



FarmWell
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WHEN THE UNEXPECTED HAPPENS

With RABI

When a trip whilst working on the farm led to complications, RABI was there to help. Read Norman and Debbie's story and find out more about how RABI can help when the unexpected happens.



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Norman was in good health and at just 52 had big plans for his farm's future. No one could have predicted the cruel twists of fate that left his wife Debbie a widow, struggling to keep the farm going with the help of son James and daughter Janet.

Debbie explained: “Norman tripped and cracked his kneecap. He had to have an operation but everything seemed fine. I remember visiting him and he was chirpy. Then it was like someone just switched the lights off. We never even had the chance to say goodbye.”

Norman, it was later discovered, suffered from a hereditary condition that made him susceptible to blood clots. He developed a clot that stopped the oxygen from getting to his brain and never recovered.

“It was a surreal time,” said Debbie.

“But however bad we felt, we still had to get up every morning and do the milking.

“Running a farm – some 90 feet above sea level and prone to getting waterlogged – proved a challenge for the family, without Norman. Just locating the paperwork was a job in itself and Debbie said they had to learn to ‘think like detectives’. Hardest of all for Debbie was watching James struggle to come to terms with the overwhelming responsibilities that had been placed on his shoulders, at a time when he was also trying to deal with the sudden loss of his Dad.

Debbie came across R.A.B.I on the internet and made that all-important first telephone call. A welfare officer went out to meet the family and quickly arranged for them to receive some business advice and a financial grant to fund some temporary farm help.

James said: “It enabled me to look beyond tomorrow. There had been no handover so I was just coping day to day. Having some proper advice helped me to look further ahead.”

Debbie added: “Things were quite tight at that time so for James to be able to bring in an extra pair of hands was a real lift. It wasn't just about having someone to help with the work either; it was such a relief for me to look out of the window and see that James had someone to talk to and he wasn't on his own.”

rabi.org.uk