

Commander David Malcolm Hood Lingard RN (1942-2021)

In September 2021 the Dartmouth Chronicle paid tribute to David as a community stalwart who died after a short period of illness age 79.

David was best known as a former chairman of Dartmouth Museum where, during his 13 year tenure, he brought the museum up to national accreditation standard. He was proud to explain at the time that it meant it operated to the same standard as the British Museum and the V&A, but a mite smaller. In all this David was ably assisted by his wife Carol, who had a major role in administration and stewarding.

David joined BRNC Dartmouth from school as an 18 year-old cadet under the Murray Scheme in 1960. He served in HMS Grafton and HMS Lion before going on to RNEC Manadon to complete an electrical engineering degree. Further ships and establishments included HMS Collingwood, HMS Euryalus, HMS Lincoln, and HMS Arrow. From 1974 to 1976 David and Carol enjoyed an exchange posting in Halifax, Nova Scotia. On return from Canada David served on the staff of BRNC Dartmouth. He was promoted Commander in 1982 and served as SWEO of the 4th Frigate Squadron in HMS Avenger during the Falklands Conflict. David then served as Area Security Officer on the staff of FO Plymouth before his final appointment as Naval and Air Attaché (later Defence Attaché) in Ankara, Turkey, retiring in 1997.



David's particular interest in history centred on WW2, particularly the MTB Flotilla which inserted agents into France via secret cover in Brittany, bringing back agents and servicemen escapees. He was also keenly interested in the unfortunate Exercise Tiger which took place at nearby Slapton Sands in 1944, when German E-boats wreaked havoc on a poorly-guarded fleet of US troop-laden landing craft rehearsing for D-Day. He regularly attended commemoration events and closely followed the ongoing research by naval historians.

David and Carol had made their home in Dartmouth in 1977 and on retirement David sought out posts and responsibilities in which he could use his energies and management skills. He chaired several organising committees, including the Dartmouth Hospital League of Friends and was also vice-chairman of the Naval College Museum. Having qualified as a ship's diver in the RN, David had been a member of the local scuba diving club for many years. He was also the proud owner of a 1930 2-litre Lagonda sports car which he bought for £6 in 1963 and spent several years rebuilding from 1998 to 2004.

David was an active member of the Exeter Flotilla and regularly provided transport to Lypstone for the elderly members from Dartmouth. He leaves a wife and two sons and also leaves Dartmouth a poorer place without him.