

In Memory - Dr Keith Ray 1948 – 2022

Dr Keith Ray (7 May 1948 - 3 April 2022)

Keith was born in a village near Northwich, Cheshire and attended Sir John Deane's Grammar School. He then went up to Clare College in Cambridge to study Engineering and Management Studies. He graduated with first class honours and went on to gain a PhD in Operational Research. After university, he worked for a short while in London, then for Northampton County Council, and finally spent the rest of his working life in management consultancy at Mars in Slough.

Keith and his wife, Teresa, moved to Marlow from Northamptonshire in 1978 and, following his retirement, he became involved in many local charities such as Maidenhead Relate, Marlow Museum and the Marlow Society. He also set up a consultancy specialising in the food industries in China and Saudi Arabia, and he became the business editor of China Eye, a magazine and organisation that promotes Anglo-Chinese understanding.

He always had a passion for technical writing and, combining this with a sense of humour, he wrote a series of sixteen books about transport and engineering inventions, illustrated with his own cartoons. He also regularly published cartoons in leading magazines and newspapers, and supplied monthly history articles about marine engineering for two professional publications.

Martin Blunkell invited Keith to join the society's executive committee in 2016, and his interest in history led him to become the chairman of the Local History Group two years later. Keith led the LHG committee with aplomb and unflinching patience, and steered us adroitly through the difficult two years of the Covid pandemic, defying his increasing ill-health.

He was very interested and enthusiastic about local history. He was chairman of Local History Group, Marlow Society.

Keith fought a brave battle against cancer for two years until passing away peacefully in the Florence Nightingale hospice.