

CAPTAIN BERNARD OLIVER TICKNER MBE (1937-40)

He was born on 22 May 1924 and during WW2 he served with the King's African Rifles in Somaliland.

His main business interest has been with the Greene King brewery where, during his time as Chief Brewer, he introduced Abbot Ale. In 1988 he also had a beer named after him, called the Bernard Tickner Abbot Ale.

His other great passion was horticulture. At his home, Fullers Mill, he developed a wonderful garden, which he has now handed over to the Fullers Mill Trust. It is open to the public.

In 1976 he also donated a 11 hectare reserve called Lackford Lake to the Suffolk Wildlife Trust, which in 2000 RMC donated a further 90 hectares of land. See <http://www.suffolkwildlife.co.uk/nr/sites/lack.htm> for more details.



He was President of Suffolk Wildlife Trust and of Perennial (Gardeners' Royal Benevolent Society).

He also bred a unique species of Euphorbia called 'Red Wing' – see <http://www.planthaven.com/pdfs/EUPHORBIA%20Red%20Wing.pdf>



In the Queen's Birthday honours list in June 2017 he was awarded the MBE for service to Horticulture and to Wildlife Conservation in Suffolk.

He died peacefully at Pinford End Nursing Home, Hawstead, Suffolk on 7 November 2017, aged 93 years.

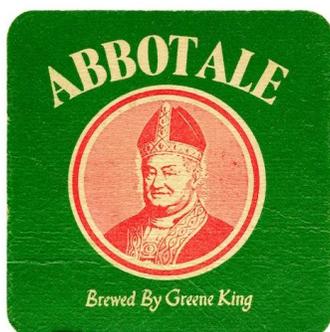
Below is the Obituary that appeared in the Daily Telegraph on 18 November 2017.

Bernard Tickner, brewer, gardener and conservationist – obituary



Bernard Tickner, who has died aged 93, was a head brewer at Greene King brewery in Bury St Edmunds, and a notable plantsman who created, with his wife Bess, a beautiful garden at Fullers Mill at West Stow, Suffolk, and established the Lackford Lakes reserve for the Suffolk Wildlife Trusts.

At Greene King, Tickner was noted as the creator of the brewery's award-winning Abbot Ale, described as having a "distinctive, full-bodied, smooth and mature taste ... complemented with fruitcake and toffee flavours".



Abbot Ale was developed by Bernard Tickner

In 1953 he also developed a special Queen Elizabeth Coronation Ale; in May 2012, a bottle of the original ale was added to a rich fruit cake delivered to Buckingham Palace to mark the Queen's Diamond Jubilee.

Tickner's great passion, however, was plants. In 1958, he paid £1,550 for an old mill beside the River Lark at West Stow, a village midway between Mildenhall and Bury St Edmunds and set to work to create a garden in an area of rough scrub and woodland.



The gardens at Fuller's Mill
Credit: Marcus Harpur

He studied books on botany and, over time, created a seven-acre waterside and woodland garden, building up a plant collection which included more than 80 types of lily (including *Cardiocrinum giganteum* var. *yunnanense*, a spectacular version of the giant Himalayan lily) and a similar number of snowdrop cultivars, as well as fine collections of *Euphorbia* and alpines, one of which, *Fritillaria pyrenaica* "Bernard Tickner", he discovered in the Pyrenees.

He opened the gardens, laid out as a series of interconnecting areas, to the public, and in 2004 established the Fullers Mill Trust to safeguard their long-term future. In 2013 the gardens were entrusted to the Perennial Gardeners' Royal Benevolent Fund. They attract some 4,500 visitors a year.



The gardens at Fuller's Mill
Credit: Marcus Harpur

Shortly after Tickner moved to Fullers Mill, an aggregates company applied for permission to quarry gravel on an adjacent site. He initially fought the application but when he realised the battle was unwinnable, he entered an agreement with the company to buy the land when they had finished with it.

When the company extended the workings, he pushed to ensure restoration was done in a wildlife-friendly way, founding the Lark Valley Gravel Group to coordinate the campaign efforts of surrounding parishes.



Bernard Tickner in his garden
Credit: Jonathan Ward

By 1987 the site was near the end of its working life and Tickner exercised his option to buy part of the area, known as the Slough, which he gifted to Suffolk Wildlife Trust (of which he served as vice president), to create a nature reserve.

In 1997 Lackford Lakes was given Site of Special Scientific Interest status on account of its population of over-wintering birds and diverse dragonfly species. When the aggregates company finished with the rest of the site in

1999 they, too, gave it to the Trust and Tickner played a key role in the site's continuing transformation. The Lackford Lakes, now a 121-hectare reserve comprising 11 lakes, is one of West Suffolk's most-visited wildlife sites.

Tickner was a major supporter of the trust's campaign to raise £200,000 to buy land to extend the reserve, donating £100,000 towards the appeal and to fund an extension to an existing visitor centre, to be called the Bernard and Bess Tickner Wild Learning Room.



Fuller's Mill gardens in Autumn
Credit: Marcus Harpur

Bernard Tickner was born on May 22 1924 at Hadleigh, Suffolk, where his father was a bank manager and a keen gardener. His education, at Framlingham College, was interrupted by the outbreak of the Second World War when he was commissioned into the Royal Artillery and served in East Africa. He joined the brewing industry after the war and rose to become head brewer and later production director of Greene King.

Earlier this year he published a memoir, *A Scratch in the Soil*, and was appointed MBE for services to conservation and horticulture in the Queen's Birthday Honours. In 1966 he married his Norwegian wife Betzy Saethre, known as Bess. She died in 2007. There were no children of the marriage.

Bernard Tickner, born May 22 1924, died November 7 2017

Bernard Tickner
Devoted Suffolk gardener and Greene King head brewer who created the award-winning Abbot Ale

BERNARD TICKNER, who has died aged 93, was a head brewer at Greene King brewery in Bury St Edmunds, and a notable plantsman who created, with his wife Bess, a beautiful garden at Fullers Mill at West Stow, Suffolk, and established the Lackford Lakes reserve for the Suffolk Wildlife Trusts. At Greene King, Tickner was noted as the creator of the brewery's award-winning Abbot Ale, described as having a "distinctive, full-bodied, smooth and mature taste ... complemented with fruitcake and toffee flavours". In 1953 he also developed a special Queen Elizabeth Coronation Ale; in May 2012, a bottle of the original ale was added to a rich fruit cake delivered to Buckingham Palace to mark the Queen's Diamond Jubilee.

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