



### **Alexander Shafto Douglas 1921 to 2010**

Alexander Shafto Douglas, CBE, was always known to his many friends and contacts around the world as "Sandy".

He passed away on 29 April 2010 some three weeks prior to his 89<sup>th</sup> birthday. He contracted pneumonia after two months in a care home and passed away peacefully in hospital. A heart attack in 2003 slowed him down but he remained mentally alert and loved to be taken out for a pub meal and a chat.

Sandy had been active in IFIP in the early days from its inception through to 1977. He served as IFIP vice president from 1975 to 1977 having been the UK representative on the IFIP Council since 1962. In the

early days of IFIP, there were other international associations such as IFORS, IFAC, AICA and IMEKO. Sandy Douglas was chairman of the IFIP committee on international liaison and in this capacity coordinated the work of IFIP with the other international bodies.

He was a founder member of the British Computer Society in 1957 and held the position of BCS President during the year 1971/72.

He was a student at Trinity College Cambridge and became involved with the EDSAC computer in the early fifties. His Ph.D. thesis focussed on human computer interactions.

His first academic post was at the University of Leeds where he was Director of the Electronic Computing Laboratory. He worked on X-ray crystallography. Initially, Leeds did not have a computer and he lead a team which were regular visitors to the University of Manchester Computing Laboratory where was able to use the Ferranti Mark I computer until in 1958 Leeds acquired its own Ferranti Pegasus.

From 1960 until 1969, he worked in London in a management capacity, starting with the early consulting firm CEIR which subsequently became Scientific Control Systems. Next he became Chairman of the European branch of Leasco.

In 1969 he returned to academia as Professor of Computational Methods at the London School of Economic.

Whilst he was at LSE he lived in Walton on Thames (just outside London) in a house with a tennis court and was able to indulge his passion for tennis not only at home, but also at a local tennis club where he and his wife Audrey were keen members.

On retiring from LSE he continued with consultancy work for some years before leaving Walton on Thames and moved down to the south coast of England. Audrey pre-deceased him in 2001 and he was able to spend the last few years of his life under the same roof as his son Malcolm, daughter-in-law Chris and their 3 children. He also leaves his daughter Shirley, son-in-law Alan and their 3 children who live in Australia.