News

Charles Starr Curry, who edited conditions he laid down for the to the pre-war days when he the A&T for nearly 50 years, folpurchase were not agreeable to learnt to fly. dence, generous nature, sense clays Bank by re-mortgaging not one who likes meeting peoof fun and love of all things me- his house

chanical, he was 98. chair in 1966, he made the A&T to agree to take on such a loan one of the most respected and at their ages but she agreed. successful newspapers in the Her faith in her husband's busicountry while at the same time ness acumen was not misplaced have reached further up the helping hundreds of young as within three years he had ladder of journalism than from reporters embark on their repaid the lot. careers as he shared his passion for covering anything a new press because it was be- mous sports writer Ian Woolfrom WI meetings to sensa- coming increasingly difficult dridge, who began his career at

in 1920, and enjoyed a rather a planning appeal to build a grand welcome into the world new printing hall at the paper's who knew his father, Frederick, the inspector if he refused the through his work as reporter at paper would not survive. city hall, sent his Rolls Royce to collect him from hospital.

schools and leaving with virtu- He was made an MBE in the ally no qualifications, Charles 1997 New Year's Honours for his door to Catherine Bugden. came to work at the A&T in lifetime of service to journalism. Both were called up in the Sec-1936, where he was kept busy and the newspaper industry. as a reporter, collecting names at funerals, attending council 2012, continuing to write his meetings, and doing any other Townsman column tackling chores which no one else want- the many issues of the day he tinkering with bits of machin-

Charles continued working at Europe. the paper for the next 76 years. He took over as editor in 1966 on paper continued to expand and prosper by maintaining a traditional grass roots approach to news gathering and a policy of not soliciting for advertising.

In 1990 his younger brother Teddy, who ran the accounts side of the business, decided he wanted to retire, but Charles. who was 70 at the time, did not want to give up working. In attempting to keep the newspaper going, he had a meeting with Sir David English whom aircraft, which was arranged as until he informed his command-van or a trip down to a family lost from their back boiler in he had worked with when they a surprise by his family.

Charles who instead managed Known for his fierce indepen- to borrow the money from Bar-

Charles' wife Catherine was After taking over the editor's disabled and it was a lot for her pleasures of the job.

> Realising the paper needed to obtain the necessary flongs the newspaper as a cub report-

1925 Frederick relaunched the cashire which was brought to fascinating stories. Christchurch Times which had New Milton and reassembled.

> He remained as editor until and her to the WRAF. considered important, not least ery Charles managed to install global warming, planning and a transformer in his Nissen hut

was driven to Bournemouth the bemusement of the other the death of his father and the Flying Club where he enjoyed a servicemen. 45-minute flight aboard a light He served mostly in the UK

Talking about his work, Charles said: "By nature I am ple in groups, though talking to

years more trainee or apprentice reporters from our titles other similar papers.'

"Although Royal visits and He bought a scrap Hoe and high profile events are part of Crabtree converted letterpress the job, it is often the lives of lo-Returning to England in printer from a paper in Lan- cal people that make the most

shut down as a result of a libel Powered by a John Deere trac- per was so successful when othtor engine, coupled to a marine ers were failing, and I replied, In 1930 he sold his shares alternator, it continued to pro- 'Because I didn't know how to in that newspaper to buy the duce the A&T from 1995 until do it properly and as a result New Milton Advertiser and in last year when it closed down advertising rates were half that 1932 he started the *Lymington* and printing moved to Ports- charged for papers with a simi-

> New Milton, Charles lived next ond World War – him to the RAF His role was to mend the tele-

On his 90th birthday Charles er than all the others much to

'I was once asked why the paper was so successful when others were failing, and I replied because I didn't know how to do it properly and as a result advertising rates were half that charged for papers with a similar circulation.'

