

# Christopher Patrick Meaden

## 1944- 2004

Christopher (Chris) was born at 40 Lonsdale Avenue Portchester, the same as brother Bob and sister Wendy. He started School at Church Street Infant School Landport Portsmouth, (now Charles Dickens) having moved to 13 Nelson Road with the family at the age of 3. After 6 years at Church St infants and junior schools Chris spent one term at Portsea Secondary Modern School before transferring to St Luke's C of E Secondary Modern School. In those days your parents had to put your name down years in advance, or have had previous generations attend the school, such was the reputation of the school. Unfortunately for Chris there had been an administrative error obliging him to spend a term at a school much further from home than he would have wished. After four years Chris sat the Dockyard Apprentice Entrance, which he was successful and chose an Apprenticeship as an Engine fitter and Turner. At the end of his five-year apprenticeship Chris decided to join the Merchant Navy as a Junior Officer, and he spent three years with Bowater Scott moving, mainly print paper and other paper products from country to country. After leaving the Merchant service Chris met Marilyn Foley, and after several years they married on the Twentieth of November 1971 at Saints Peter and Paul, Wymering Portsmouth. Chris returned to the Dockyard, where he worked in the Yard Services Department, travelling around the yard also to outside establishments and even abroad, repairing and maintaining machinery and equipment of all types. He went on to take up the post as a planner at Blackbrook Farm, Engine Development Establishment at Fareham. After some years the government decided to close Blackbrook Farm and Chris transferred to RNAD Frater in Gosport, where he became involved in testing

the Marconi Spearfish guided Torpedo, and this required him to travel to the testing ranges off the west coast of Scotland and the testing range off the coast of Bermuda. Although Chris was not particularly interested in sport, he was a very keen and committed Mason and held virtually all of the posts of his Lodge, (St Christopher Botley) and several years before his death held the post of Master of the Lodge.

It was during his six-year accompanied tour of duty in Gibraltar, that Lynne gave birth to their two sons Alexander (Alex) and Oliver (Ollie)

Chris and Lynne decided to have a holiday, diving in the Red Sea to celebrate his sixtieth birthday. Whilst on the plane travelling to Egypt, on the day of his birthday he felt unwell and lost consciousness. He was flown home, diagnosed with inoperable brain tumours lived a few months, dying on 23<sup>rd</sup> of December 2004.

Chris was a very devoted Husband and Father who always saw the best in people, never quick to anger and some one who would gladly give his time and effort to help others.