

Following a request, the Parish Council would like to apologise to the family of the late Mr. Christopher Child for any distress caused by the publication of an obituary in the *Ashwell Yearbook* that apparently contained incorrect details.

The obituary as supplied by Mr Child's daughter that should have appeared has been posted below.

Christopher Thomas Child – born 8.01.1920, died at home 12.05.2008. 88 years.

Chris was born in Carlisle. He was the eldest of four children born to the late Thomas and Penelope Child. Chris was a birthright Quaker, registered as a member at birth. His schooling was in Carlisle at Morley Street and then at Robert Ferguson School in Denton Holme. He left school in 1934 to work in Carr's Biscuit factory in Caldewgate as an apprentice.

He remained in Carlisle until the outbreak of the Second World War. As a Quaker and conscientious objector he faced a tribunal that was not well disposed to such beliefs. In spite of the aggressive nature of the interrogation Chris held to his principles and was eventually drafted into the Land Army. It was during this period that he met Lilian (Lily), his future wife. They were married in 1943 at St. Mary's Church, Wreay just outside Carlisle. They were moved around farms during the war years eventually settling in Warwickshire, where their first son Brian was born. Chris received his discharge papers in 1947 and they then moved to Birmingham where his second son David and daughter Ruth were born.

Following the War he returned to the baking industry. He studied at night school to gain a City and Guild Certificate from the Birmingham College of Food and Technology. He passed receiving a distinction. Prior to the war in 1936 he joined the Bakers, Food and Allied Workers Union. He now became more involved. He also began to take courses with the Workers Educational Association (WEA) in Industrial Law, Economics and Psychology. He eventually became a lecturer for the W.E.A. Chris became a full time trade union official in Birmingham in 1958 rising to become its President from 1968-77. You may remember the 'bread strikes', Chris was part of them! He was on many committees and became a consultant to the Baking Industry. He travelled abroad and studied the German Food Industry. He attended Labour Party, Trade Union and Bakers Union Conferences. He was a campaigner and enjoyed politics. Chris was a life long Labour party member and he was elected a Labour Councillor to Letchworth District Council. With his family alongside he marched with union banners, for freedom, for 'ban the bomb', for peace and in support of the anti-apartheid campaign. You will find Chris in Who's Who.

Chris, Lilian and Ruth moved to Letchworth in 1968 and he lived there until 1998. Lilian died 1990 aged 70. He moved to Ashwell 1998 where he made so many friends. Chris enjoyed Ashwell. He had been a worshipping Quaker all his life, but when he could no longer attend the Letchworth meeting, he became a member of the URC.

Chris is survived by 3 children, 8 grand children and a great grandson. We miss his smile, we miss his love, we miss his jokes and his goodnight phone calls (with false teeth removed!). He was looking forward to the birth of his beautiful 2nd great grandchild, Matilda Lily. He just missed her, but we suspect he's smiling and watching over her.