



## Gil Wilson

1919–2021

**Frederick Gilbert (Gil) Wilson** has died two days short of his 102nd birthday. He was born 10th May, 1919, the eldest of Adeline and Jack Wilson's seven children. The family farmed at Home Farm, Grizedale for many years.

Aged 19, Gil went into the army and in 1942 joined the Parachute Regiment where he learned skills that would last him for the rest of his life. After the War, at the wedding of his brother Kenneth, Gil was introduced to and fell in love with Joan, the sister of Kenneth's bride, Betty. Gil and Joan were married in February 1948 and subsequently brought up their three children (Elizabeth, John & Sally) at Middle Dale Park Farm near Satterthwaite. They continued farming until 1967 when they moved to the Isle of Wight where they ran a busy guest house for 20 years. They retired to Croftlands Drive in Ravenglass in the late 80's. Gil was widowed in 1997. He proved to be a very competent cook, carefully maintaining his home and enjoying his hobbies of carpentry, gardening and 'car boot sales'. Thrifty and practical he enjoyed finding bargain vintage tools and then tenderly restoring them to usefulness.

Throughout Gil's life he benefitted from the personal and practical skills he had acquired during his years in the Parachute Regiment. He was, as a close friend once said, *'The man you'd want with you should you ever be stuck on a desert island'*. He was very resilient, disciplined, versatile and self-reliant and only submitted to accepting nursing home care in his 100th year.

His 101st birthday was 'celebrated' in hospital with Covid, at the height of the first wave. But he fully recovered, and from there he was moved to Risedale at Lonsdale Nursing Home in Barrow, where he could bask in comfort in the hands of a highly professional team of the kindest carers who took the time to listen to Gil and hear his life story and join in with his banter and lively sense of humour. The care and kindness at Risedale gave this 'old soldier' a quality of life that has been very much appreciated. Gil passed away peacefully on Saturday 8th May, 2021 in the company of family members and all the staff who had taken care of him over the period of his stay.

A much loved man, Gil is survived by his three children, five grandchildren: Matthew, John-Mark, Karen, Antonia & Edward and six great-grandchildren: Adam, Maisie, Zach, Isabella, Stanley & Lylah.

The funeral will be held at midday on Friday 21st May, 2021 at the Trevelyan Chapel, Little & Caine, Funeral Directors, Barrow-in-Furness.