

Trees of Reflection



DENNIS WATSON

Wild Service (*Sorbus Torminalis*) planted in 2021

1957 (ish) – 2021

Dennis is as elusive in death as he was vibrant in life. I have not been able to find anyone who knows Dennis's background or can even fill in personal details such as when and where he was born. He has, however, an enduring reputation for being a "great guy" and a wonderfully skilled green-wood carver, with a particular passion for carving spoons of all shapes and sizes. Dennis is also remembered for have a penchant for tassels which he would often add to his finished pieces, as well as to his own beard.

His contact with The Cart Shed came about because he knew the popular Occupational Therapist, Kate Lawes, from her previous position. When Kate joined the staff at The Cart Shed, Dennis joined as a volunteer and he would often say that it was only because of Kate and his spoons that he was still alive.

Dennis was a colourful character who led a colourful life. He was a bus driver for many years and had many an unexpected story to illustrate his belief that it was a crazy job. He loved music festivals and would travel the length and breadth of the UK in a miniscule camper van. When travel became too difficult, he made do with local festivals but his enthusiasm remained undimmed.

Dennis suffered from COPD, Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease, which finally led to him having to carry a constant oxygen supply. Eventually, Dennis could take no more and, during his last stint in hospital, he bravely switched off his oxygen and insisted that he was not to be resuscitated.