

Life-long gardener retires at Framland

Gardener John Dance put his shears down for the last time at Framland when he retired in March this year. A gardener all his life, John had worked at Framland for the previous owners. Then it looked like something out of 'The Good Life', as they liked garden produce, so he dug a big allotment so they could have cabbages and beehives and free-range chickens running around. He was just 'keeping an eye on the place' when Matron Waller was being shown around Framland, and he was asked by her to stay on as gardener when she took over the home.

John says he has met some real characters while working at Framland. 'Some of them had very interesting lives, yet I never realised this until they had their final Service,' he said. 'One lady, Mary Loosemore, was very active, and liked to help out in the garden. Others liked to help at different times. They all took a special interest in the flowers and the birds, and we had a raised flower bed built so that some could take an interest in their wheelchairs. Some of the rose beds had to come out because of health and safety. I planted strong smelling flowers, like Lily of the Valley, and I brought up flowers from my own allotment to plant at Framland.' John was very happy to receive a letter of thanks from Director of Human Resources, Phil Wainwright, on his retirement.



John Dance, retiring gardener, in the centre.