

Obituary - BSS Member John Hayden

JOHN MICHAEL HAYDEN - 24th February 1947 to 1st October 2012

Born in Wolverhampton, Staffordshire, the son of Betty and Stan Hayden, John was educated at Wolverhampton Grammar School where he attained (1962) 9 'O' levels and (1964) 4 'A' levels: Maths; Higher maths; Physics; general paper. He attained further 'A' levels in Music and Physics in 1965. He subsequently attended King's College at Cambridge where he read mathematics and physics, gaining his B.A. (1968). Later he gained a M.A. (1972) and later still (1976) a B.Sc. (economics) from the University of London as an external student.

After University he always lived in Hampstead. He maintained his connection with Wolverhampton until his father remarried (his mother having died in 1977) and moved to Liverpool in the early 80's. His working career was at the Bank of England; he was very discreet about his work there, but I believe he ended up in the banking supervision department. I do know that his work was sufficiently sensitive that he had been put through the 'positive vetting' process.

He took 'early retirement' at a rather early stage, in 1990. Whilst many of his friends thought this rather unusual, we were never enlightened as to whether there was more behind the matter. I believe there was.

John was a strong supporter of the Hampstead Scientific Society and the British Sundial Society. However, these represented only some of his interests. Others included classical music, attending Opera, walking, foreign holidays and treks, railways. In his retirement he acquired a second home in Totnes, Devon, and he split his time between there and Hampstead. He particularly enjoyed pottering in his Totnes garden.

He was diagnosed with vascular dementia in October 2007 and was admitted to the Royal Free Hospital. Eventually, after a short spell in a nursing home in New Southgate, he moved to Appletree Court, Burnt Oak, in December 2008. A measure of the level of care he received at Appletree is the fact that he was able to enjoy several holidays, in England and abroad (such as Greek islands and Cyprus) accompanied by (usually 2) carers from the home. He also managed to attend the annual conference of the British Sundial Society right up to his final year. Friends saw that he also had regular trips to musical events and scientific lectures.

Over the years John made many friends - often people he met on holiday, and others who reflected his many interests. Many of these friends made up different groupings which he kept separate; often those of us in one group knew very little of those in other groupings. Indeed, for many of us, his funeral was the first time we had met each other, even if we were vaguely aware of someone's existence.

Unfortunately he developed malignant melanoma in his last years and declined rapidly from the middle of 2012.

Roger Taylor