

## MEMORIAL SERVICE

A Memorial Service celebrating the life of Andrew Yorke will be held in Sherborne at 2.00 p.m. on Saturday 12th November 2005. The Committee of the Old Shirburnian Sailing Society anticipates that a large proportion of the membership will wish to attend. We intend to organise a venue nearby where members of the Society can meet for lunch prior to the Service. So that we can make the necessary arrangements, it would be most helpful if you could notify Nick Ware e: nick.ware@chindit.co.uk T: 07769 643359 if you do hope to attend and would like to join the OSSS gathering beforehand. More detailed information regarding the gathering and service will be issued nearer the time.

## A LASTING TRIBUTE

Andrew Yorke dedicated much of his life to sailing at Sherborne. It is only fitting that there should be a lasting memorial to him. At this stage it is too soon to decide what form this should take. Perhaps an Andrew Yorke Trophy, a new boat to be named after Andrew or even an Andrew Yorke Scholarship to attract the best young sailing talent to Sherborne. The Committee will be talking to the School and to the Sherborne Foundation before making any decision. In due course, the Committee will notify members of our thoughts and potentially ask for a donation towards the cost. In the meantime, if you have any thoughts relating to a particularly suitable lasting tribute, please speak to any member of the Committee.

## A TIME FOR REFLECTION: TWO POEMS

### GONE FROM MY SIGHT

I am standing upon the seashore.  
A ship at my side spreads her white  
sails to the morning breeze and starts  
for the blue ocean.  
She is an object of beauty and strength.  
I stand and watch her until at length  
she hangs like a speck of white cloud  
just where the sea and sky come  
to mingle with each other.  
Then, someone at my side says;  
"There, she is gone!"  
"Gone where?"  
Gone from my sight. That is all.  
She is just as large in mast and hull  
and spar as she was when she left my side  
and she is just as able to bear her  
load of living freight to her destined port.  
Her diminished size is in me, not in her.  
And just at the moment when someone  
at my side says, "There, she is gone!"  
There are other eyes watching her coming,  
and other voices ready to take up the glad  
shout;  
"Here she comes!"  
And that is dying.  
Henry Van Dyke

### CROSSING THE BAR

Sunset and evening star,  
And one clear call for me!  
And may there be no moaning of the bar,  
When I put out to sea,  
But such a tide as moving seems asleep,  
Too full for sound and foam,  
When that which drew from out the boundless deep  
Turns again home.  
Twilight and evening bell,  
And after that the dark!  
And may there be no sadness or farewell,  
When I embark;  
For tho' from out our bourne of Time and Place  
The flood may bear me far,  
I hope to see my Pilot face to face  
When I have crost the bar.

Lord Tennyson



# Andrew Yorke

1939—2005

## A TRIBUTE FROM THE OLD SHIRBURNIAN SAILING SOCIETY

Andrew Yorke was born in Croydon on 30th January 1939 immediately before the outbreak of the Second World War. He was the younger of two children. He was sent away to school at Dulwich College, with which he retained links until his death. After leaving Dulwich, Andrew studied Mechanical Engineering at Manchester University where, having been brought up with impeccable manners, he used to say he found northern bluntness quite an eye-opener.

On leaving Manchester, Andrew joined the Mathematics department at Sherborne in 1963 — one of the first non Oxbridge recruits. Apart from teaching, he soon became involved with sailing which thrived under Andrew. He built the Sailing Club up to become the largest and most successful school sailing club in the country. Not only did Andrew dedicate his summer term to Tuesdays, Thursdays and Weekends at Arne but also gave up half term and the first week of the summer holidays to run fun-filled Sailing Club Camps which were enjoyed by generations of Shirburnians. Always keen to make sure the school had the best fleet, a succession of different boats could be found at Arne: Fireflies, Cadets, Larks, the Jolly Boat, Javelin, 420's, 470's, 505's and more recently Andrew's own Hobie-cat which was sailed far more by the boys than by him!

