

It is with great sadness that we have to record the sudden death of T. Alun Davies, who had recently retired from the Welsh Folk Museum, whilst performing his duties as a member of Cardiff City Council.

Alun was a founding member of the Regional Furniture Study Group, which became the RFS, and was proud to have written the first words they published, in an article entitled "Welsh Regional Furniture". He was also the founding Chairman of the Wales and Marches section of the Antiquarian Horological Society, and published and lectured widely on items of Welsh interest.

He joined the staff of the Welsh Folk Museum at St. Fagans in 1967 as a Research Assistant, and became an Assistant Keeper with special charge of their extensive Collection of furniture and clocks.

Alun was a frequent host to furniture historians, both professional and amateur, and will be remembered by many in the RFS for the welcome and hospitality which he extended on their visits. His family connections and upbringing gave him a close affinity to the way of life represented at St. Fagans. He was not an outsider, cataloguing the possessions of a different social group; he had an intimate knowledge and understanding as to what he rightly regarded as far more than mere museum exhibits. Friends will recall relaxed walks among the lanes and buildings which form the background to the Collection, casually involving in conversation not only various members of staff, but half of the visitors, so many of whom he seemed to know personally.

Alun retained that love and enthusiasm for the domestic artifacts of ordinary people which originally brought us all to their study, but can be easily lost when it becomes a dry academic subject.

He tried to convey these feelings to others, and maintained open access to the Collection, allowing the fullest use of its facilities to anyone who was interested, at any level of enquiry.

Despite his close identification with Cardiff through his services to the community, Alun always thought of rural Mid-Wales as his home, and was buried in his birthplace of Llanafan (Cardiganshire) on Thursday 14th December.

A memorial service was held on the 2nd January, which would have been his 53rd birthday, at Tabernacle Baptist Chapel in the centre of Cardiff.

Our sincerest best wishes are extended to his widow, Ann, who will always have friends amongst us.

*Richard Bebb*