

Flowers of the Forest



Remembering Albert James Turnbull

18th May 1936 ~ 20th July 2024 Aged 88

Albert passed away peacefully at their home surrounded by his loving family on 20th July 2024, aged 88 years. Albert, beloved husband to Rita, devoted dad to Hayley and Ian, treasured grandad to Rachel, Alex, Emily and Lucy, special great grandad to Elena and much-loved brother to the late Judith. Albert was also a friend of many.



The retired lecturer at Gateshead College, Whickham and engineer became interested in tracing his family history in 1972. But it took 20 years of detective work for Albert to discover he was related to royalty. He commented, "I managed to go back even further to King Cerdic in 500AD using the Anglo Saxon Chronicles". The English Heritage found the retired engineer Albert Turnbull, was in fact a strong claim.

He joined the Turnbull Clan Association and made himself available to the members for help in establishing their personal heritage and soon became a much sought after and well-known figure for his assistance with the members. He also became an invaluable resource for the DNA Turnbull Project for clan members. It identifies the genetic information inside the cells of the body that helps make people who they are.

Albert produced three publications, including 'Grandad's Story', which is more or less an autobiography, relating to his war years, apprenticeships and sport.



When Albert joined a local history group, he had no idea he would find a photo of one of the most memorable days of his childhood.

He raced a tram as a 10-year-old to keep up with his younger friend, who he put on the tram after struggling during their trip to Saltwell Park. His kindness that day, won young Albert a sixpence from cheering passengers on the Gateshead tram.