

GEORGE ALEXANDER DRAKE



George Alexander Drake, born 20 August 1928, died 9 September 2022, age 94.

Born in Woolwich, George attended Purley Grammar School and entered BRNC Dartmouth in 1943.

Served in the following ships:

HMS Indomitable - midshipman

HMS Bermuda, Far East. Japan 1946.

HMS Anson, Portland 1947

RNC Greenwich. Various technical training courses

HMS Ulster, Plymouth Squadron. 1949- 1950. Gibraltar

HMNZS Tamaki, New Zealand Navy 1952-1953

HMNZS Taupo

HMS Diligence, Commanding Officer. Minesweeping squadron. 1953-1955

HMS Diana. Atomic Bomb Test N. Australia. Suez Crisis. Aden

HMS Alert. Flag Lieutenant to Commander in Chief Far East. Admiral Sir Gerald Gladstone

HMS Blake, Mediterranean and West Indies

HMS Sea Eagle, Brunei for Confrontation. Senior Officer Royal Malaysian Navy.

HMS Warrior, NATO Appointment 1965-1968

Retired from the Royal Navy in 1968.

After George retired from the Royal Navy in 1968, he went on to study and qualify as a Chartered Secretary. He worked in London at J. Sainsbury's Head Office and then in 1978 he was appointed Bursar of The Merchant Taylor's Schools in Crosby, Liverpool, where he worked for 18 years. He played lots of tennis with his wife Charlotte at his local club and he loved to walk in the hills with his Labradors.

He retired in 1997 and they moved to Budleigh Salterton, Devon. George had always wanted his own sailing boat and he bought a Cornish shrimper "Jessie" and sailed her from Portland. George became a member of the Exeter Flotilla and was chairman from 2000-2003.

After 19 happy years in Devon, they moved to Thirsk, North Yorkshire, to be near their eldest daughter and her family. They settled very well and George found the Yorkshire people so kind and friendly. This market town was where he loved to go and do his shopping and chat to people. His particular hobbies in later life were gardening, reading and water colour painting. Every year he grew a wonderful array of seedlings for our garden and for his daughters' gardens. He would read the Weekend Financial Times cover to cover and he would cut out interesting recipes and then enjoy gathering the various ingredients and cook delicious meals mainly based on fresh fish. He loved to make pickles and hand paint the labels for the jars. He was interesting and interested until the very end, entertaining everyone with his vivid memories and wonderful stories.

George had an amazing zest for life and was always interested in people. He had a great love for his family, who miss him very much.