

David Hirst Obituary

It is with great sadness that we have to announce the death of David Hirst, our former Vice Chair, from a brain tumour on Thursday 22nd October 2020.

He was a wonderful man. He was an engineer by profession, as are his wife Alison and daughter Eleanor. David invented a clever system for using spare electrical capacity in domestic fridges to support the national grid at times of peak demand, but was tricked by a group of Venture Capitalists and never saw his idea come to fruition.

David was a member of the Green Party and he and Alison were great environmentalists. They did a lot of good voluntary work in Brighton. They made several Labour Land Campaign members welcome guests at their home in Brighton many times when we were attending Brighton conferences. We have good memories of a get-together with David, Alison, Carol Wilcox, Dave and Heather Wetzel and Anthony Molloy at a pub after the Tolpuddle Festival in 2018.

David was a fine man doing many good works - Last year Heather and Dave Wetzel went with him to the local "Newhaven Fort" where, as a volunteer, he regularly cut the grass and brambles on the embankments with a special scythe he bought from Austria. He worked with a group of like minded people tackling conservation projects like scrub clearance and new steps. He also befriended officially for 8 years, a young man originally in child care with no close relatives. Social services like such children and young adults in sheltered accommodation to mix with an adult who is not a professional practitioner.

Dave and Heather visited him three times at home in Brighton during his last few weeks.

He will be very much missed. Our hearts go out to Alison and Eleanor.