

BOB LOWRIE 01/05/1935 - 05/04/2016
Roger Simmonds, John Guy & Clive Hallett

In April, Wheatley lost one of its much-loved residents; after a year-long illness and stroke, Bob Lowrie died peacefully in Greengates Nursing Home. Before retirement, Bob was the inspirational Head of Science at Oxford School with previous positions at Magdalen College School and Malvern College, and a spell as science commissioning editor for Pergamon Press.

Born in Birmingham, he came up to Merton College following National Service as an RAF radar technician and went on to gain a DPhil in Chemistry, undertaking pioneering research in Gas Chromatography. He was Merton's 1st Eight Cox, steering them to success at Henley Royal Regatta, and he coxed the University 2nd Eight, Isis.

Bob arrived in Wheatley in 1990 with a national reputation as a tenor soloist. For 25 years he was Lay Clerk of New College Choir and directed St Barnabas Church Choir, Jericho. Latterly he sang with St Giles Church Oxford, singing in appeared several times in The Vicar of Dibley, including singing at Alice's wedding!

In Wheatley, he sang with Wheatley Park Choral Society, visiting Grenoble, Prague, Freiburg, Menden and Japan, and was a strong member of their Madrigal Choir. He coached and wrote close harmony for the ladies' Barber Shop Quartet "Hot Wax" who sang at his bedside a week before his death.

the Vatican and coaching the boy choristers. As a member of Pro Musica, he Bob was a committee member of Wheatley Productions and appeared in G & S productions of Iolanthe, Yeomen of the Guard and the Mikado as well as in many Pantomimes. He took part in three Community operas, The Enchanted Loom, Poet & Plumber and Letters to Paola, in which he took the leading role of Narrator. His rendition of "Poisoning Pigeons in the Park", a show-stopper in an evening of Music for Spring at the Merry Bells, lives on in Village memory.

Throughout his life, Bob maintained his active association with the Scouts, rising to District Commissioner and earning the nickname "Bob-a-job"!

Bob's Memorial Service will be held in St Giles Church, Oxford, at 3pm on Saturday 2 July. May he rest in peace.