

Gus Jones's Profile

My father was in the army and we lived in Germany during the British Army Occupation of The Rhine. (BAOR). Posted to several German towns so I attended the British Military Boarding School at Ploen. Eventually my father was posted to the Royal Welsh Fusiliers training camp in Wrexham, North Wales. There I attended Grove Park Grammar School. Became a member of the Air Training Corp and qualified as a glider pilot. I was called up and became an aircraft radio maintenance man in the RAF. Posted to Scotland. Off duty I trained with the Mountain Rescue Team.

Then I was posted to Christmas Island. For the government to find out the effects of nearby atomic explosions on personnel. During the tests we were made to sit on the tarmac with our backs to the explosion. Wearing only KD trousers and long sleeved shirt. During the explosive we had to protect our eyes by digging the palm of our hand into our eyes. The flash came first and we saw red through our palms. Then we felt the heat on our backs, followed by a bang. The survivors of the tests are known as British Nuclear Veterans and entitled to wear the Nuclear Guinea Pig badge

Next posting was to a HQ unit near Norwich. My job was to look after one Spitfire, one Hurricane and a propeller driven twin engine aircraft. I was allowed to attend Norwich City College to obtain national certificates in electrics, electronics, mechanics and business studies. Off duty I was a volunteer camp projectionist.

My last posting was at Marham in Norfolk. From there I went on a multitude of short detachments throughout the world. To prepare for civilian life I bought a two up two down cottage which had no water electricity or sewerage and converted it into a three bedroom Norfolk home

After demob; I attended a Business College. Gained the rudiments of Contract Law, Accountancy, Marketing, Quality Control, Purchasing and Economics.

I became an Organisation and Method Analyst in Newmarket. In 1979 I bought my house in Burwell. After I became redundant; I started my own company. In my spare time was trained as volunteer Burwell Community Advisor. WRVS and Civil Service gave me the knowledge required to cater for survivors of an atomic attack

I joined the group which was raising funding to build a Sports Centre in Burwell. The project was successful.

In 2010 I was co-opted into Burwell Parish Council.

Became a trustee of Pauline Swamp. (a wildlife site that was gifted to Burwell Parish Council by the Hawes Family). The site is now physically maintained by the

trustees and the help of Kingfisher Bridge nature reserve head warden and his crew. The help given by the head warden was reciprocated by three Pauline Swamp trustees. We removed toxic weeds from his meadow and assisted in his open days

In 2015 became chairman of Burwell Sports Federation and a member of Burwell Parish Council Sports Improvement Group. With another two Burwell Parish Councillors managed to raise £600K to improve the facilities at Burwell Recreation Ground

In 2018 Burwell Parish Council accepted free native English fruit trees from East Anglia University to start a municipal orchard at Priory Meadow. The planting achieved with the help of 6 Burwell Parish Councillors, local volunteers and Kingfisher Bridge Head Warden with his hole boring machine.