

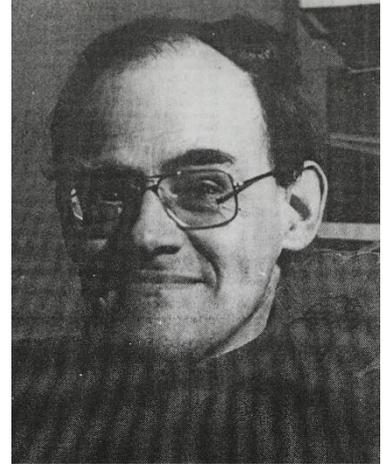
IN MEMORIAM

ADRIAN DAVID BULL (EAST HOUSE 1946-48 and 1950-57 EAST WING 1948-50)

'Kim' Bull, who has died aged 80, is inseparable in the minds of a generation of Reading School boys from the impressive white adult tricycle that allowed him to roam free after polio, contracted in 1950, left him with severe physical disabilities.

Adrian, though of northern stock, was born in Isleworth, Middlesex, but the family moved to Reading and, as a boy, he lived in Denmark Road near the School.

He attended the Junior School but, not long after he had moved up the drive, he caught polio, at the age of twelve, and spent the next year in various hospitals. On coming home, he was just able to walk with two sticks and an iron on his legs.



A P (Peter) Sadler (1951-58) recalls that Adrian's Form Master, M C Savage, (Bilge, of revered memory) organised a rota of his school fellows in Form 2A to push Adrian in his wheelchair around the School's 12-acre premises. His mobility steadily improved, aided undoubtedly by his trenchant determination, and after a further operation, he was able to do without his iron and, eventually, his sticks. It was then that he acquired the tricycle that restored such a considerable degree of independence.

Nothing daunted Adrian and this was repeatedly demonstrated by his scouting activities – which earned him the nickname 'Kim'. He had joined the 55th Reading (Reading School) Scout Troop in 1949. He did not allow his handicaps to discourage his scouting, representing Oxfordshire in 1951 and Berkshire in 1953 at the St George's Day Parade in Windsor Castle and also in the latter year, attending the 2nd Agoon (the gathering for handicapped scouts) in Brussels. Adrian achieved mightily in the Scouts and also became a Cub Instructor with the 77th Reading, obtained a warrant as ASM with the 23rd Reading and then became ASM of the 55th from 1957 until 1960.

Whilst most sports had become impractical for him he was a keen member of Reading Swimming Club and at School competed in the House Junior Swimming Championships. He was a member of the Fin Club; the Operatic Society; the Dramatic Society; the Philatelic Society; the Art Club, and an assistant librarian of the Quad Library. He also belonged to the Debating Society and received a 'Character' in 1957 which, inter alia, observed that 'He never missed a debate and never failed to speak'.

Six years on from contracting polio 'Kim' Bull walked up Snowdon and down again.

On leaving School Adrian did six months as a Farm pupil and also worked at Reading Museum, being delighted to be able to take part in a dig at Silchester whilst he was there – archaeology was a lifelong interest.

Later in 1958, with a major award from the local authority, he entered St David's Hall at Reading University, with D C Stuart (1955-58) and J Turner (1951-58). He joined the very strong cohort of ORs who were at the University in those days. John Turner was a lifelong friend.

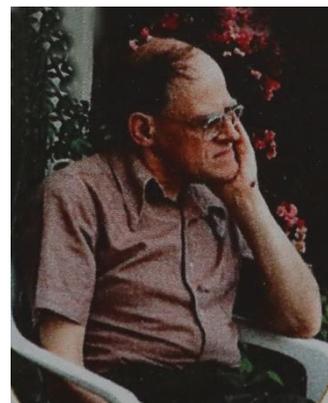
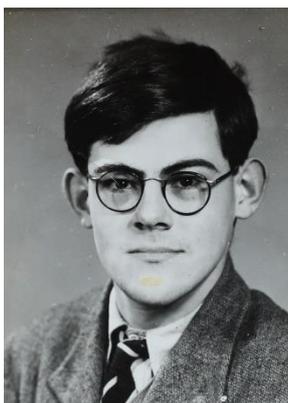
Adrian quickly made an impact on University life becoming a major presence in the Country Dance Club with the accordion that had erstwhile been familiar to so many at scout camps; writing for the University newspaper *Shell* (he later became editor); playing clarinet and soprano sax in a jazz band; working on stage sets for dramatic productions; and forming his own folk dance band *The Lucky Sevens*.

He joined, with P W (Pat) Whippey (1951-59), the University Scout and Guide Club, became treasurer and then chairman. In 1961 he served on the Students' Union Executive and in 1963 left with a degree in Agricultural Economics.

For nine months, whilst applying for jobs, he kept himself busy by his own photography (which had been another activity at University) before gaining a post as assistant agricultural economist at the Edinburgh School of Agriculture. After three and a half years he became, briefly, a lecturer in London and in 1967, came the move to Linthorpe, Middlesbrough where he stayed until retirement, aged 56, after 27 years as tutor librarian at Cleveland College of Art and Design. Whilst he was there the department was greatly expanded and its reputation grew, not least through its internationally renowned collection of more than a quarter of a million slides, including many on industrial architecture taken by Adrian. As he did wherever he lived, starting at University, Adrian set up folk bands, and he also established accordion workshops.

In April 1964 at St James's Church, Hayton, Cumberland, Adrian married Miss Judith Harper; (Judith's cousin, M J (Michael) Beckley OR (1955-62) was one of the ushers). Adrian had met Judith, who attended The Abbey School, while she was working as a lab technician in the University. Indeed, they met at the Country Dance Club and folk music was to be a shared passion through their 54 years of marriage; Judith took up the washboard and went on to play with Adrian for some years, including semi-professionally with *The Cleveland Bays* which Adrian established in Middlesbrough. We are greatly indebted to Judith for her substantial help with this notice and for insights into Adrian's singular decency and honesty and his idiosyncratic humour.

Adrian's interests through life were numerous. Photography; oil painting; music (classical, particularly Bach and Mozart, Gilbert and Sullivan, the songs of Flanders and Swan, folk and New Orleans jazz - he played a number of instruments); Morris dancing; fell walking; railways; writing (he was a published novelist); industrial architecture. To add to all this, he was a skilled craftsman and something of a composer; for each of his grandchildren he wrote a special piece of folk music to dance to. Perhaps it was all in the genes – his grandfather, the Vicar of Greatham, researched and revived the Greatham Sword Dance, his uncle, Dr Arthur Bull, was musical organiser for the North Riding.



In his last years the post-polio syndrome kicked in causing increasing muscle weakness and difficulties. He was sustained by his lifelong commitment to the Christian faith.

'Kim' died peacefully in hospital and is survived by Judith, daughters Marianne and Kate, six grandchildren and two great grandchildren. His was truly a story of courage triumphant over adversity.

KCB

A D Bull, born 23 November 1937, died 24 June 2018 aged 80.