

Obituary – Joe Darby



It is with sadness we announce the passing Joe Darby aged 85 years on 13th June 2023.

Joe joined the Army Departmental Constabulary in 1967 and was posted to COD Bicester where he served for the duration of his service. Although Joe undertook detached duties at various locations, early on in his career Joe became a police dog handler a role in which he specialised and excelled.

In 1975 Joe represented the force in the Army Dog Trials at Melton Mowbray with his first police dog Otto and to his delight and that of the force he won the championships. When police dog Otto was retired from active service some years later Joe was given special permission to rehome Otto at his family home.

As well as being a dog handler Joe was active as a federation representative serving in various roles at branch, region, and national level. For some years Joe was DPF Western Regional Secretary and went on to hold office as the DPF National Vice Chairman from 1984 to 1993.

Owing to ill health Joe retired in 1994 having completed 27 years' service and continued to live in Bicester with his wife Kathy.

Joe is survived by his wife Kathy to whom he was married for 63years, and daughter Sally.

Joe's funeral service was held on Wednesday 28th June 2023 at Banbury Crematorium, Oxfordshire.