

DAVID JONES



David Jones

7th September 1934 – 13th April 2005

Eric Whitton

David had been involved with AHP(B) and S&S for over twenty years. We celebrated his seventieth birthday last autumn with a piece he wrote about his time with AHP(B) with his characteristic honesty, including his work as commissioning editor from 1990 to 1998. Now we are celebrating him again, with sadness, after his death in April.

'For what is it to die but to stand naked in the wind and to melt in the sun? And what is it to cease breathing but to free the breath from its restless tides, that it may rise and expand and seek God unencumbered?' The Prophet, Kahlil Gibran, quoted in the funeral programme.

David Jones died peacefully with his family around him in Trinity Hospice on Wednesday 13th April. He was born in the Horsham, Sussex on 7th September 1934. His father was a Welshman from Abergwili and his mother was English. Both his parents were school teachers. He attended Christ's Hospital. He did two years National Service, as a commissioned officer in Carlisle (a source of many rich anecdotes later on) before going on to Keble College, Oxford. A highlight of those years was an overland drive to India, a journey that would scarcely be possible today. He then went out what was then N. Rhodesia, as a research fellow studying the introduction of innovative agricultural techniques for two years. He established lifelong friendships and had much joy revisiting what had then become Zambia, in later years. On his return he carried on postgraduate studies at Nottingham University.

In 1966 he became a lecturer in Social Psychology at London School of Economics. He married Laura Donington in 1969. They had two daughters - Anna and Emily. He was a devoted father and enormously enjoyed being with them. Towards the end of his time at LSE, he attended the IDHP at Surrey University and established courses in Humanistic Psychology within the LSE. He later went on to graduate in Core Process Psychotherapy from the Karuna Institute. In later years, he called himself Buddhist and drew on the contemplative base of this practice. In 1990 he retired from teaching and started a private practice in psychotherapy and running Humanistic Psychology workshops.

He became editor of *Self & Society* which he took over from its founder, Vivian Milroy, and managed it for ten years. He moved to Hartland, Devon in 1995 and established part-time practice there for five years, whilst continuing to practice in London. He was a

member of AHP(B) from 1985 and its chair for two years. He was also a member of AHPP and served on the Board. He was awarded an Honorary Life Membership by both these organisations in recognition of his contribution to Humanistic Psychology, in particular for his work as editor of *Self & Society* for eight years.

He will be missed by his many friends, colleagues and most of all by his family to whom on behalf of the members of AHP(B) and AHPP, I extend our heartfelt condolences in their grief. The following is the tribute I gave at his funeral in St. Luke's, Wandsworth on 25th April.

David was a man of many parts: Welsh by birth; he was a traveller, a researcher, a lecturer, a school governor, a humanistic therapist, a writer and editor, a Buddhist, a good father to his two daughters, and a loving husband to dear Laura for over 30 years.

I have known David for many years as a close colleague. I can't remember when we first met. I feel I have always known him. I was his supervisor when he first started his own therapy practice and for ten years, I listened to the most remarkable and very human way that he was with his clients and everyone. He didn't hide his faults but was the first to admit how good he was! I remember us trying to describe the way he went to the edges of professionalism - and we came up with the phrase 'space walking'. That was very much him. Pushing his work to the limits. I also remember him telling me that when he was running a workshop on money, he began by burning a £5 note. Another time when he was writing a chapter in my book, we got into a legal dilemma about a section. He first of all raged about it, threatened to withdraw and then a few days later said quite calmly that he would find another piece. Typical of the man - fierce at times and then at peace. He rarely harboured a grudge. He could be infuriating in holding on to his beliefs but often he was right in the polemics of psychotherapy.

In his acceptance speech of Honorary Life Membership of the AHPP. He said 'What a strange thing it was that he should be honoured by a body that he had so constantly criticised'. But again that was him. He told it as he saw it and saw through things that were bunk. He had a clear intellect and was always good for a hug! He could be intense and light hearted. He was a good friend and a likeable enemy. He was what in the jargon we call a networker. My best memory of him was laughing.

He reached his three score years and ten and then left us with his usual warmth and humour. He was not afraid of death because he was not afraid of life. I liked him a lot. Goodbye David.



'David could perhaps be called atheist, certainly in his refusal to go beyond what can be known. He was fiercely independent-minded and strongly resisted anyone else's mythologies and orthodoxies. There was a huge integrity in the way he was so uncompromisingly himself. Yet he did have a strong sense of the spiritual. He identified himself as a Buddhist. He spent a lot of time in meditation and often used to look at the night sky and wonder at the mystery of the universe. I think he liked the notion of the beyond, as some sort of great empty space of not-knowing. I think of David's notion of the divine as like a large and very encompassing question mark in the sky, which perhaps held the possibility of release from the suffering of the world. He wasn't afraid to die, and in the end went gladly and peacefully'.

Laura Donington.



'David wore a beard when I first met him dancing at an AHP Conference.

It was his brainchild to offer a one year Introduction to Humanistic Psychology 1988-93, and he was instrumental in helping me extend myself and agree to join him. He brought great optimistic energy to our group, was creative, proactive and a good 'father' figure to us all.

I found him charming and always enjoyed his company, for he was a good raconteur with tales of his passions - beekeeping, chess, family and Zambia.

He was a regular meditator, gave much thought to his dying and spoke easily about this process. What I loved at his funeral was the group hum (overtone chanting) that ebbed and flowed about the church.

I still have his last message to me on my voice mail. Alas, it will be erased automatically in four days' time.'

Christianne Heal



'Many years ago, possibly at the first AHPP conference that I attended, I was most disturbed to find that David looked extremely like someone who I was having a stormy relationship with. This threw my concentration, and a friend introduced me to David who kindly invited me to study him in close up and in some detail, asking me to tell him in what way he was different from my lover! This enabled me to let go of the disturbance and I shall always be grateful to him. I remember him with much fondness at AHPP events.'

Whiz Collis



'David was a member and dissenter of the humanistic scene for as long as it has existed in this country. He both belonged and had his own very distinct opinions. He was a realist. He was often provocative and challenging to received ideas. He cared about S&S and often let me bend his ear about its struggles and mine.



As a neighbour in Hartland Devon, it was fun to have David around. His involvement in local projects and his fresh angle on life and people helped time in a small village stay lively. He had a positive approach and the courage to trust what came his way. Walks, cream teas, his garden with its hammock, frogs and flowers were a source of delight for him. Not to forget his sense of humour, which didn't always find favour but cut through a lot of posturing. As a colleague in a small supervision group in Devon he was insightful and willing to take risks.

He was also, of course, a good writer.'

Maxine Linnell



David and I occasionally exchanged emails about S&S. Years ago, when he sometimes proofread the journal for us, he once signed an email with 'Love David.' This was irresistible. 'Of course!', I replied. This little punctuation joke became the stamp of an enduring and endearing Self & Society association, as he signed off emails over the years with 'love, David, with and without commas.'

Alexandra Chalfont



'David and I never worked together, only exchanged a few emails in the last couple of years and met occasionally at AHP(B) and AHPP AGM's. Yet I feel I knew him very well, and will miss him, such was his very great presence.'

Tony Morris



'I always have a half-formed conversation waiting to be said to him.'

James Mackenzie



If you would like to add to the remembrances, please let us know. David initiated a dialogue in the last issue on formulating a description of humanistic work - you could also add your comments on this to make his interest and work live on. Eds.