

2: Dr Alistair J P (Sandy) Campbell JP, MA (Cantab), FSA, FSA (Scot)
3 February 1933–27 January 2016

by Janet Axworthy*

Our longstanding member Dr Sandy Campbell was first and foremost a GP in Tarporley. He worked there for thirty-seven years after joining his father, and now his son, Andrew, works in the same practice. He attended St John's College, Cambridge, and St Bartholomew's Hospital in London. His and his family's dedication to the well-being of generations of patients and the community is well illustrated by their pivotal support for the NHS Tarporley War Memorial Hospital, which was saved as a cottage hospital and where Sandy became honorary medical officer in 1962. It is fitting that much of Sandy's considerable collection of bygone medical equipment, dating back to the 1930s and beyond, is now on permanent display and accessible for students and the public in the University of Chester's Faculty of Health and Social Care Riverside Museum.

He joined the Chester magistrates in 1978, became deputy chairman of the bench and chairman of the juvenile bench and licensing committees, continuing in these roles until 2004. He thoroughly enjoyed the annual inspection of licensed premises, which gave him a detailed overview of all the pubs in the area! He was chairman of the parish council and a governor of Huxley Primary School. He joined the committee of the Mercian branch of the National Trust and was deputy chairman of the North-West Region at the time that John Lennon's family home was secured for the trust. Sandy was an enthusiastic Scot and passionate member of the Clan Campbell, never happier than roaming among the hills and glens of Perthshire. He hugely enjoyed his country pursuits and was an avid member of the Pentrefoelas shoot for nearly forty years.

Sandy was a knowledgeable antiquarian, and as a born Cestrian on Chester's history in particular. He and Canon Maurice Ridgway vied with each other and debated at length the history of Chester silver, various key pieces and the pedigrees of their makers. His knowledge of Roman and medieval coinage, and particularly of the Chester mint and of Anglo-Saxon coins, was second to none locally. The Grosvenor Museum has benefited from his and his family's generous loan of material. In 2007 Sandy was elected a Fellow of the Society of Antiquaries. Egged-on by Maurice Ridgway, vicar of Bunbury, in the 1960s Sandy and Helen saved for restoration the derelict former schoolmaster's house in that village, built in 1527 as the chantry priest's house. He and his family then turned their attention to salvaging

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and restoring a six-hundred-year-old timber-framed dwelling in 1974, painstakingly incorporating it into their family home at Hargrave and successfully blending the old with the new. Walking his much loved springer spaniels around the adjacent fields, he discovered evidence of a number of archaeological sites that have unfortunately subsequently been damaged by metal detectorists. The mid-thirteenth century pottery industry based there is dispersed over several acres and has a number of foci on the edge of a park pale. Excavation and survey work carried out in 1984–1986 is currently being worked on by the author with the assistance of volunteers from the Hargrave & Huxley History Group with members of the Four Parishes Research Group to national standards, with a view to publishing this important site in the Society's journal. Sandy and Helen hosted the work and meetings (largely documentary research) of these two groups for more than thirty years.

We extend our deepest sympathy to Helen, who remains an active member of the Society, and to the family.