

Alex Bruce MA

(Member of Council 1987–1996)

by Roy Coppack

An enthusiasm for history was an enduring theme of Alex Bruce's life, with a particular interest in the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries. He was head of History at Newcastle Royal Grammar School and lecturer in the Department of Education in the University of Durham, with responsibility for post-graduate courses for intending history teachers. He then became head of a series of prominent schools: Guisborough, Wallasey and the Henry Meols School, Wirral.

On his retirement he came to live in Upton by Chester and, after helping to establish the West Cheshire and Clwyd Branch of the Historical Association, became its Chairnan and in 1991 was a member of the Association's National Council. He represented the Historical Association on the Cheshire Local History Committee and became its Chairman in 1992, when he helped organise a memorable Local History Conference on seventeenth-century Cheshire. He wrote widely on war memorials in their local context and had articles published in the *Historian* and *Cheshire History*. He was involved in the planning of the new *Historical Atlas of Cheshire* and wrote a biography of F S M Bennett, Dean of Chester 1920–37.

Alex Bruce was an outstanding servant of the community at large, contributing to a very wide range of activities, including the Court of Liverpool University and as Chairman of the Governors of the Queen's School, Chester.