Among them was world-fa-

Charles was born in Canada for casting plates, Charles won er in the 1950s at the age of 16. Charles added: "During my vears here we have covered tens after the Mayor of Toronto, Compton Road site, telling of thousands of stories, both happy and sad

"I was once asked why the pa-

Growing up in Kennard Road,

phones but always obsessed by which made his much bright-



Charles reading an edition hot off his cherished press

Catherine married a fighter

pilot during the war and had a of what married life would be and his ingenuity and unique Charles and Catherine rekindled their friendship and were married several years later. Charles willingly welcomed Tony into their home, and he was joined by daughter Caro- was not impressed when, after a school, he was so worried there line in 1952 and son Eddie in 1954. They lived in a cottage Milton, her new dress was cov-tic room that he made one him-

Hare Lane at Ashley. Family holidays, which he ing officer that he believed house in Penzance until Cathe-"really quite exciting" especial- regarding the NAAFI and some water between Charles

on a four-acre smallholding in

stick, Charles said the trip took delivered did not match the in several holidays on the Isle of

o, but not the same as MS. than when fighting authority He had read that MS could be and standing up for the ordiput into remission by placing nary person. someone in an oxygen-enriched divers overcome the 'bends'.

The navy was not keen on pushed around. selling the chamber which did not work but after unremit- mously popular local paper ting pestering, they relented that reported on issues in the and he was able to buy it. His community, which will continue natural engineering skills came into the future as we develop into play and he took the door the business to tackle the chal-flowers but donations can be mechanism apart and realised lenges ahead.' that it had been incorrectly assembled. He connected it said: "While all the staff are sad Brockenhurst.

order sheet. However, instead Wight, although he would still up in his garden with a very of being congratulated, he was be phoning to check the pro- large compressor. Unfortunateimmediately shipped off to a duction and printing were go- ly, after one session Catherine ing okay in in his absence.

son, Tony, but sadly the mar- like when he converted a bare approach to life riage did not last. After demob Chrysler chassis to take a diesel Whilst the vehicle was still fix anything and when I came without any bodywork, he home, I never knew what he was keen to demonstrate his had done next." handiwork to Catherine but she

Another of his brilliant ideas A&T staff to go and fit it. grudgingly went on, were either when he was concerned that in the New Forest with a cara- in their sitting room heat was when she got back late from the fireplace. For several years locked out. As she tried to find Describing the experience as there was a scam going on rine decided she needed to put there was a bare car radiator a way in, he threw her bedsat in the sitting room next to clothes out of a window and she ly when he was handed the joy- canteen, where items being and his business. This resulted the fire until one day a member was forced to sleep in a caravan of the A&T staff built a grill to in the garden.

> years with peripheral neuritis cause she was going out. He resulting in him needing to look replied: "Dressed like that you after her as well as running the should come back with some." Eddie said: "My father was a ing to wash and dress her. Her condition was similar truth. He was never happier

> "He never allowed anyone atmosphere at elevated prest to tell him what to publish sure. He was keen to see what indeed threats of legal action he could do and so tried buying or any other kind of intimia three-ton redundant decom- dation virtually guaranteed a pression chamber used to help story would be published just to show he wasn't going to be

"He established an enor-

refused to go in it again but it Catherine got a taste early on did demonstrate his care for her Caroline said: "He was never a conventional father. He could When she went to boarding ride down Station Road in New was no fire escape from her at-

Catherine suffered for 30 asked him for some money be- Charles served in the RAF during

er complained or resented hav- great newspaper man and was ories of a passionate, funny and always determined to print the unique person.

"He was always willing to give someone a chance in journalism with interviews usually consisting of a discussion on whatever issue was on his mind at the

"Working on the A&T gave us all a great grounding for which

mation and a thanksgiving/ memorial service will be held at St Mary Magdalene Church. New Milton, at 12.30pm on Saturday 2nd March. No made to the Tear Fund via News editor Andy Sherwood Maria Jones Funeral Directors.

'He personified what is best about journalism'

oest about journalism. His phinity by publishing information kind of journalism could only are interfering with my work. I of benefit to that community. be maintained if he kept his must get on."

