, a man of nature returned to nature. Perhaps next time you spot Barry in an old film or TV episode you might think of him in his other roles and do something good for the environment and the bees. That would make Barry very happy.



Big and busy fundraiser

Dozens of artists and craftspeople put their work on show and on sale at the East Finchley Open winter fair back at the end of November. The busy event was hosted at the Treetops School in Muswell Hill and sales of handmade jewellery, fabrics, artworks, photos and seasonal items raised hundreds of pounds for the school itself.

A school with no barriers

When the death of Nelson Mandela was announced in December, it brought back memories to Father Gray Featherstone, vicar at Holy Trinity Church in Church Lane, of his years teaching in Swaziland. Here he explains why.

From 1970 to 1972 I was on the staff of Waterford Kamhlaba School in Swaziland where I taught Afrikaans, Latin, English and General Studies.

Waterford was started by a visionary English teacher Michael Stern. His previous school was an all-African school which the Nationalist Government soon closed. In reaction to South Africa's segregated education policies, he founded Waterford as a non-racial secondary school just outside Mbabane, the capital of Swaziland.

It very quickly attracted a multi-racial body of pupils from all over Southern Africa. Walter Sisulu, a founder member of the ANC, enrolled his daughter Lindiwe. Lindiwe was my son John's babysitter, allowing him to claim that he has had his nappies changed by someone who is currently a Minister of Justice in South Africa.

Famous students

Desmond Tutu and Sir Seretse Khama, President of Botswana, sent their children (Ian Khama is now President of Botswana). Richard E Grant, the actor, and Matthew Parris, the columnist, were also students at Waterford.

Nelson Mandela's daughters Zenani and Zindzi came to Waterford to do their O and A levels while their father was incarcerated on Robben Island. Neither saw their father for 12 years but their mother Winnie was able to pass on drawings and letters to their father. Winnie herself was never able to see her children at school as the South African Government would

not issue her with a passport to cross the border.

I had been a curate in Cape Town but left South Africa to marry Yasuko Nomura in Swaziland. Our first son John was born in Swaziland where we gave him an African second name, Thandeka (it means "one who is loved"), to commemorate the continent in which he was born.

Waterford Kamhlaba continues to thrive. It is now one of six United World Colleges.

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KALASHNIKOV KULTUR

By Ricky Savage, the voice of social irresponsibility

Oh, what a lovely anniversary

Here we go again, another year and another batch of historical events to celebrate and after two years of rampant royalty this year we get a bit of a break. Instead it's welcome to the first of four years of talking about the war. No, not that one, but the one where Blackadder goes over the top.

This year will see the build-up, complete with the chance for the people of Sarajevo to stage a re-enactment on 28 June before the Germans invade Belgium a month later. Which will make a change from them invading the hotel swimming pools of southern Europe.

In the world of books it's already started with the first few forests sacrificed on the barbed wire of publishing. There are books about the year before the war, why we went to war, why the Germans went to war, why the French went to war and why the Belgians didn't want to go to war but got invaded anyway.

For us Brits I just know that the whole 'Keep Calm and Don't Panic' thing is going to be replaced by 'Your Country Needs You' reimagined to suit the modern iPod generation. So watch out for the mugs, tea towels, mobile phone covers and especially the whole new campaign for Facebook, although an advertising campaign encouraging you to increase your number of friends isn't quite the same thing as one asking you to join the army, travel to a foreign country and kill people.

When it comes to the armed forces there is the outside chance that people might stop and think about the mass slaughter and the reasons why it all happened.

And as governments find themselves torn between honouring the dead and encouraging enlistment will anyone notice that February 1914 marked another significant event? On 7 February the first Charlie Chaplin film came out and by the time the shooting stopped he was probably the most famous man in the world. And if you don't understand why then you haven't got a sense of humour and, as soldiers everywhere know, if you can't laugh you may as well give up.

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