

## **DAVID PARRY GRIFFITHS 23 March 1925-10 April 2016**

David was born in Uttoxeter, Staffordshire, a birthright Quaker; his childhood and adolescence were spent in the wardens' house on the site of Uttoxeter Meeting House where his parents were wardens and active members of The Religious Society of Friends. David's father taught French at the local Grammar school which later David attended, moving on to Manchester University where he obtained a degree in civil engineering. On leaving university David took the difficult step of joining the army at the time of the Second World War. It was at this point in his life that David moved away from formal Quaker worship.

David was posted to Egypt where he met his future wife Stella over the ubiquitous cup of tea in the NAAFI café. They subsequently married in 1948 when by this time David had left the army and was working in London as a civil engineer. Later David and Stella moved to Zambia for a three year period where David was involved with building dams. Their first child was born in Zambia. On returning to the UK David worked briefly again in London for the LCC but later went to work for ICI in Middlesbrough where he remained until his retirement. During this period 4 more children were born and the growing family lived in Danby and Nunthorpe in Middlesbrough.

On retirement in 1985 David and Stella moved to Pickering and it is at this stage that David's path reconnects with his Quaker faith. Although a spiritual man formal religion had not been part of his life for many years. David spoke of his need to find for himself the path to follow and form his own convictions rather than accepting those of his parents. For the next 30 years onwards David's commitment, service, love and dedication to his faith was carried out to the full both in tangible and practical ways and also the gentle manner of living his life which was a source of inspiration to many of those who knew him.

Within Pickering Meeting David served as an Elder for almost 10 years. He also served as treasurer and at one period served as convener to Elders and Overseers. His practical and professional contributions were particularly valued in the 20 years he served on Premises Committee where he was instrumental in overseeing many tasks ensuring the upkeep of the Meeting House and grounds and making necessary improvements. He chaired the Fundraising Committee for renovation of the Meeting House and also initially chaired the Lecture Committee. He was a founder member of the Croysdale Trust and served on Ravensworth Lodge committee. His dedication, hard work and attention to detail, but above all wise council, made him a well-loved and respected

member of the meeting. Within the wider community David was a member of the Civic Society where he became involved in many local issues; he also was a volunteer with the local museum where he helped to raise considerable funds.

On a personal level David was above all a family man, devoted to his beloved Stella and their 5 children. He was unassuming, nonjudgmental, a man both open minded and with strong principles. He had a deep love and knowledge of nature and the environment, planting a small wood under the guidance of the Woodland Trust. He was well read, thoughtful, had a lively mind and liked to get to the bottom of things. He had wide interests: stamp collecting, Ancient History, the Aztecs and Incas, books and perhaps above all his beloved music, a source of great pleasure throughout his life. David was a most proficient violin player with a deep love of both classical music and also jazz. There are many memories of David playing his fiddle in the later years of his life with style and panache.

We celebrate and give thanks for David's life. We remember his wisdom, his sense of humour, his service to others, his concern for the world. We particularly thank him for his dedicated service to Pickering Meeting. His indeed was a life well lived.