

Dr Patrick Flynn: 21/12/29 – 26/04/2021

Chichester High 1940-1947

Patrick sadly passed away in April 2021. His daughter Geraldine writes: “He always spoke fondly of his school days and very much enjoyed the Old Cicestrians’ reunions and dinners, although over the last couple of years he was unable to attend. As some of you may know, he wrote a history of the school and his time there.



After leaving school, Patrick went to Queen Mary College, which was then part of the University of London, where he completed his undergraduate degree and his PhD. He then went to work at Aldermaston from 1956 until he retired in 1992. In 1957 he went to Christmas Island to take part in the Grapple test (UK H-bomb test). On his return, developed the HELEN laser and continued to work in this area until his retirement. We have photos of him and the Duke of Edinburgh at Aldermaston and he always said that the Duke was very interested in how the laser worked and its applications. As a child, I can remember him regularly travelling to America and other countries to attend and speak at meetings and conferences during the 60’s and 70’s.

He married Jane in 1955 and I and my brother came along in 1957 and 1960 respectively. He loved his family and was never happier than when we were all together with our husbands and partners and, latterly, his grandchildren. Certainly, his family gave him pleasure right to the end.



Photograph taken on Patrick’s 90th Birthday

When he retired, Dad finally had the time to become fluent in French and he and my mum spent a couple of months each summer in Provence. He loved France and one of his major regrets was that they were unable to travel during the last couple of years. We also enjoyed many family holidays staying with my great aunt in the Lake District and Mum and Dad continued to visit there often. He spent a lot of time compiling our family tree and he and mum enjoyed travelling around the country doing the research”.

Our President, Geoff Wills adds a tribute:

"Very sorry to hear that Patrick Flynn had passed away. He was a very clever man and some 4 - 5 years my senior at school. We always shared a table at the Christmas lunch. I knew little of his background but I believe he was involved in some form of nuclear research. And indeed he did write a short book on the history of CHSB during his time. Not so short either and full of interesting topics which might otherwise have been forgotten. He used to send me the odd draft from time to time for me to confirm isolated items."