

Brigadier(retd) Malcolm B Page MBE.

Malcolm Page died peacefully at the Chiltern Court Care Centre Henley on Monday 11 January 2021.

Malcolm was a well-known and highly respected figure in the life of Henley for many years. He was awarded the Henley Town Medal in 2011.

Malcolm was not a native in Henley. His grandfather was a Christian missionary in Western China in the 1890's. They returned to England and settled in Gloucester where Malcolm's father, Robert, was born.

At the age of 17 Robert joined the London Scottish Regiment and fought in the Great War. In the 1940's son Malcolm was commissioned into the Gordon Highlanders serving in Greece and Ethiopia. At the end of the war he was posted to the British Protectorate of British Somaliland where he served as a junior officer with the Somaliland Scouts. From this grew a lifetime commitment helping Somali veterans who had fought for the British Crown. He also led fundraising campaigns to help improve schools, hospitals, and roads within Somalia (75000 pounds in ten years). He founded the Henley-Borama Friendship Association in 1982. Your readers will recall the recent annual events he organised when a colourful contingent from the Anglo-Somali community gathered on Mill Meadows with their joyful demonstrations of traditional singing and dancing.

For over 20 years Malcolm also raised funds for The Kings African Rifles and East African Forces Association. In 1998 he published a definitive history of the KAR. As a result of his efforts Malcolm was honoured to receive the MBE presented to him at Buckingham Palace by HRH Prince William in March 2017.

During a military career spanning over 30 years he attained the rank of Brigadier with the RAOC (Royal Army Ordnance Corps) and as Commander in Chief of the Bicester Garrison was presented to HM The Queen. A proud moment.

In retirement Malcolm devoted himself whole heartedly to The Royal British Legion. As a member of the Henley branch for over 25 years he was an energetic and highly effective leader. First as a committee member then progressively Chairman, President and finally Patron. One of his innovations was to provide sherry for the monthly committee meetings attendance to which improved immeasurably!

As Malcolm's physical health started to fail, he moved to permanent residence at The Chiltern Court Care Centre in Henley. Nevertheless, he continued to plan presentations and talks which sadly he was not able to give. I was in almost daily contact either by phone or visits prior to lockdown. He never lost his positive attitude and always asked about the wellbeing of his many friends and showed interest in world and local affairs. He thought it important to support local businesses. Buying locally produced Hobbs gin was his contribution to the cause!

He will be sadly missed and never forgotten. RIP.

Malcolm's funeral will be at the Reading Crematorium (Chapel 2) at 2,30pm on Thursday 28 Jan 2021. Due to COVID-19 restrictions attendance is restricted to 20.

For those unable to attend the service it will be live streamed and for details please contact Messrs Tomalin & Son on 01491 543370. This is the link to the Just Giving page <https://malcolmpage.muchloved.com/>.

Those wishing to express their condolences should write to Malcolm's sister Mrs Yvonne Meachen c/o Mrs Kate Osborne, The Keep, 69 Drum Tower View, Caerphilly CF83 2XJ

The family have requested NO flowers but donations if wished may be made to The Royal British Legion at <https://www.britishlegion.org.uk>

John Green
President
Henley and Peppard Branch of The Royal British Legion