

DAVID IAN GUY (58 – 62)

BORN 1943, DIED 5 OCTOBER 2020, AGED 77

David joined the RGS aged 13 when he returned to the North East from Maidstone, after spending an idyllic early childhood playing in the Kent countryside. Throughout his life he maintained a debt of gratitude for the values and standards he had learnt at the RGS and the many resulting life-long friendships.

After school, he trained as a teacher at Bede College Durham. He took great pride in leading a very successful Bede College rowing team and he represented Durham University in national competitions.

In 1966 he moved to Paris where he taught English at the Berlitz Language School. It was a period that led to a life-long love of France and his family would joke when he would wistfully say “When I lived in Paris...”. He learnt to speak French fluently and would later take his family to France every year during the 1990s.

In 1968 he taught English to trainee pilots in the Saudi Arabian air force in Dhahran, returning the following year to the UK to marry Valerie whom he had met just before moving to the Middle East. Soon afterwards, a period of jury service inspired David to read Law at Newcastle University. This enabled him to obtain the position of Legal Services Manager at Blyth Valley Council where he worked until his retirement.

Throughout David’s life, he found much satisfaction in maintaining and repairing cars – particularly his beloved Saabs. When diagnosed with prostate cancer in 2018 he bought a classic convertible Morris Minor as a renovation project. Much to everyone’s amazement, he spent almost two years lovingly working on it throughout his extensive treatment.

His technical knowledge also extended to an ability to undertake house extensions, and to build and repair bicycles (a skill he passed on to his son), clocks and watches, skills he would also share to help family and friends. It wasn’t uncommon for him to travel long distances to help a friend whose car had broken down. He was someone who would always go out of his way to help others.

Following his retirement, in 2004, David and Valerie moved to Stocksfield and David was Secretary of the Stocksfield Retired Men’s Association for over a decade.

Sailing holidays to the Norfolk Broads with his Royal Grammar School friends were an annual highlight for over 20 years. Every little catering detail was meticulously planned. The holidays provided a wonderful opportunity for him to enjoy the early morning wildlife and waterbirds of the Broads and, of course, to spend time socialising with old friends.

He leaves his wife of 51 years Valerie, daughter Catherine and son-in-law Daniel, son Richard and daughter-in-law Elena, and grandchildren Matthew, Tom, Ben and Oliver.