
Tony Butterfield

1934 - 2007

In June, the Wychwoods lost a great character with the unexpected death of Tony Butterfield. Tony will be remembered by many, for his gift of storytelling and drama, for his generosity and the work he did to help people in other countries, funding much of this himself.



Tony was born in Portsmouth and moved to Suffolk in 1937. He spent some time in Local Government before completing his National Service. He then qualified as a teacher at King Alfred's,

Winchester, going on to the Central School of Speech and Drama, with Dame Judi Dench and Vanessa Redgrave.

Tony was highly regarded for his professional skills in teaching English through drama and for his great enthusiasm. This work took him abroad, well into retirement; many will remember the very successful summer school he hosted for teachers from Poland and Romania. He enjoyed acting, directing and voice coaching and took part in many Riverside Players productions.

Nearer to home he will be remembered for the social evenings at his home, often inviting musicians or actors to perform and on one memorable occasion even asking Morris Men to dance on his pocket-handkerchief sized lawn!! All who knew Tony will remember his 'knack' of falling asleep in the middle of a conversation and then picking it up again later. Nephews and nieces have fond memories of him falling asleep in the middle of Christmas board-games, waking up two games later commenting: "Is it my turn now?"

Tony spent 11 years at Culham College as a Drama Lecturer, where he met Diana and her daughter Sonya. Tony and Diana were married in 1975; her early death in 1998 affected him deeply.

In later years Tony fulfilled the lifelong ambition of directing a film, *Spring Awaits the Fall*, with his Swedish friend Lief.

Tony kept dogs and always had a black Labrador by his side, old Ben, then Bode and when Bode died he was soon replaced by a puppy named Bode too. Young Bode is now happily settled with a family in Cheltenham.

In September, Tony's life was celebrated in an afternoon of beautiful music, poetry and moving memories from his family and numerous friends. Messages of love and great respect were also relayed from colleagues and friends throughout the world. He will be greatly missed by all of us.

Ele Wozencroft