

## DAVID EDWARD MASON BEM (S55-59)

**The following is edited from the eulogy given at David's memorial Service by his son, Simon**

David Edward Mason was my Father. His death, on 13th May, came quickly and unexpectedly, but he lived life well and packed a lot in, and his life touched many others.

David was born in Ipswich in October 1941. His parents were Ted and Dorothy and World War Two was well underway. My Grandfather was a distinguished Royal Naval Officer and naturally away a lot. David has two younger brothers, Richard and Paul, and a sister Anne, and much of his childhood was either spent on the family farm at Dovercourt in Essex, moving around with the navy, to exotic spots such as Portsmouth and Lancashire and rather more exotic places like Malta and Norway, and being away at boarding school, firstly at Boundary Oak in Hampshire and then at Framlingham College in Suffolk. The link with Framlingham would remain for the rest of his life. Whilst in Malta my Grandfather was Prince Philip's commanding officer. Not only did my Grandmother entertain the future Queen but Philip took David out so that he could have his hair cut.

David became a chartered accountant and while working for a London firm called Mayhew Sanders he met a legal secretary called Anne Phillips in 1967. They married the following March. We first lived in Morden, then Carshalton Beeches and finally, for the last 28 years, in Wallington.

In 1970 David became a bill broker working for a City firm called King and Shaxon, and there he remained until his retirement in the 1990s. He rubbed shoulders with the great and the good, including the Governor of the Bank of England, who I think he was on first names terms with. Always good with figures, he also established his own accountancy business. The daily commute, catching the 7.41 to London Bridge, was very much part of his working life, as were working lunches and the enjoyment of Youngs beer in the Lamb and Flag in Leadenhall Market.

As a father he was ever-dependable, a constant and wise presence who always sought the best for us and provided for us well. Through our parents we met many incredible people. He was also very good at letting us make our own decisions, providing an occasional hand on the tiller rather than seeking to sail the ship himself. When I started university in 1989 he presented me with a cheque for £500 and told me not to spend it all at once. Thankfully a pint of beer in the College bar cost 80p, so it went a long way.

Retirement brought many pleasures. The opportunity to spend time with friends, which I know that David relished. Going to *The Greyhound* on a Friday and putting the world to rights. Being able to read the Daily Telegraph each morning, attempt the crossword and ruminate on his views of the world. Gardening, especially growing vegetables. Becoming a grandfather: to Thomas and Jemima, my children, and to Jacob and Sam, James's children. Travel became a passion, with trips to Australia, South Africa, China, Malaysia, the Caribbean, Russia, Italy..... the list goes on and on. We spent weeks in Portugal and the Lake District which are fondly remembered. He was a member of Carshalton Beeches Rotary Club for over 30 years: wonderful service and friendships and of course the memorable 'Music in the Park' concerts at Carew Manor in Beddington with the firework finale that he helped to organise for several years and that raised so much money for good causes. David also supported the Multiple Sclerosis Society, Sutton Community Transport, the day centre in Carshalton Beeches and many others, often providing advice and looking after their accounts. He was a mentor with the Prince's Trust. In the New Year's Honours List he received a British Empire Medal for services to charity and the local community: a fitting testament to all that he had done.

Sport always played an important part in his life, and David played rugby, hockey and cricket at school and he even received a cup for boxing. Perhaps not in the heavyweight division, but maybe light middleweight, though I can't imagine him throwing a punch. We used to have lots of fun with his cricket bat and lots of time together on summer evenings in the garden. He closely followed the fortunes of the England cricket and rugby teams, and he was a regular attender of matches at Twickenham and the Oval, as well as making the annual visit with friends to take in the test match at Trent Bridge, Nottingham. He played for and supported Sutton and Epsom Rugby Club. He followed the ups, and since the mid 80s, the many downs of Ipswich Town Football Club - loyalty to the place of his birth - and over Easter he was most keen to know if Sutton and Epsom had won and



if they had been promoted, which they had, and whether Framlingham had done well in the public schools' golf tournament - they were sadly a little less successful. He also took up bowls, which he played with gusto and some ability.

David held Framlingham College in great affection, and he supported the Old Framlinghamian Society for nearly 60 years. He was a trustee and eventually the President of the Society, a role that I know that he executed with great diligence and affection.



David broke his hip in 2010, and this affected him a great deal, with illness and spells in hospital. Yet he remained determined and positive and always pleased to see people. Living life well was important to him and although he passed away much more quickly than we had imagined, he did so with dignity and, importantly, at home. Thank you to everyone who supported him at this difficult time, including all the medical and home care that he received.

Which words best sum David up? Here are some: honest, reliable, loyal, intelligent, a man whose advice was sought, who believed in service, who was respected and highly regarded. Above all, a man of integrity.

In the Bible, Jesus said that he was going to prepare many rooms. May one of those rooms be for you, Dad. May you rest in peace and know that you are loved. May we remember you with affection, and be inspired by you, and may we celebrate the gift of life that we have and enjoy every day that comes.

To Celebrate the Life of

*David Edward Mason*

31st October 1941 - 13th May 2016



Monday 6th June 2016 at 2.15 pm  
Croydon Crematorium, East Chapel