

Langford Way

Malcolm Langford



09.06.1944 – 30.10.2020

‘Mr Thatcham’

Malcolm Langford

On March 29th 2022 the Mayor (Councillor John Boyd), accompanied by Carole Langford, family and friends, unveiled Langford Way in memory of a respected and well loved local resident.

Malcolm, as a child, lived in Colthrop House, when on leaving the Navy his father became Chief Fire and Security Officer at the Colthrop site.



He started work at the Colthrop Paper and Board Mills, where he became an electrician, and was later elected as Senior Convenor for the Electrical, Electronic, Telecommunications and Plumbing Union (EETPU). His love of fishing, and his vast knowledge of the Kennet waters, led to him following his father into the post of Chairman of the Reed Angling Association. Four generations of the Langford Family maintained this piscatorial interest.



Malcolm lived locally after he married Carole, in 1966, at Colthrop Cottages, where he became a part time fireman in the Colthrop Brigade. His elder brother, Jack, became a full time fire fighter in Reading. Malcolm and Carole, with their children, Stephen, Tom, Emma, and Eddie, later lived at Park Avenue and Boscawen Way.

His involvement in youth work locally developed with the Thatcham Robins, and the Boys Brigade. He helped organise many family and children's events over many years and became known as a local father Christmas. He served as an Elder at the United Reformed Church.

His interest in and knowledge of local history remained all his life and as a teenager he was present at the excavations of the Lower Way Water Treatment Works by John Wymer.

Malcolm's vast collection of local artefacts supported his well developed theory that Thatcham was the oldest continuously inhabited area in Britain.

He was a member of Thatcham Historical Society and gave talks on and exhibitions of his materials. He appeared on TV and Radio to discuss local history. As a metal detectorist he found the UK's single oldest Roman coin (a Silver Republican Dinarius) in superb condition. His grandson, Aaron, is an enthusiastic custodian of this resource.



Malcolm was one of the last part time pupils at the Old Bluecoat School, when the building was used during the construction of Kennet School. He later became a Trustee of the Bluecoat School Charity, at the invitation of Councillor Bobbie Wooton. His practical skills, and common sense approach, contributed greatly to the initial efforts to make this only Grade I listed building in Thatcham a successful community facility.



Malcolm's voluntary primary school work, with his puppetry skills being used to encourage enjoyment of reading with younger pupils and developing reading ability with older children is remembered by many generations locally.

In retirement he published an anthology of his anecdotes and poems called 'Another Side of Life'.

He was well known locally for his good humour, and was regarded as a reliable and constructive influence in all the endeavours he was involved with. Malcolm's knowledge, enthusiasm and advocacy of the town earned him the title 'Mr Thatcham'.

