

## MALCOLM BROWN RIP

- Paddy's Tribute



Many members of the society knew Malcolm through his multi-faceted career locally, as a teacher at Pates Grammar School from 1967, the Old Patesians Association, for whom he played cricket, and like the late Arthur Bailey, as a key member of the Cheltenham and District Cricket Association, helping to provide a structure for the game in the area.

Fewer will realise that Malcolm was a co-founder member of the Cheltenham Cricket Society, taking on the position of treasurer in 1985 and managing the finances for the fast developing society with minimal fuss and typical dedication.

Hailing from Coventry, he attended Bablake School in the city, then gained a place at Cambridge University to study geography at Pembroke College, where he played some social football, but reportedly, little cricket, although for a time he did follow the fortunes of the Warwickshire county team, captained for a decade in those days by M.J.K. Smith.

It's more than likely he had already been diverted by his lifelong devotion to Coventry City F.C., which he supported and watched regularly until his final weeks.

However, he did play in the Pates staff cricket team as an opening batsman, having been appointed to the school's geography department, and was soon working with his colleague Noel Furley in nurturing the continuity of organised geography field trips with many visits to North Devon, using Westward Ho! and Hartland Point area as bases.

Similarly, Malcolm built on the existing delivery of the Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme for students, enhancing the operation with the assistance of other staff colleagues.

Malcolm also made time to become involved in school and District athletics and cross country in Cheltenham, leading to the Gloucestershire Schools' athletics annual championships. Not content with such a busy schedule, he joined forces with the staff who ran Gloucestershire schools 'cricket, coaching and organising boys' age group teams, working with the late Nigel Cooke, who was chairman of this society from 1990 until 2005.

Malcolm's dedication to his subject also led to him becoming an examiner in 'A' level geography for the Cambridge University Board, undertaking marking scripts for many years, even beyond taking early retirement from teaching in 1995.

From that time he was keen to develop another active career direction in applying for the post of administrator at the Hucclecote Community Centre, which he did successfully in the same year.

His duties included day to day Centre management, putting in place many innovative procedures, and in due course became treasurer. He was very well thought of by all who worked with him and became a dear friend among staff and many users, quoted as "a father figure" by those who so appreciated his characteristic caring help. Unsurprisingly, they tell us that he is sorely missed.

Malcolm and his mother Eileen were members of the Badgeworth Church, (Eileen was also a member of our society), and again, Malcolm took on the post of treasurer for a period of twenty years, and with his mother attended the church, and made many friends, who much valued his work on their behalf.

Within the Cheltenham Cricket Society, our committee's appreciation for Malcolm's financial guidance was total, and all the more so as he managed membership aspects in addition to taking on the editorship of the annual brochure, for which he cast an eye over all of our submissions, gently correcting errors here and there with a polite but unchallengeable improvement.

Malcolm himself wrote of Arthur Bailey "he will be sorely missed, and we shall need to keep up his standards, or he will surely be chiding us from on high." Trust Malcolm to have found the words which so aptly describe his own legacy.



**Paddy Murphy**