



Dennis George Ashby (1930 – 2013)

A story about Dennis Ashby by wife, Eileen and sons Ian and Graham, March 2013.

Dennis sadly passed away aged 82 on 15th February 2013, after a lengthy period in hospital.

Dennis loved everything to do with boats. That resulted in family holidays to both Northern Germany and to Denmark taking the overnight ferry from Harwich, where he spent most of the time outside watching the other boats and the exit & arrival into port. There were also 2 family holidays on the Rivers Cam & Ouse, first in a cruiser and then a long boat, plus occasional outings in sailing boats whilst on holiday with the family.

Later on, he and wife Eileen did a number of cruises – including to Alaska, Australia and the Far East, the Med, and just last year to the Norwegian Fjords. But by far the highlight for him was a week spent as part of an adult crew on the Sir Winston Churchill tall sailing ship in the 1970s, preparing the ship at the beginning of the sailing season ready for the first batch of ‘youngsters’ to have their turn, where he did everything from polishing the brass, to peeling potatoes, to hauling sails on a trip from Portsmouth across to Cherbourg in France. It was one of those rare occasions where he did something for himself, and was a memory that stayed with him to the end.

That is why we have chosen the ‘Tall Ships Youth Trust’ as the charity to remember Dennis and the great fun he had on that trip, with the donations hopefully enabling more young people to benefit from the unique experience of spending time on a Tall Ship.

Thank You

Eileen, Ian & Graham