

OBITUARIES

Couple's generous donation will help hospice carry on providing care

By Jo Barnes

A late Gwent couple's generous donation will allow St David's Hospice Care to continue to provide its care to families at the most difficult times in their lives.

Alan Price, and his wife Christine, from Caerleon, have left £80,000 to the Newport-based hospice.

Unveiling an inscribed commemorative bench in the memorial garden at the hospice in Malpas, St David's Hospice Care chief executive Emma Saysell spoke of the couple's generosity.

She said: "We spent a lovely morning with the family here at the hospice where we unveiled a beautiful bench in memory to Alan and Christine.

"Alan left such a generous donation which will help us continue to provide our free services to patients and their families who are facing the most difficult time of their lives. For that we are very grateful"

Mr Price passed away in February this year while Christine, his wife, died two years and seven months earlier at the hospice in Malpas.

Alan's sister Phyllis Brooker, who attended the presentation at the hospice, said after being cared for by St David's Hospice Care, it was her brother's wish to leave a very substantial gift as a way of saying thank you for the care the couple received.

She said Alan was born at home in Trevethin, Pontypool in 1952. His wife was born in Newport in 1958. They were married in Newport Register Office in 1976 and settled in Newport first and then later moved to Caerleon.

Mr Price worked for Gwent County Council for many years and then, for the last ten years, at Girlings.

Mrs Price started at Walker Steel and stayed until redundancy. She



COMMEMORATIVE DONATION: Phyllis Brooker(left) and Avril Probert (right), with niece, Linda Greasley, presented a memorial bench to Emma Saysell, chief executive of St David's Hospice Care, in memory of Alan and Christine Price. **TOP RIGHT:** Mr and Mrs Price onboard the Oriana. **RIGHT:** The bench



then became a support worker for adults with learning difficulties.

The couple did not have any children but enjoyed various hobbies including cruising and short city breaks. Mrs Price loved reading and the theatre, while her husband loved all sports but golf and Formula One were his passion.

Phyllis said: "When Chris became ill with cancer, St David's Hospice Care were there from the start. The hospice gave them invaluable help and support. Chris spent the last eight weeks of her illness at the hospice in Malpas. The care and attention she received was second to none.

"The hospice also gave Alan and the family great support. He and our family always said they would never forget it. Chris sadly passed away in the hospice in June 2018 and Alan was taken ill at home and unfortunately passed away suddenly in hospital in February 2021.

"As a family my sister Avril and

I are extremely proud of Alan and Chris' bequest and were more than happy to present the cheque on their behalf."

St David's Hospice Care was established in 1979 by Heulwen Egerton, a nurse tutor at Newport's Royal Gwent Hospital. In its first year the hospice cared for six people.

LOVED: Paul Skyrme, who died at home in Pontypool



Farewell to much-loved gardener

TRIBUTES have been paid to a former landscape gardener for Torfaen County Borough Council who has died aged 79.

Paul William Skyrme, who was born in Pontypool in 1942 passed away at his home in the early hours of Thursday November 18, while being comforted by his family.

A spokesman for his family said: "There are no words that reflect how much Paul meant to us all as a family, and how dearly he's loved and will be missed. He will forever be with us in our hearts, with the memories of him that we will always hold close and cherish.

"Paul was idolised by his close

family for being the strong and loving man that he was. He doted on us and offered us light and guidance when we needed it most. He showed us what it is to dream and taught us how it feels to believe.

"His bravery of knowing he wasn't going to get any better but still holding us all and yielding us from the pain is a true reflection of the selfless, kind-hearted man he was."

Paul leaves his devoted wife Barbara who has always been by his side through to his final moments. They married in March 1962 at St James Church in Pontypool.

He also leaves his daughter, Julie, and son-in-law Michael; his son, Darren, and daughter-in-law Lisa; and his four loving grandchildren and great-grandson.

Mr Skyrme worked at Panteg Steelworks before becoming a landscape gardener for the council. His hobbies were watching rugby and, many years ago, pigeon racing.

The spokesman said: "This is not a goodbye, it's a 'take care' until we meet again. Paul wished to have a private pure cremation which his family has respected, and they thank all of Paul's kind friends for their condolences at this heart-breaking time."