



Alan Raymond Hastings

Alan was born in Kingston-upon-Thames, second son of five children to Henry "Harry" and Lucy Hastings on 14th May 1940.

Alan joined the family business in 1955 when he first skippered the launch *Em* between Buckland's Wharf and Hampton Court before signing his indentures as a Waterman & Lighterman to his elder brother Roland.

He continued his apprenticeship on *The Robertsbridge* from 1956–1958 operating between Brentford and Shell Haven.

Becoming a Freeman of The Honourable Company of Watermen & Lightermen in 1961, Alan's first command was the family-owned *Connaught*. However, his favourite vessel would forever be *Her Majesty's* as this was the boat upon which he met his wife of 52 years, Tina.

He left the lower Thames in 1972 to become Assistant at Teddington Lock and, following a spell as a Relief Lock Keeper in Oxfordshire, he became Lock Keeper at Benson from 1978 until his retirement in 2002.

As a teenager, Alan had been a Mod riding a Lambretta and especially enjoying the music of The Rolling Stones, The Who and Queen although, following his move to Oxfordshire, he enjoyed treating the locals in The Crown to his renditions of Chas and Dave.

He personally trained his German Shepherd, Odin, and became Southern Counties champion in obedience and tracking, played football to a high semi-Pro status, attained an orange belt in karate, and was a stalwart of the darts and bar-billiards leagues in Benson. When not the centre of the

local social scene, Alan busied himself with his love of oil painting and model making.

On retirement, he moved to South Barrow, Somerset. An avid West Ham United fan to the end, Alan blew his last bubble in Yeovil on 13th October 2020. He leaves behind his wife Tina, sons Mark, Gary and Stephen, daughter Julie, and his much-loved grandchildren Josh, Hannah, Eirik, Aimi, Connor (CJ), Kristien and Ryan.

