

OBITUARY OF CHRISTOPHER NORSE IN MERCHANT TAYLORS COMPANY MAGAZINE

Christopher Nourse was a proud and committed Merchant Taylor. He was apprenticed to his uncle, Sir Edmund Sargant in 1949 and became Master in 1982. Christopher Henry Nourse was born several months premature on 7th June 1930, weighing just 2lbs 2oz. He spent the first months of his life in an improvised incubator: a shoebox in an airing cupboard. In spite of this diminutive start, he grew to be a man of considerable intellect, nimble wit and enormous humour, his love of life unquestioned and undimmed to the end, despite his failing physical health. From St Ronan's prep school Christopher won an exhibition to Winchester College. Before going up to King's College, Cambridge to read natural sciences, he spent his National Service with the Suffolk Regiment and fought at the beginning of the Malayan Emergency. He chose to follow both his parents into the medical profession and later qualified at the Middlesex Hospital. In 1959 he joined his father's general practice in Cambridge, but his heart lay elsewhere. He trained in paediatrics at the Royal Berkshire Hospital where, perhaps in recognition of his own start in life, he ran the premature baby unit, then a new concept. After a short research stint in Boston, Massachusetts, he accepted his first post as a consultant in Colchester in 1967, then Bury St Edmunds and Ipswich, where he worked for the rest of his career. A fondness for bow ties, for wearing animal costumes to carve the Christmas turkey on the ward and his insistence on cutting off the feet of baby-grows (which he believed stunted growth), made him a memorable character in hospital life. In time he succeeded as chair-man of the Medical Staff Committee at the Ipswich Hospital and was the clinical director of the Community Child Health Team and the Allington Trust. He was the Suffolk representative of the BMA and treasurer of the British Paediatric Association. A further significant contribution was Christopher's establishment of CHAMP, an innovative Multidisciplinary centre for children with complex problems, now renamed the East Suffolk Child Development Centre, for which Christopher continued to fund-raise in his retirement. His colleagues

remember him as one of the last of the old school of generalist paediatricians; a passionate advocate for children and for children's services, but also a supportive teacher who greatly encouraged young medical staff. Christopher was dedicated to the Merchant Taylors' Company. Admitted to the Livery in 1957 and the Court in 1973, he became Master in 1982. In latter years, he was instrumental in the admittance of women to the Livery. He served as a governor of Wolverhampton Grammar School from xxxx to xxxx, and was chair-man of the governors at Merchant Taylors' School from October 1997 until June 2002. He enjoyed these responsibilities Enormously and both institutions benefited from his attention. He also selflessly volunteered for the Wine Committee. Christopher had an innate ability to connect with people across the social and intellectual dealings with distraught parents, to fiscally minded administrators, to his family and friends and the Company. He was gifted in his ability to pass on ideas in an even-handed manner, often with a hint of irreverence, but with no condescension or stuffiness, which he abhorred. Christopher died suddenly at home on 6 December 2010. He was married first to Victoria with whom he had four children (three of whom are Liverymen), and then to Jennie. He is survived by Jennie, his four children, Richard, Olivia, Edmund and William, Jennie's son James, and eight very healthy grandchildren. For those wishing to contribute to the charity founded by Christopher: "Ipswich Hospital" c/o East Suffolk Child Development Centre, Children's Outpatients, Ipswich Hospital, Heath Road, Ipswich IP4