ROBIN DYOS

I was born in Ely, lived in Stretham and was "educated" at Soham Grammar School. On leaving school I joined the Royal Air Force. I served for 23 years with postings in Norfolk, Stornoway, Wales, Cyprus, Saudi Arabia and Morayshire. During this time, I also went on numerous overseas detachments. When I left the RAF, I worked as Contracts Director and Sales Director for companies in Gateshead and as UK Business Manager for the Military Customer Services Division of Thales Aerospace in Leicester. As a civilian my work took me to the Middle East, Far East, USA and Europe.

One of our daughters and our grandchildren live in Cambridge. So, when I retired in 2010, we drew a circle 15 miles around Cambridge and searched for a village within that area where we would be happy to spend our retirement. It is hardly surprising that we thought Burwell to be the best.

Since arriving in Burwell Maureen and I have tried to involve ourselves in some of the many activities that make Burwell so special. To this end we joined the Carnival Committee and in 2015 I became Chairman.

For two hours a week I help at the Print Centre as a volunteer. These two hours have become very special and rewarding. The Print Centre is an exceptional organisation that deserves much more recognition than it gets. The printers love their work and it is the highlight of my week to go and work alongside them, hear their latest news and I hope, become their friend.

Although knowing little of the mechanics of local government I was elected as a Parish Councillor May 2015 and became Vice Chair in May 2017, a post I still hold. I believe that as a councillor I can put my previous experience to some practical use.

The reason for being involved in these community organisations is not completely altruistic because I need to be doing and involved in things or I would just stagnate.

I love living in Burwell because it is a vibrant friendly community and although I will never live long enough to become a Burwellian I feel that I belong.