

news

Pupils' foodbank donation



Pupils from Bancroft's Prep School in Woodford Green deliver their donations to the Frenford Foodbank
Picture: SARAH STRONG

Pupils at the Bancroft's Prep School in Woodford Green have made a donation to a local foodbank which will feed 100 families.

The school's head of charities and community links Sarah Strong said: "When we brought donations from the harvest festival to Frenford Foodbank we saw how the team made up the boxes, so we decided to do the same."

Pupils from Years 3-6 took part, with four children in each group involved.

A totaliser was installed to track the pupils' progress. In the end, each year group made up around 25 boxes, all of which were brought to the foodbank's site at Frenford Youth Club.

The club's operations manager Irfan Shah – also involved with the foodbank – thanked pupils for their "amazing donation".

Sarah added: "Two of our school values are collaboration and kindness – this was an important display of both by our pupils."

Heartfelt tributes paid to 'giant of Aldborough Hatch' Ron Jeffries

A "giant of Aldborough Hatch", Ron Jeffries died early on Monday morning at the age of 88 at King George Hospital.

ROY CHACKO

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Ron, a former magistrate and perpetual campaigner, was a community stalwart who was passionate about the environment and protecting Fairlop Waters.

He was also the Ilford Recorder's biggest fan who regularly sent in photos and articles and friends joked that he was embarking on a new job as a roving reporter.

In May Ron paid tribute to his late wife Yvonne, who passed away six years ago, in the Guardian and wrote about a tree they planted together at St Peter's church.

He wrote: "We were married for 57 years. This tree remains a special connection to her: it was she who helped me to plant and nurture a glorious and loving thing of great beauty."

Ron was a founding member of the Aldborough Hatch Defence Association (AHDA), a residents' group, working in partnership with Redbridge Council to protect Fairlop Waters.

He had a leading role in a 10 year battle to successfully campaign against the development of the London City All-weather Racecourse.

At the beginning of lockdown he reinvented St Peter's broadsheet, which he had been responsible for the last 30 years, into The Aldborough – a weekly information and news sheet to keep people informed throughout the pandemic.

Rev Kate Lovesey said: "He

will be sadly missed here at St Peter's and in Aldborough Hatch.

"He was often to be seen around the Hatch visiting his friends checking on them even during these times on his scooter which he named 'The Milk Float' from his days editing for the Milk Industry magazine."

Cllr John Howard, who grew up around the corner from Ron called him "a giant in Aldborough Hatch" who was immensely proud of the place he lived in.

"He was always fair and was never short of a friendly word or a stern correction if he thought we needed it."

"He always focused on how to make the area better; whether that was through charity, litter picks or standing up for what he thought was right."

Ilford North MP Wes Streeting said: "Ron was such a wonderful, decent man. His commitment to our local community was immeasurable and his loss is felt by all who knew and loved him, as I did."

"I hope that we will be able to come together to celebrate his life once circumstances allow: I have no doubt that the church would have been packed to the rafters, such was the love for him in Aldborough Hatch and far beyond."

Council leader Jas Athwal called Ron: "a local stalwart, passionate campaigner and genuinely lovely person."

Cllr Howard Berlin, who got



Wes Streeting, right, said if it weren't for Covid restrictions St Peter's Church would be packed to the rafters to pay tribute to Ron
Picture: WES STREETING

to know Ron during the Oakfield Playing Fields campaign, said: "He was a wonderful man and we will all miss his passion, humour and brilliant photography."

Cllr Linda Huggett also remarked on his photography and said: "I still have some of the amazing Christmas cards he made. They were so good I could not bear to part with them."

"I shall remember him with fondness as he was an extremely decent man who cared deeply about the community where he lived."

Church warden Lee Hawkes who served in the choir since 1979 when he was six years old recalled how Ron would behave like a naughty child during practice.

He said: "He would whisper something in your ear to make you laugh and then sit with completely straight face while the indomitable Choir Mistress would roast whoever was causing a nuisance."

At the same time Ron had a meticulous attention to detail about the way things should be done in the church.

He was lovingly referred to as Head Server years after he stepped down from that role as he was not afraid to chastise anyone for not sticking to church rules.

Lee added: "Ron had one of the purest tenor voices I've ever heard and to this day I aspire to be the chorister he was."

"To hear him sing the tenor solo of Olivet to Calvary made your neck hair rise up."

"His voice will live on in my memory and his spirit like dear Yvonne's is in the very fabric of St Peter's."

Suzanne Batey, who first met Ron in the mid-80s when he was Chairman of Greater London North East Scouts, recalled his "endless supply of stories" which kept everyone amused.

"His passion and knowledge shone through and his book Aldborough Hatch: The Village in the Suburbs is an essential history of the area."

Appointed as a Justice of the Peace in 1980, Ron sat at Redbridge Magistrates' Court for twenty-three years, serving on the Juvenile and Family Panels, and the Lord Chancellor's Area Advisory Committee.

Elected as Bench Chairman (1996 to 2000), he launched the Court Drug Initiative for drug-related offenders in conjunction with NHS health providers, obtained funding in the late 1990s to appoint the first court-based drug worker at a London Magistrates' Court, and expanded the Mentally Disordered Offenders' Scheme.

In 2002 he organised the PR for yet another successful campaign – this time to keep Barkingside Magistrates' Court open.

In his retirement, Ron served as a non-executive director for seven years, first with the Redbridge Healthcare NHS Trust and later with the North East London Mental Health NHS Trust.

Ron and Yvonne were volunteers at the Redbridge Night Shelter for the homeless from 1998 to 2009, and cooked for the Cold Weather Shelter for three winters.

Ron is survived by his three children Graham, Richard and Heather and grandchildren.



Ron with his beloved wife Yvonne, who passed away six years ago

Picture: PAUL BENNETT



ADMISSION POLICY CONSULTATION

Period of consultation:
Wednesday 25th November –
Wednesday 20th January 2021

The Trustees of
The LIFE Education Trust
have proposed changes to
the Admissions Policy for
Frances Bardsley Academy
for **September 2022**

The proposed Admissions Policy
can be found on the school's
website www.fbaok.co.uk

Hard copies can be obtained
by contacting info@fbaok.co.uk