

## **Chairman's Tribute to Alan Rodger**

I would like at this time to say a few words regarding Dr Alan Rodger, the Vice Chairman, who sadly died on Friday 3rd January, Alan was a modest, quiet and gentle man who always had time for others. He dealt with his long and debilitating illness with dignity and calmness, never letting it get the better of him.

Alan was dedicated to Antarctica and polar science and his impact in British Antarctic Survey was significant over his 40 year career. He wrote a great many papers about, not only the antarctic, but also about the causes and effects of climate change which are currently so topical. Alan was the BAS Board Member for science Strategy and in 2012 was appointed Interim Director for just over a year prior to his retirement.

Alan became a great friend of mine over the years he was a governor and trustee of schools in Cambridgeshire and a member of Cambridgeshire's governor advisory group. Later he became a member of the Cambridgeshire Schools Forum in November 2005. For much of this time he was the Vice Chairman. We worked very well together and we met with M.P.s, Ministers and Officers of the Department for Education in our campaign for improvement in funding for education. At these meetings Alan was excellent in explaining our funding problems, arguing our case with consummate ease and was always scrupulously polite even when the DfE were not prepared to offer support for the obvious needs of children in our schools.

As a member of Forum, his greatest asset was to challenge proposals but always in the most polite way. I know his views were highly respected by fellow members for this and for the clarity with which he spoke about really quite complex issues. I will always feel very privileged to have known Alan for what must be well in excess of 20 years and for the wonderful working relationship we had. I will miss him greatly as I am sure we all will.

His funeral will take place next Friday at 11.00 and his family would welcome any of us who are able to attend. It will take place at the City of Cambridge Crematorium following which a buffet lunch in celebration of Alan's life will be held at the Aurora Conference Room at British Antarctic Survey. Detailed information about the day are available for any of us who are able to attend.

May I conclude by asking you to stand and observe a minute's silence in memory of Alan.