



David Michael Ramsden (1931 – 2013)

David M Ramsden by his daughter Philippa.

David Ramsden was born and brought up in Derby, and moved to Scotland in the early 1960s where he settled and spent the greatest part of his life. Following retirement, David and his wife Amy realised their dream of living in the Scottish countryside close to the sea when they moved to the small island of Lismore in Argyll. This is where they spent their final years and where they now rest together.

After leaving school David undertook his engineering apprenticeship with British Rail, and then served in the Navy – an experience which was to shape his whole life professionally and personally. After his naval service, he remained in the field of nautical engineering throughout his entire career.

Equally, David maintained an interest in all things marine and naval throughout his personal life, a passion that he and Amy shared. He continued to study and obtained his Skipper's qualification and other professional certificates. David devoted any leave or spare time to volunteering on the schooners well into retirement, including annual trips as a Watch Officer with the Sail Training Association (now The Tall Ships Youth Trust). He sailed on the Sir Winston Churchill a number of times, but it was the Malcolm Miller he regarded as his regular "holiday home" and always returned home with enthusiasm and warming tales of the young people he had crewed with.

The pinnacle of his sailing adventures came in 1977 when he and three sailing friends set off from Rhu on the River Clyde, on a voyage to find Rockall. In those pre-computer and GPS days, and without access to radar, they sailed using charts and celestial navigation. A rare landing on Rockall remained an experience of exceptional importance and pride for David, and the subject of many a dinner time story. A precious fragment chipped from Rockall's granite surface was to be his most cherished possession, and it lies with him now at rest.

David regularly recounted the often life-changing developments he saw in young people who grew and developed as individuals and team players during those STA voyages. His family believe it would be fitting to provide a place for a young person annually on a Tall Ships Youth Trust voyage in his memory.