

David John Duke MBE

(5 Feb 1948 - 29 Mar 2014)

In 1964 David Duke joined the Department of Metallurgy led by Alan Cottrell, and over the next 49 years David became an important and much loved thread of continuity through changes in Department name, buildings, staff and student cohorts. First working in different research groups, David will be best known to many of our alumni from his time as Assistant in the Process Laboratory, and in 1993 he was appointed Principal Technician (responsible for all aspects of departmental infrastructure, and head of the technical and assistant staff), a post he occupied until his retirement in 2013. Throughout his career, David was renowned for his resourcefulness, can-do spirit and indomitable good humour — all often needed, given the strains of research activity that increased some sixteen fold over his time in the Department, constrained by inadequate infrastructure. David's contribution to the Department's research success was recognised with a richly deserved MBE 'for services to science' in the 2010 New Year's Honours. His organization of social events, including barbecues, Christmas extravaganzas, quizzes, his participation in DMSM sports teams, and his band Dave and the Saddos, all contributed immensely to Department life and spirit. David was also active in his village of Teversham, serving on Parish Council 1987 to 2003, starting and then running the Junior Youth Club, and serving as a Governor of the Primary School. David is survived by his wife Marian, daughter Sandra and son Andrew.



A.L. Greer