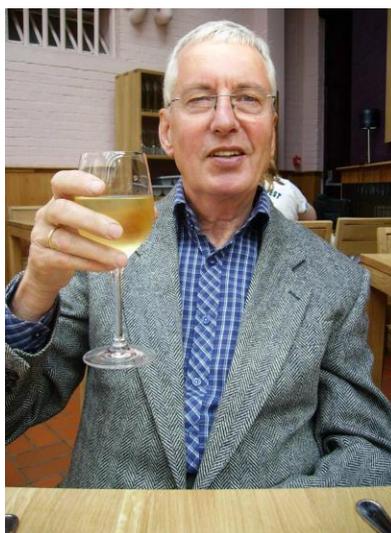


## **BRIAN MORRIS (1935-2017)**



It is with great sadness that we report the death on 20 June 2017 of long-time Wokingham Society member Brian Morris.

Brian joined the Society's Executive Committee in 1992 and remained on it until 2008. During that period he was at different times Secretary, Vice-Chairman and, from 1998 to 2001. Chairman of the Society. In whatever capacity, Brian was a tireless campaigner for maintaining the best of Wokingham, and for seeking to ensure that any development was both attractive and cost-effective. Indeed, his last email to the Membership Secretary the day before his death expressed concern about the viability of the current Wokingham Town Centre regeneration activities. It is a pity he will not be here to see whether his concerns are borne out or not.

Brian was well-qualified to have opinions about the cost and effectiveness of building programmes, having, as he put it, "worked for many years in the property development game". In the past few years he was not averse to visiting the Regeneration team in the Borough Council to challenge their assumptions and to probe their business models.

As a one-time Director on the now defunct Wokingham Town Centre Initiative, Brian would have had a clear insight into what worked for the town centre, and have honed his ideas on what would not be so successful.

Brian was a life-long champion of cycling and a member of the Cyclists' Touring Club, now Cycling UK. Indeed, he died while out on his bike, and he has a posthumous letter in the latest edition of The Wokingham Paper recounting a recent cycling tour of Holland.

As a result of being rushed to hospital in an air ambulance, to which he owed his life, Brian could often be seen in the town centre collecting on behalf of Thames Valley Air Ambulance. With a darkened lens acting as a patch over one eye, he had a piratical look which made a donation a sensible option!

Members of the Wokingham Society will want to express their condolences to Brian's wife and family, to mourn his passing and to be grateful for all his efforts on their and the town's behalf.