

NEWS

News: Lawyer Hugh Day had dedicated himself to helping the community in so many ways

'He remains a people's champion'

By **TINA MURRAY**
news@newmarketjournal.co.uk
@MKJournal

Tributes have been paid to a former Newmarket solicitor who was instrumental in the founding of the town's day centre and the town branch of the Citizens' Advice Bureau.

Hugh Day, who died on Saturday after a long and brave battle with Parkinson's disease, was a partner in the Newmarket firm, Rustons and Lloyd, for 40 years, seven of them as senior partner.

Over the years he worked in criminal law, regularly appearing for defence and prosecution at the town's two magistrates' courts, family law and as a commercial solicitor, representing many businesses in Newmarket and Ely.

Michael Drake, his colleague for 25 years and now senior partner at Rustons and Lloyd said Mr Day was a delight to work with. "He was a prodigious worker who made a great contribution

to the firm and to Newmarket in general," said Mr Drake.

It is a champion for people from all walks of life in the local community that he will be best remembered and for which he was appointed MBE in the Millennium honours list for his services to the town.

He served as chairman of the management committee of Newmarket Day Centre from its foundation in the mid-1980s playing a vital role from the earliest days of what became one of Newmarket's most valued organisations offering care and companionship to pensioners.

His belief that everyone should have access to assistance in times of difficulty, including legal advice and help with financial matters, led to his involvement in the setting up of the town's branch of the Citizens' Advice Bureau and a similar concern for the wellbeing of townsfolk saw him help found and serve as chairman of the Newmarket Hospital League of Friends, an organisation which raised many thousands

of pounds to provide vital equipment for patients.

He was the first chairman of the Community Health Council and also played a part as one of three patrons of the successful appeal to raise £750,000 to buy and run the first CT scanner at the West Suffolk Hospital. As president of the Newmarket Trainers' Association at the time of the stable lads' strike in 1975, he tried to act as a voice of calm and conciliation between the two sides in what was a very bitter dispute. He also served for some time as secretary of the Newmarket Stud Farmers' Association.

Mr Day was heavily involved in getting Gretton Court, a housing project for the elderly, off the ground in Cambridge and was a director of city firm Marshalls. He gained huge pleasure from his involvement with the Anglo-American committee at RAF Lakenheath, and was its chairman for over a decade. He was honoured by the US Ambassador to the United Kingdom in 1982 with the Award for Com-



Hugh Day

munity Relations, given at a reception at the US Embassy.

After his retirement he served for six years as Industrial Tribunal chairman, covering Bury, St Edmunds, Norwich and Bedford.

Duncan Hugh Terrett Day was born in Birmingham in June 1927. He was educated at Marlborough College and subsequently volunteered for service in the British Indian Army from which he was seconded to the Intelligence Corps and sent to Egypt.

After VJ Day he returned to the UK and went up to Clare College Cambridge where he took a 2:1 degree in law in 1948.

He joined a London law firm as a junior but in 1952 jumped at an opportunity to join Rustons and Lloyd, preferring a life in the country to the prospect of making more money in London. He married his first wife, Valerie, with whom he has sons, Christopher and Piers, and a daughter Nicola (now Mrs Rogers), while working in London. The family lived at Rockfield House, in Bury

Road, and later moved to the Old Rectory in Lidgate. Following his divorce in 1984, Mr Day married Jamie Wynne-Williams, mother to his stepchildren Sarah (Mrs Farquhar) and Harry. The family has subsequently grown to include 10 grandchildren and a great grandson. Following the onset of dementia, he moved to Gracewell, at Kentford, where he died on Saturday evening with his wife at his side.

"He faced up to 16 years of Parkinsons with characteristic courage and without complaint," said Mrs Day.

Despite his many achievements and the positions he held, Mrs Day said her husband remained essentially a people's champion.

"He loved being part of the community," she added. A private family funeral will take place at Osden at 10.30am on Wednesday, February 1 to be followed at 2.30pm on the same day by a memorial service at All Saints' Church, Newmarket, followed by a reception at the Jockey Club.