Not content with sailing at Poole in the summer, Andrew was also instrumental in persuading the local water authority to open up Sutton Bingham Reservoir for sailing in the early 1970's. He was a founder member and Trustee of

Sutton Bingham Sailing Club and introduced a school fleet of 420's for use in the winter months and for Racing.

Other than sailing, Andrew will be remembered as Resident Tutor in Abbeylands whilst Robert Glen was Housemaster up to 1983. Andrew loved classical music and would frequently take boys to Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra concerts. He also frequently visited Glyndebourne and the Royal Opera House. At Sherborne his other responsibilities included looking after the minibus fleet and sorting out the prangs of careless staff. He also arranged "cover" when other members of staff were ill or unavailable—but quickly learnt that often the easiest option was to take the lesson himself.

During the summer he would organise canoeing trips to France with John Mitchell — and once even braved an intrepid journey down the Zambezi.

Ever popular, Andrew would always go out of way for others and never had a bad word to say about anyone. His friends always loved to hear his amusing stories — often relating to some unfortunate mishap that had befallen a boy, friend or colleague many years before.

Andrew retired in 1999 but remained involved with the Old Shirburnian Sailing Society, of which he was Rear Commodore, and also continued to help Chris Hamon

## ANDREW YORKE ... IN THE WORDS OF MEMBERS OF THE OLD SHIRBURNIAN SAILING SOCIETY

"He was the most wonderful person to me and any boy who was lucky enough to come into contact with him. He was seen by myself and many, not as a teacher but a good friend, and he knew the importance of the sailing weekends to the boys and especially myself - I used to get really fed up with school, and a weekend sailing down at Arne would put all my worries behind me. No one made it a more relaxing and enjoyable place to be than Andrew".

Charlie Walsh (1994-1999 d)

"A lot of my best memories are from sailing at school especially at Arne. It was incredible how Andrew managed to set up such a fantastic operation at Arne and keep it going for so long."

Ed Whipp (1991-1996 e)

"I have just had such a happy day sailing in glorious weather on the Solent with my son who has just left Sherborne that to learn of Andrew's death the same evening is all the more poignant. He was my last link with the Sherborne I knew as a boy. He was the most gentle, unselfish and giving of men and must have encouraged so many into sailing over his lifetime."

Michael French (1961-1965 a)

"He will always be remembered by those who knew him with great affection."

David Mauleverer (1958-1962 g)

"I am sitting out here in Iraq gutted and upset that we have lost such a truly great man. It is those we admire the most that go too early. My fondest memories of Andrew are those times when at dinner parties he would only speak when necessary - having little of the pretentiousness of some others. But when he did it was always with great thought, and usually it was so funny."

Giles Bradford (1991-1996 b)

"I amongst many others owe many of my fondest memories of Sherborne to Andrew. At Arne in approximately 1981, Andrew allowed myself and William Watt out after much pleading in a 470 in a Force 5 to discover a good Force 6 gusting much more around the corner. An amazing sail resulted in a torn jib, broken goose neck, snapped trapeze harness and broken tiller extension! More amazing was Andrew's incredibly phlegmatic response to the wreck we brought home. No recrimination, just a deep sigh and a look as he walked away - unwilling to dampen our enthusiasm. Appreciation for his dedication just continues to grow as one traces many of ones more patient responses to teenagers back to him."

Henry Wilkinson (1979-1983 a)

"Whilst at Sherborne, I once tried to work out why Andrew was such a nice man. One thing struck me: Teachers were constantly telling the boys to do this and do that but Andrew was unique in that he'd always start with the phrase "Would you like to"... "Would you like to help pull the James Auckland (rescue boat) up?" "Would you like to wash up?". You couldn't say no to his requests, not even digging the "hole" at Arne."

