

Captain Ian Brannam RN (1941-2022)



Ian Brannam was born in Hertfordshire in 1941 and left St Alban's School in 1959 to join BRNC Dartmouth. Academically gifted, Ian went up to Cambridge in 1960 to read engineering at King's College. From there he continued his engineering education at RNEC Manadon and RNC Greenwich, where he completed the Advanced Marine Engineering Course in 1969. Ian and Barbara were married in 1968. They have two daughters; Susan and Helen.

Marine engineering appointments at sea included HMS Victorious (1963-64), HMS Intrepid (1964-67), and HMS Eagle (1969-71). Promoted to Lieutenant Commander in 1971, he was then appointed to DG Ships in Bath (1971-73) followed by an accompanied posting to the Canadian Armed Forces HQ Ottawa (1973-75). On return to UK he undertook the RN Staff Course (1975-76) and served as MEO of HMS Amazon (1976-79). Promoted to Commander in 1978 he was then appointed to the Procurement Executive in Bath before returning to sea in HMS Newcastle as SMEO of the 3rd Destroyer Squadron (1982-84). This was followed by the Joint Service Defence Course at Greenwich and promotion to Captain in 1988. A Defence (OR) Staff appointment at MOD Main Building (1988-91) preceded his final appointment as Director of Marine Engineering in the Naval Support Command. Ian retired from the RN in 1996.

In retirement Ian and Barbara lived in mid-Devon from where they continued to enjoy worldwide travel and walking in the countryside. Ian loved gardening and also assisted Barbara in her beekeeping. He also pursued a portfolio of interests in the voluntary sector which included becoming a Licensed Lay Reader in the Church of England, a Preacher for the Mission to Seafarers, being a member of various Diocesan Synods, Chairman of the Trustees of a Charity for the homeless in mid-Devon, being a member of the Exeter Flotilla (Chairman 2009-12), member and chair of the Exe Valley Probus Club, member of the Tiverton Fine Arts Society and the Exeter Retired Chartered Engineers' club. Most recently, Ian was a member and president of the Tiverton Rotary Club. Throughout his life Ian's Christian faith meant a lot to him.

Ian died in September 2022 having fought bravely against cancer. His funeral at St Paul's Church, Tiverton, was attended by a vast congregation which included several members of the Exeter Flotilla.