

Roger Allan Brown

- Born in Bingley, West Yorkshire on 21st January 1947. Educated at Bingley grammar school, where he excelled at sport, especially swimming, diving and rugby, playing for the school senior team.
- Member of the school choir and madrigal group. Singing was a passion which lasted throughout his life and he admired especially the tenor voice.
- Attended Chester College of Education, a teacher training college, specialising in French and linguistics.
- In 1966 he was sent to Paris on an intensive 6 month French language course where he met his future wife Linda. They subsequently married in April 1969.
- On leaving college he took up posts in Leigh Park and Bridgemary before joining the staff at Bishopsfield Boys School in Fareham as the youngest head of Modern Languages at the age of 25 and where he took part in several staff productions of plays.
- Enjoyed life over the years taking students camping in the New Forest, and organising exchange visits to pen friends in both France and Germany. He also accompanied students on annual trips to the Battlefields of World War I which resulted in his acquiring a huge, specialist knowledge and became a lifelong personal interest.
- Converted his Teaching Certificate to a degree and received his Bachelor of Education qualification in 1983 from the then Portsmouth Polytechnic.
- In his private life he enjoyed sailing and owned several different boats over the years, the last of which was his beloved Gaff Rig Oyster Catcher, Jenny. He was Commodore of Portsmouth Sailing Club and as co-owner of a "Victory" yacht of the Portsmouth fleet he raced at Cowes for over a decade and helped win many prizes, cups and shields. He was latterly a member of Portsmouth Harbour Cruising Club and its Vice-Commodore for the past 2 years.
- He also found enjoyment in taking motor caravanning holidays in France and the UK and in working on his allotment for over 20 years, producing enough vegetables for the table for months at a time.
- A kind, unassuming man and a perfect gentleman it was his life's mission to make people happy. Nothing was too much trouble for him and he was loved, respected and admired by everyone with whom he came into contact.
- Seemingly eminently sociable he put everyone at their ease and could talk on almost any subject you cared to name, from transport and photography through to yachting and all genres of music, but in truth, he was never happier than sat in front of a log fire with a cat on his lap and doing the Times cryptic crossword. He enjoyed his life, which is all one can ask for really.
- He will be sorely missed by all his friends and family, especially his wife Linda, Mother-in-law Joan and brother Michael and family, but instead of mourning his passing we are thankful that we had him in our lives and grateful that we had the chance to know and love such a man as he. Rest in peace, Roger.