Tak Kaneko (1991-1996 m)

"He was a great sailing master, teacher and more than anything a fantastic friend"

Will Thomas-Ferrand (1991-1996 h)

"It is rare to find someone who was as selfless, dedicated and humble as Andrew. He has given so much to so many, and will be sorely missed."

Olly Bradford (1993-1998 b)

"Andrew was one of the kindest and most thoughtful people that I have ever come across and was solely responsible for the development of my love of the sea. Andrew enjoyed sailing but rarely got the chance to sail himself as he was always tirelessly looking after the boys. He even went out and bought a Hobie Cat which was promptly turned over to the boys for high speed jaunts over to Brownsea and back. Andrew hated to see disappointment on the boys faces and would do everything in his power to get the boats into the water, conditions not withstanding. I remember being asked to take a 470 out for a "trial" run at Arne in a Force 6 plus. When I returned with some very rosy faces he decided it was too much to launch the fleet but could I take a few more out for another "trial" run. Typical of Andrew making sure that everyone was treated the same and all those that wanted a go got one."

Will Davey (1982-1987 d)

"Andrew influenced the lives of generations of Old Shirburnians. His quiet charm accompanied by an acute sense of humour and dedication to everything that he became involved with were quite unique. Everyone who came in to contact with Andrew liked him immensely - it was impossible not to - perhaps in part because he never had a bad word to say about anyone. Andrew always went out his way to help others and to ensure that they had a good time. In recent years I have been very fortunate to have Andrew as crew on board Chindit for a week or two on a summer cruise to South Brittany or the West Country. Not only was he a great sailor but wonderful company too - indeed several of my non-OS friends used to specifically ask if they could be on board when Andrew was on board. On the day of Andrew's death, I was on board Chindit in St Vaast with 3 members of the OSSS - indeed Andrew should have been with us too but for his illness. It was a glorious day and we were having a wonderful time, which we all entirely owed to Andrew as I am quite sure that without his influence I would never have discovered my love of the water, sailing, boats etc.....and none of us would have been in St Vaast on that day. So many Old Shirburnians owe him so much - we will sorely miss him."

Nick Ware (1980-1985 e)

"An irreplaceable loss."

Angus Cater (1965-1970 c)

"I have very fond memories of weekends at Arne with Mr Yorke (or Yorkie!). The great thing about the sailing club was that it was a chance to get out of the school and have fun on your own for a few hours or a weekend, and no-one knew that better than Mr Yorke. He was so young at heart and treated us just as friends rather than pupils. I was never really into the competitive side of racing, instead I just loved to mess around in the boats, capsizing etc. and I know he enjoyed watching us have so much fun. He will be missed so much, by my whole family as he taught myself, my elder brother and my father."

Tom Walsh (1996-2001 d)



"Andrew was an amazing influence over my and so many other people's lives at Sherborne. In spending almost all possible weekends at Arne, along with Sailing Camps - for which he so generously gave his holidays up for - and the BSO concerts, I got to know Andrew very well and will always be extremely grateful for everything that Andrew gave to us"

James Chilton (1990-1996 b)

"We all owe Andrew such a great deal, he was such a major part of my time at Sherborne, both in terms of the sailing and in terms of the classical music concert trips that he frequently organised - I can't believe how he found time to fulfil a demanding maths teaching post and residential House Tutor role into the bargain! It occurs to me that it doesn't even stop there, he was the prime mover in organising those canoeing trips along with John Mitchell - I went on two, to the Wye and to the Dordogne; indeed, I recall that Andrew, John and I went twice to the Norfolk Broads during the Easter holidays with a couple of other boys and, as always, in Andrew's company, these were great fun, despite lousy weather. In current times, this would probably would not be possible, but thank goodness it was then, I have very fond memories of those times. The overall thing about Andrew was his selflessness and enthusiasm in getting the boys on the water, to Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra / Bristol for Welsh National Opera, and London for English National Opera, and giving up the majority of his holiday time into the bargain for various trips with the boys - and maintaining the boats himself."

