

## Andrew steps down after 12 years as PC chairman

A VERY successful, albeit joke-free, Braishfield Annual Parish Meeting was held at the village hall on April 1.

Mike Prince, chairman of the parish council, thanked Andrew Lalonde who resigned recently after 12 years as chairman. Andrew became a councillor in 1993 and was clerk to the council in the 1970s and his contribution to the authority was much appreciated.

The guest speaker was Lynne Dadley, of the Hampshire & IOW Air Ambulance Service. She explained that this was a registered charity, as the Government declined to fund it via the NHS, maintaining that the land service was adequate. However, in Scotland, the NHS does provide the funds.

Lynne described the opera-

tion of the service and how fund-raising was used to collect the £65,000 a month running costs. She was invited to pass the collection box round all those present.

County councillor, Alan Dowden and borough councillor, Martin Hatley, were also present and took questions.

Considerable concern was expressed at Hampshire County Council's recent decision to approve an electricity generator at Upper Slackstead Farm, where access for lorries carrying fuel is along narrow country lanes, even at times when children are coming out of Braishfield School.

The parish council, at a council meeting immediately prior to the parish meeting, agreed to write to Hampshire County Council deploring the decision.

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# Village says farewell to auctioneer Andrew

TRIBUTES have been paid to a respected auctioneer and former president of Romsey Show, Andrew Lalonde, who died, aged 66 in November.

A service of thanksgiving for Andrew's life took place at All Saints', Braishfield, next door to his home. It was a testimony to his popularity that the church was filled to overflowing.

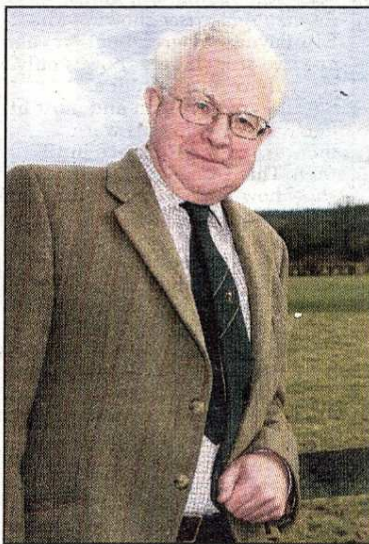
At the service, his brother-in-law, Robert Vallings, said: "We will remember him for his integrity, his openness, his professionalism, his loyalty, his strength in adversity, his kindness, his modesty, his appreciation of those who helped him, his humour, his outgoing personality, his unselfishness, his love of holidays, but, perhaps, above all, for his love of his friends and interest in other people, but particularly his love and devotion to Sue, his children and grandchildren."

Andrew Parham Lalonde was born in Wykeham House in The Hundred, Romsey, in June, 1943, the third child of GP, Dr Tom Lalonde, and his wife, Kathleen.

His first experience of school was being "whacked by a ruler" by Miss Waters, in Alma Road, before moving at the age of seven to board at East-acre, in Winchester, and then Durlston Court, in New Milton.

As well as his family, he left behind in Romsey the German au pairs whom his parents had employed, not without local opposition, soon after the war. Two were still exchanging letters with Andrew 60 years later.

After Durlston Court, he completed



Andrew Lalonde

his schooling at Queens, in Taunton.

On leaving school, Andrew spent a short time looking after pigs on the farm of Paul Pratt's father in Tisbury before becoming an "articled pupil" at James Harris & Son, chartered surveyors, land agents and agricultural valuers, in Winchester, in 1963, where brother, Robin, was already employed.

Soon after, he met his future wife, Sue. The couple were married in 1969 and moved to Apple Cottage, Braishfield, where their children, Tessa, Anna and Tom, all grew up.

Andrew became a partner in James Harris & Son in 1970 and established himself with the dealers and farmers as "the auctioneer for finished cattle"

in Winchester market. In 1998, James Harris became part of Savills, where Andrew was firstly a director and then a consultant.

He was a life-long supporter of the Hampshire Young Farmers, of whom he was president, and, in 2006, he was president of the Romsey Show, a just reward for the countless jobs he had done over the years behind the scenes.

He became the secretary of the Hampshire Farmers' Club and was also the Stockbridge president of the Hampshire Growmore Club.

Socially, he enjoyed his meals at the Beef Steak Club and the Hampshire Club Lunch.

The death of Sue in 2002 had hit Andrew hard. He told friends that her passing had robbed him of the 20 years' together to which they had been looking forward.

However, he picked himself up, started giving dinner parties and began to travel widely.

Andrew was on the Hampshire Council for St John Ambulance and became a volunteer helper at Countess Mountbatten Hospice, ferrying people backwards and forwards, covering 29,000 miles.

Many local charities will also miss his auctioneering skills.

In Braishfield, he served the parish council as a member, chairman and clerk.

The village and its inhabitants were close to his heart. The 200 club, for which he worked so hard, made a significant contribution to the recent restoration of the church room.

Andrew is survived by his children, Tessa, Anna and Tom, and his grandchildren, Polly, Angus, Daisy, Alice and Georgie.