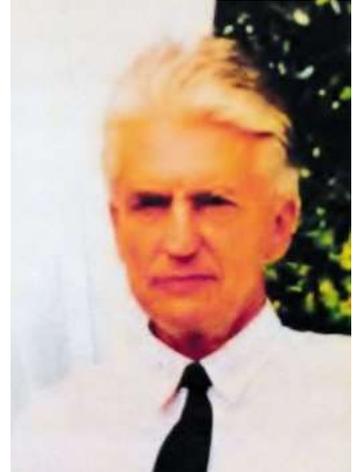


IN MEMORIAM

PROFESSOR ALAN JOHN FREER (WEST HOUSE 1946-53)

Alan Freer, who has died aged 82, was born in Reading and attended Wilson Junior School before he entered West House in September, 1946. He became Hon. Secretary of Le Cercle Francais and won the Old Kendrick Prize for History at Speech Day in 1953 (not the first time he had stepped up, having shared the third form Scripture Prize in 1948). Alan left from 75 (Sugar Saunders's form). He gained a major local education authority award to Reading University.



Alan graduated from Reading University with First Class Honours in French Literature and was granted a one-year scholarship to Italy where he taught at the Scuola Normale in Pisa. He also lectured at the French Literature Department at Pisa University and there he spent the rest of his working life, becoming Head of Department.

On 18 September 1961, at the Church of Santa Maria Assunta, La Spezia, Italy, Alan married Louisa Vanni. They had two daughters, Giulia and Paola and he always conversed with his daughters in English so they became fluent in the language.

Alan had a flat on the Promenade des Anglais in Nice for many years and would drive there on most alternate weekends. He also loved his country of origin and visited the UK three or four times each year.

Amongst other things during his long tenure at Pisa University, he contributed to studies of Palmerin romances: *Palmerin D. Oliva en Francia* (1966).

He was 75 when he retired from the University and after a few years his health deteriorated. He became increasingly unsteady and his death was the result of a fall down the stone staircase, leading from his flat.

His funeral and cremation took place in Pisa.

We are most grateful to Alan's brother, G C (Geoffrey) Freer (1942-47) for much of the information in this notice.

KCB

A J Freer, born 8 May 1935, died 18 January 2017, aged 82.