Rob Cronk (1976-1981 a)

"I am very sad. He was a very good man."

Angus Bogle (1977-1982 f)

I feel privileged and grateful to have known Andrew; privileged to have known such a true gentleman, and grateful for the immense gift of a love of the sea which he gave me. I have never met anyone quite so universally liked and respected by all who met him—he will be sadly missed."

Neil Duncan (1991-1996 g)

"I only got to know Andrew when I joined the OSSS rather belatedly in about 1979, but of course worked closely with him ever since in the preparations for the annual Boy's Weekend which he really set great store by as a living link between the Sailing Club and the OSSS. I always found him to be not only personally very charming but also completely dedicated to his role at Sherborne in the widest sense. He never stinted himself and his first thought was always for others, particularly the less fortunate. Andrew's passing will leave a huge gap in the sailing community which is the Sherborne School Sailing Club and the OSSS."

Bob Macdonald (1949-1953 h)

"I arrived at Sherborne in the same term as Andrew - he a novice teacher and me a new squirt. We met in the classroom when he took on the assembled might of Class 3A for maths, and it would be fair to say we both struggled to begin with. The first term exams saw an average score of only 5% and it was clear that we had not understood his introduction to the new syllabus. However the older masters rallied round Andrew and by the end of the school year he was teaching calmly and confidently - and we were gaining an understanding of applied maths. Today I use that knowledge almost every day in relation to our commissioning or servicing yachts at Sea Ventures, and of course when predicting COGs and SOGs whilst racing! It was a privilege and a pleasure to meet up with Andrew again a couple of years ago when I joined the OSSS committee. He was an exceptionally good man."

Peter Innes-Ker (1967-1966 a)

"I feel so sad that Andrew who gave so much to the school was deprived from enjoying the long retirement he deserved. Andrew leaves a legacy which every school teacher would be proud to achieve. He was an inspiration to so many, thoughtful, generous and kind. My greatest enjoyment at Sherborne was those activities where Andrew was involved. For instance, the sailing at Sutton Bingham in the winter and the summer weekends and camp at Arne, and even just doing the boat maintenance on a Wednesday afternoon. He was also my tutor, successfully mentoring me through my A levels and also became a good friend from then on. I feel a genuine loss and will miss him."

James Foster (1980 - 1985 g)

"That Arne was such a haven of good times, friends and normality—for me and I know many others—was entirely down to his influence. But what always struck me about Andrew was that he was proof that it is possible to gain the utmost respect and friendship simply by being genuine, unassuming and generous."

Tom Beard (1991—1996 b)

"One aspect that is not widely known is Andrew, the suspected burglar. We invited him to supper on the way back from his Aunt's, about 20 years ago. When he arrived in the sleepy little village where my parents live driving his minibus, he couldn't find the house and asked a neighbour for directions. Suspecting he might be a thief coming to clear out the house, this neighbour phoned us, very concerned about this suspicious character in a getaway van! I can't think of anyone less likely - and I know Andrew was greatly amused!"

Charles Trefusis (1975 - 1978 g)

"He was gentle, considerate, helpful, and above all motivated by a love of sailing, teaching, and of the boys at Sherborne. He was quite an extraordinary schoolmaster. In my own time at Sherborne, he asked me to take over running the racing side of the sailing, and gave me the fullest possible support in expanding that side of the club, while never ignoring his real love, the cruising at Arne. The years I spent working with him will count among my happiest anywhere, I'm sure. You will remember his unflappability - tested, I think, when we went on a tour together to the US with the sailing team of about 1990. On our arrival in Boston, we went to pick up the hired minibus. His reaction when I announced I had left my driving licence at home, and therefore Andrew had to do all the driving during the two week tour, was impressively calm. I'm sure that his slamming on the brakes, causing me to crash into the front dashboard shortly after, was entirely an accident caused by not having driven an automatic before!"

Stephen Wilkinson (former staff)