

## Obituary – Dick Winters G3NVK



The following extracts were reported in the Melton Times on 26 December 2012:

TRIBUTES have been paid to the last founding member of the Melton Mowbray Amateur Radio Society.

He sadly died on 15 December 2012 after a collision with a cyclist as he walked in Hose Lane, Long Clawson, on his way to join a meet of the hunt.

Richard Winters (82), of Epping Drive, Melton, who was known as Dick, was well-known in the town not only as an amateur radio ham but also for 50 years' service to Melton solicitors Oldham Marsh. He was also a keen follower of the Belvoir Hunt.

Dick, who was born and bred in Melton, has been described by family as a compassionate and intelligent man who had a thirst for knowledge and a zest for life.

His sister Shirley Hack (77), of Limes Avenue, Melton said: "He was full of vitality and couldn't sit still, he never stopped learning and loved passing on his knowledge.

"As a result, he managed to cram a lot of different things in to his life, so that when he retired (in 1995) he was never short of things to do."

His daughter Jeanette Showler said: "He often joked that he must have been freeze-dried for the last 20 years as he never seemed to age."

His daughter Joanne Mackenzie-Winters said: "Irrepressibly sentimental, Dad was devoted to his family and we've been overwhelmed by cards and messages of support since his passing. There was no stopping him and we all thought he would easily go on to reach 90 or 100.

"He had a marvellous way with words and an absolutely brilliant sense of humour. He was also extremely generous and would do anything for anybody."

During his time working for Oldham Marsh, a job which he loved, Dick was Melton's superintendant

registrar and performed a staggering 3,000 civil ceremonies at the firm's offices in White House, High Street.

An extract from his memoirs reads: "I married 6,001 people in the local registry office. But it takes two to make a marriage you say, so how come the odd figure? Well, on April 4, 1962, I married my beloved wife Jo in my own office."

Dick and Jo met when he was visiting friends who lived in the vicarage at Asfordby, where she had a flat. Jo recalled that she remembered walking downstairs in her rollers to meet him but must have looked quite fetching because from that moment the two became inseparable and celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary in April last year.

Outside of work and among Mr Winters' many hobbies, he was an active member and leading officer of the Melton Mowbray Amateur Radio Society.

Wife Jo (82) said: "The radio was such a huge part of his life. He would disappear off into his radio shack every Sunday morning and run the RSARS chatterbox net talking to other radio amateurs across the country.

"He also won many awards and became life honorary vice-president of the Royal Signals Amateur Radio Society as well as editor of the society's journal Mercury in 1982.

"He had just produced his 91st edition of the publication when he died - a feat which will surely remain unequalled."

Dick was also very active within the local community and was a member of the Latham House Patient Reference Group, acting as administrator collating over 700 survey replies from patients and compiling the results, with plans to do the same again this year. He would never visit the surgery without taking chocolates or flowers for the staff.

Melton lawyer Peter Marsh said: "I first met Dick when I joined my family firm of solicitors in 1968. He was a delightful character with an excellent sense of humour. He was also incredibly loyal to the firm and was thoroughly respected by all who knew him.

"I can truthfully say that he was one of the finest men I've ever known."

Dick is survived by his wife Jo, sister Shirley and daughters Joanne and Jeanette.



Dick at the Belvoir Hunt

The Following Profile was produced by Dick (in his own words)

- **Born** Tuesday 25 March 1930 - Melton Mowbray
- **Army Cadet Force** - 2 Bn. Leicestershire ACF at the Drill Hall, Melton Mowbray - 31 October 1944 to Tuesday 1 June 1948 - leaving with the rank of CQMS. Final parade that evening (normal Tuesday Drill Parade) I handed over to the CO Colonel Richard Gates.
- (Joined **Melton Mowbray amateur radio group** June 1945)
- **National Service** - 22035565 Signalman - ROYAL SIGNALS - Thursday 3rd June 1948 to Friday 24th February 1950 - Catterick and Belsen, Germany. Radio Mechanic AIII
- **Founder Member** of **Melton Mowbray Amateur Radio Society** when it officially formed - Summer 1958.
- **Licensed** as G3NVK November 1959
- **Joined** RSARS November 1962
- Appointed **Chairman** (Secretary/Treasurer) of Melton Mowbray ARS - Autumn 1969.
- **Appointed Editor** "*MERCURY*" July 1982 - first issue No. 73 - November 1982.
- **Walked** to Catterick Garrison from Sig. Regiment Garrats Hay, Loughborough - July 1983 - 151 miles in 9 days. Collected £700 in sponsorship for the Corps' Benevolent Fund.
- **First Chatterbox Net** - From 30th November 1986 - (aiming to make 1,000 Sunday morning Nets by late 2006)
- **Appointed Life Honorary Vice President RSARS** July 1992
- Appointed **Webmaster** of the RSARS website ([www.rsars.org.uk](http://www.rsars.org.uk)) in July 1997
- Awarded the **Chairman's Choice** award shield in July 2005  
(From the Awards Rules: The "Chairman's Choice" Trophy A Shield presented by the Vice-President, Major R. A. Webb G3EKL for annual award to recognise ten or more years of dedicated service to the Society. To supplement the GW2OP Trophy (which cannot be awarded to a Council member), and to be awarded to any member at the discretion of Council.)