

# Review Happy 75th

## Columns devoted to town's characters



IN the early editions of the *Review* a section of the newspaper was devoted to a 'Woking Personality'.

Personality number one was Arthur Duncan Campbell, who seemed to have a very prominent position in the town. He was a schoolmaster at Woking County School for Boys from 1921 and a

A feature on Arthur Duncan Campbell, left, was given prominence in an early edition of the *Woking Review*.

choirmaster at the Woking Baptist Church from 1923 to 1927.

Mr Campbell was a member of the council's original executive committee and chairman of the Woking Labour Party in 1924/5. He was also a councillor for the Goldsworth ward, running unopposed in 1929, 1930 and 1933.

To celebrate the *Review's* anniversary we have decided to profile another prominent Woking personality, Freeman of the Borough David Robinson.

## Freeman is our Woking Personality of 2008

by Charlotte Talbot

DAVID Robinson moved to Woking in 1934, aged two, and was a pupil at the Holy Cross Convent in Pembroke Road. He then attended St Andrew's School (then in Mount Hermon) and Bedales School in Hampshire.

In 1950, he went into the army for two years' national service where he was part of the Queen's Royal Regiment and the King's African Rifles in Tanganyika, east Africa and Mauritius. He spent the following 15 years as a member of the Territorial Army.

At 20, Mr Robinson worked at Cheeseman's of Lewisham, in London, before moving to the family business, Robinson's Holdings Ltd.

He spent many years at the company's department store, Robinson's of Woking, in Chertsey Road (now McDonald's). The store sold clothing, soft furnishings and haberdashery, and was one of three owned by the family.

The company also ran builders G Loveland, a television ariel company, a security firm and five Spar grocery shops.

He worked as a magistrate in the town for 28 years, from 1974 to 2002, where he was also chairman of the Woking bench from 1994 to 1997.

One of the town's eminent citizens, well-known for his work for the community, is in the spotlight

Community-driven, Mr Robinson has been involved with many Woking groups and committees over the years, including the Woking Post Office and Telephone Advisory Committee and St John Ambulance.

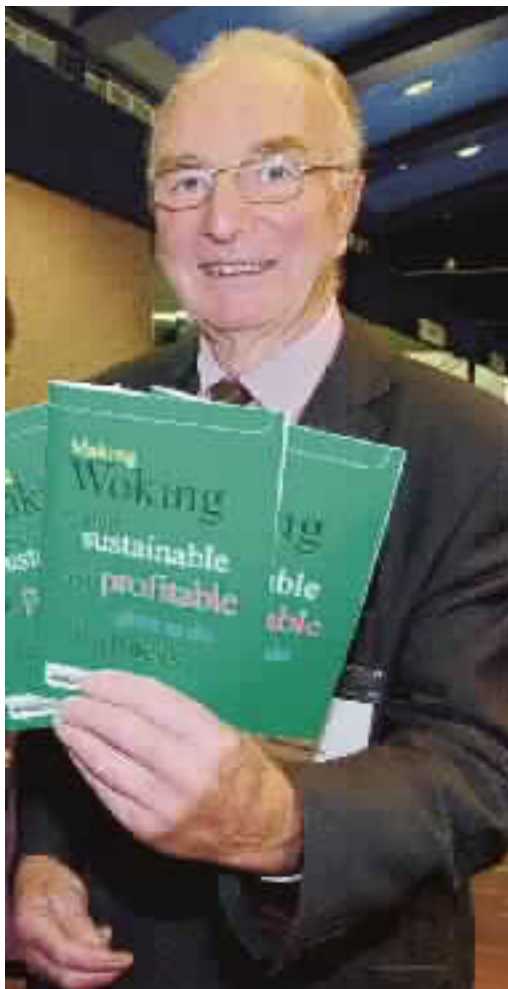
He joined the Woking District Chamber of Trade and Commerce in 1960, where he was president from 1982 to 1984. During the 1980s, he wrote a column, on behalf of the Chamber of Trade, for the *Woking Review*.

Mr Robinson has been vice-president of Woking Hockey Club, where he was a member; president and vice-president of Woking Athletic Club; and vice-president of Woking Boxing Club.

He received the Eminent Citizen of Woking award in 1981 and was chairman of the fundraising committee for the Woking Bikeathon in 1989, 1991 and 1992.

He was made Freeman of Woking Borough in April 2000, when he was presented with a certificate and silver casket.

Mr Robinson, who



David Robinson was busy promoting green initiatives at a business exhibition held last year.

The privilege of Freeman of the Borough is bestowed by the council in recognition of the eminent services rendered to the borough and in appreciation of long and distinguished public service.

continues to play a big part in the community, lives in Grange Road, Horsell, with his wife, Joy. He is a keen gardener and enjoys DIY.

He is an honorary member of the Rotary Club of Woking and president of Woking District Scout Council.

Mr Robinson said: "In

the 1980s I wrote a column for the *Review* about all the happenings and events in the town.

"I would write about any new contracts or companies that opened in Woking and take it to the paper's offices in Chertsey Road.

"I remember Arthur Duncan Campbell, as he was still working as a councillor when I joined in 1962.

"He was a very good representative of his constituents. I remember Ashley Cook, who was profiled in the second edition of the paper, as he ran a laundry in Horsell Moor.

"Woking used to be very industrial. There was Unwins in Old Woking, James Walker and GQ Parachutes too.

"Now we have a big shopping centre and a lot of offices.

"There is a great difference."



Robinson's department store is in the centre of this old photo of Chertsey Road.

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Advertising Feature



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