Graham Hoare: an appreciation

As briefly mentioned in the March 2021 *Gazette*, sadly Graham Hoare died in January 2021. He joined the Mathematical Association (MA) in 1962, serving on Council in the 1990s. He wrote numerous articles, letters, and book reviews for the *Gazette*, the latter often reflecting his love of logic and philosophy. He also edited Problem Corner for 20 years, taking Editor Victor Bryant's original brainchild and firmly establishing it as an attractive section which many readers say they turn to first. The 200 or so problems that he curated are celebrated in the MA book *25 years of the Mathematical Gazette Problem Corner*. More recently, reflecting his strong interest in the history of mathematics, he wrote a series of articles in *SYMmetryPlus* linked to the work of the mathematicians featured in Jenny Ramsden's popular biographies.

Having been involved in the creation of the Royal Institution's mathematics masterclasses, Graham soon became a regular presenter of masterclasses, captivating large audiences of young teenagers for entire mornings of extra-curricular algebra and number theory. He served on the Royal Institution Council for six years and was also a volunteer guide at Bletchley Park for eight years, leading sessions on the "Mathematics and History of Enigma". He was involved with the work of the UKMT in the early days of its formation and latterly was a question checker for the Senior Kangaroo paper. He wrote articles and was letters editor for the IMA journal *Mathematics Today*, where the Graham Hoare Prize for an outstanding article by an early career mathematician now fittingly becomes an annual tribute to his memory.

Graham was born and brought up in Devon, which instilled in him a life-long love of Dartmoor and "exercise in high places" as he liked to put it. Nothing gave him greater pleasure than walking with family and friends, including many epic hikes fondly remembered by those involved. In his younger days he was a keen cricketer and fiery fast bowler, as well as a strong rugby player, a competitive golfer and a keen runner. He continued running into his 70s and was still walking long distances every weekend along the Chiltern footpaths, enjoying spotting herons and red kites, until shortly before he died. Another abiding interest was classical music, especially the works of J. S. Bach, Beethoven and Mahler.

After taking a mathematics degree at Imperial College, and a PGCE at the Institute of Education (London), Graham settled in Canterbury with his wife, Ewa Golowczynska, and they had two children – Matthew and Helen. He taught initially at the Simon Langton Grammar School for Boys and then moved his family to Amersham where he spent the majority of his career as Head of Mathematics at Dr Challoner's Grammar School. He separated from Ewa in 1983. His second partner, Gertraude Ober, was a German teacher and they were together from 1984 until Gertraude died in 2006.

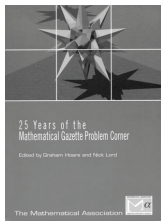
https://doi.org/10.1017/mag.2021.85 Published online by Cambridge University Press

Graham regularly attended the MA Conference where his witty conversation, passion for mathematics, capacity for friendship and infectious laughter endeared him to everyone who met him. The common thread in all his work was his commitment to the rigorous dissemination of mathematics, and this is borne out by the many testimonies from his former students and colleagues to his inspirational teaching, careful guidance, and unfailing belief in their latent abilities.

10.1017/mag.2021.85

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