

**In Loving Memory**

**Clifford Charles Crockford**

2 May 1942 - 12 April 2025



## **Order of Service**

**Nimrod, Enigma Variations** by Elgar.

Performed by the band of the Coldstream Guards

**Excerpt from When Tomorrow Starts Without Me**

by David Romarno. Read by Gavin

**Tribute to Cliff.** Read by Hilary

**Not in Vain** by Emily Dickinson. Read by Hilary

**You Raise Me Up.** Performed by Josh Groban

**Lone Voyage.** Read by Gavin

Reflection of Memories to the music of **Air on the G String**,  
by JS Bach. Performed by the London Symphony Orchestra

**Somewhere Over the Rainbow**, performed by Judy Garland

# **Tributes from Former Colleagues**

## **Phil Marten**

Such a great, personable guy, always happy and despite his physical restrictions after his motor cycle crash, coped so well.

## **Chris Forgham**

Sad news. A real gentleman. Always helpful, supportive and a pleasure to work with. RIP.

## **Carolyn Jones**

Such sad news, RIP Cliff.

## **Chris James**

RIP Cliff. A true gent and a lovely guy

## **David Andrews**

RIP Cliff, a pleasure to have known you all those years, condolences to family.

## **Kim Clinch**

Chris and I were very saddened to hear this news. Cliff was a joy to work with. Kind and helpful too.

## **Stephen Hart**

Always helpful with a smile.

## **Paul Markwick**

Very sad to read this post. Cliff was a lovely man. Always had time to offer advice and a credit to the Force in his long standing role of coroners officer. RIP Cliff.

## **Brian Cook**

Fond memories of working with Cliff over many years. Dedicated, very professional and always had a smile on his face. It was a real pleasure!

## **Garry Botterill**

A true gentleman, RIP Cliff.

## **Dave Harris**

A life worth living!

## **Nick Milburn**

Lovely man, a pleasure to work with

## **Penelope Schofield, Senior Coroner**

Dear Wendy,

I just wanted to write to you to offer you and your family my sincere condolences for the sad passing of Cliff.

I only had the pleasure of working with Cliff for a short period before he retired from the Coroner Service but I do remember him with great affection. He was a truly dedicated officer who gave so much to the families he dealt with. He was a very kind empathetic man, a great investigator and a true professional. His colleagues had so much such respect for him.

## **Roger Stone, West Sussex Coroner**

I worked with Cliff for many years, both as a Deputy Coroner and as Coroner for West Sussex with Cliff acting as my Coroner's Officer for the Chichester Area of West Sussex. I have to say that I could not have had a better work colleague to help in my duties and will always have the greatest respect for Cliff and regarded him as a friend as much as a colleague, and I was always reassured to receive his advice and input in difficult cases .

I was once asked to do a talk about the work of a Coroner, and a question arose " What does a Coroner's Officer do?". My initial answer was "a difficult job!". To give you an idea of what I meant in that reply, I am attaching an extract from a Job description I thought you might like to have to justify my comment! The list of 'Key Responsibilities' and 'Required Skills' is pretty exhaustive (and exhausting!), but I think it will help you to know the breadth of knowledge and skills required, and the hard work and effort Cliff delivered to get it right.

The next question I was asked was "Who would be a Coroner's Officer?". My reply was "A very special person", and Cliff was such a person.

On a more personal note, when I undertook one of my first Inquests, I was (perhaps understandably) quite worried about getting it right. Having completed it, as I was packing up my papers, Cliff appeared in my office and told me the press thought I had not returned a Verdict.

With a somewhat knowing smile, he said he did not actually hear it, what was it? I realised I had confirmed the cause of death, and omitted the Verdict in error, told him what it was and he informed the Press! From then on throughout my career as a Coroner I was confident Cliff 'had my back' as they say, and it was always reassuring when he was my Officer acting in any case with him.

In brief summary, if I may, I am indebted to Cliff for many years of exemplary public service in support of my predecessor, Mark Calvert- Lee, and myself, and again if I may, I would like to say a heartfelt "Thank you Cliff" from myself, and on behalf of the many families who benefitted from his commitment to helping them at the most difficult time of their lives.

I know for you this will be such a time, but the peaceful manner of his death you described, and the many happy memories you know doubt share with your family and your friends will be a source of much comfort to you.

I send you my sincere best wishes for the future as you come to terms with your sad loss.

