

Lieutenant Christopher Seaton RNR (1940-2020)



Chris was born in Birkenhead in January 1940 and had three brothers and a sister. Privately educated, he was denied a career as a deck officer in the Merchant Navy because of colour blindness and became a cadet purser with Liverpool-based Elder Dempster Lines in 1957. Elder Dempster ran numerous cargo ships and a small number of passenger liners from Liverpool to West Africa; mainly Ghana and Nigeria. In a period of 10 years Chris served on some 20 vessels climbing the promotion ladder from cadet through writer to purser. He retired in 1967, the Certificates of Discharge throughout his service recording his ability and general conduct as 'very good'. In 1965 Chris joined the Royal Naval Reserve at HMS Eaglet, Liverpool, as a Lieutenant.

In the 30 plus years following retirement from the MN Chris had a wide variety of administrative and managerial jobs which included Lever Brothers, John Holt & Co shipping, Blomberg UK Ltd, Thomas Baty wine merchant, and Green Shield Shipping Services. Chris's final job before retirement in 2002 was as secretary to the board of finance of the Diocese of St Asaph in North Wales.

Chris and Maggie married in 2002 and moved to Sidmouth. He became a member of the Sidmouth lifeboat support team and a sidesman at Exeter Cathedral. Chris was an active member of the Exeter Flotilla; organising the Trafalgar Day Service for several years and was chairman from 2015 to 2018. After a brave fight against cancer, he died in August 2020.

Chris's funeral service was held in Exeter Cathedral, his coffin draped with the white ensign, the order of service being in accordance with his wishes. A quiet and private man with a trenchant sense of humour, Chris showed warmth and kindness to those in need. He is greatly missed.