

Tribute to Roger Marples



Roger was born in Dover though soon afterwards the family moved back to its origins in Sheffield for nine years, hence his great attachment to Yorkshire.

In 1960 the family returned to Kent where Roger completed his education at Castlemount School in Dover. He then gained his first job at Crabble Mill in Dover for a few years, before becoming employed by British Railways in London, thus being in the lucky position of being paid to indulge his passion for trains. Some years later he left the railways and together with Pauline, whom he had by then finally found time to marry in 1980. He opened the Cabin Restaurant, specialising in high quality British food and fine albeit foreign wines; thereby once again being paid for two more passions in his life.

2004 was the year Roger and Pauline retired, which gave them the opportunity to travel around Britain and Europe by train and bus. Since retirement he became a stalwart of the Yacht Club and the Dover Society, as well as supporting the Kent Wildlife Trust.

Mention should also be made, perhaps unnecessarily, of his love of real British beer throughout his adult life, leading to his early subscription to, and becoming an organiser for, CAMRA, though he did not manage to gain an income from that particular passion! Another life-long love was classical music: his collection of records being perhaps only matched by his collection of railway, bus, and post box models.

After the service the congregation was invited to The Royal Cinque Ports Yacht Club, Waterloo Crescent (on the seafront), Dover, for a buffet that Roger would have approved of being traditional English fare. All the food and beer was kindly donated and was therefore free.

The Royal Cinque Ports Yacht Club intends to commission a permanent memorial to Roger at the premises so contributions towards this would be most welcome there.

Pauline and the rest of the Marples family are grateful to all who have helped at this time, especially the Royal Cinque Ports Yacht Club.