

Death of Memorable Head Teacher Philip Headon PHF

Peter Sherred

Society members will be saddened to learn of the death of Phil Headon on Tuesday 18th April at the age of 93. Phil was the former Head Teacher at Whitfield Primary School and Aspen Unit who made a lasting impression on his primary school pupils. He was a much-loved member of the Rotary Club of Dover where he had been Secretary and was the President of the Club in 1979-80, the 75th anniversary year of Rotary International. For his outstanding work for the club and the local community he was made a Paul Harris Fellow and latterly given the highest honour the club could give of Honorary Membership.

A full biography of Phil was included in Society Newsletter no. 96 (November 2019) page 31. He and his wife, Margaret were married for just short of sixty years and enjoyed twenty years of retirement together before she predeceased him in 2009. Margaret had also been a primary school teacher teaching at St Mary's Primary School and then River Primary School.

Phil will be greatly missed by the many societies and local organisations with which he was associated, among others these

included Dover Choral Society, the L'Arche Community, Dover Rugby Club, Probus, Cancer Research Committee and, of course, the Rotary Club of Dover. He was a keen enthusiast of both rugby and cricket, particularly Welsh rugby as he was born in Brynmenyn, Bridgend. Parkinson's disease had a serious impact on physical aspects of Phil's life in recent years necessitating carers looking after him in his own home in River.

His funeral service was held in Barham Crematorium Chapel on Wednesday 10th May at 4pm and was very well attended by family, friends, and former colleagues. It was a moving service that celebrated a long and productive life. The Welsh connection was significant with both entrance and recessional recorded music being provided with two elements performed by the Treorchy male voice choir singing 'Myfanwy' and 'Sospan Fach' respectively while the congregation gave voice to the hymn Cwm Rhondda, 'Guide me, O Thou great redeemer.' Our sympathies extend to his two sons, David and his family and Nick who was a member of The Clash who enjoyed considerable success with that group.



Margaret and Phil Headon

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