After receiving his MBE at Buckingham Palace

"He was modest and hard-working. When I called osophy was simple: newspa- of his editorial content and, in on reaching 90, he replied, pers should serve the commuturn, he recognised that his 'Thank you, but all these calls



Celebrating the life of A&T editor Charles Curry MBE













The serious-minded journalist

Fond memories

My dad worked with Charles from them to be set on the Linotype. I'd the early sixties at the A&T until the get to take - and develop some of my 1980s until he got cancer. Charles was there for dad throughout, always popping round or phoning to check on progress. They remained friends until dad's passing last year. There was nobody dad respected more than Charles, we were always told when Charles had popped round, the excitement in his voice while regaling their chats of the 'olden days'. Ian Hinchcliffe

Very sad news. Charles let me do work experience aged 15 and it started a long career in journalism in London and now in Australia. He was an extraordinary journalist and editor. A genius mind, persistent and inventive. Lucie Morris-Marr

I knew Charles for over 70 years and for many of those he was my boss. He helped many lame ducks over the years, one instance being in 1955 when I was living in a wooden shack in Ossemsley Manor with my wife and gave me at my interview in 1998. One lunchtime Charles arrived

his car with tarpaulins and a roll of army telephone wire and we went and covered and secured the roof. He was an inventive man, but at times a little impractical. Some of his schemes would have put Heath Robinson to shame! Dave Saltaire

What a wonderful man he was. I had the honour of being shown around the works by Charles Curry on the day of the last hot metal print - that's a day I will always remember. Neil Tungate

Charles was a one-off. He gave me a job straight out of university and let me stay in the flat above the old New Milton Advertiser storefront for a pepper-corn rent. I don't think it would have been possible to get a more rounded training in journalism: we'd print off our stories and

own photos. And then, on Thursdays, grab one of the first copies of the paper literally hot off the press. Thank you Charles for introducing me to

RIP Charles Curry a real newspaperman in every respect,

this scrappy, stubborn, brilliant

profession. Alex Hannaford

A great defender of professional journalism. When I worked in London (print/advertising) I always had to take a couple of spare copies of the A&T after the weekend because ad agencies would always nick my copy as they thought that type of journalism no longer existed! Leslie R. Woodhouse

What a man, one of the great British eccentrics. I still have (somewhere) the slug of hot metal Charles

one day with my typed copy, saying

back at the office with a trailer on 'would you be embarrassed or harassed if I told you embarrassed has two Rs, and harassed only one?' A great schooling in the inky trade, at what must have been one of the last hot metal presses in the country. Thank you Charles for the most colourful start to a career in

> My father was employed by the A&T for his entire working life (excluding National Service), firstly under Charles Curry's father, then under Charles himself. My mother also worked for the paper as a journalist from time to time. (Charles told her there was nothing he would send a male reporter to do that he

journalism. James Palmer

pretty progressive view at the time.) Charles Curry was in many ways a maverick, full of energy and determination, always looking for unlikely solutions to the needs of the presses. hand them to Charles to edit by hand He was also a kind and generous em-- in his trademark scrawl - then take ployer. We had many happy summer Ian Stevenson

wouldn't send a woman to do. A

His views in Townsman would

often infuriate me, especially in my more radical youth, but I always admired him for his strength of mind and his willingness to speak it.

I moved to the area over 30 years

ago and met Charles in his office. We had long chats and he showed me round the hot metal composing and the presses. He was very proud of his newspaper and his presses - and very pleased with his modification of Jaguar brakes on the drums of the web fed press. Thank you Charles - a long life and an icon in the industry. **Peter Milford**

Charles was the kindest, most generous, loyal, intelligent, eccentric, stubborn, annoying but lovable man I ever met. A bit baggy at the seams, but that didn't matter because we loved him. Tracey Leadbeatter

Truly one of a kind. Had some of my first articles and photographs accepted and used in the paper back in the 1970s. I still have his letters filed somewhere. A unique gentleman running what I believe was a unique regional newspaper. Chris Balcombe

So sad to hear this news. He was an amazing person and the heart and soul of this fantastic newspaper. **Carole Bailey**

Over the years, Charles Curry and his father earned the gratitude of many, like myself, for giving them a start in journalism. Those of us from the 1950s era who went on to have careers in Fleet Street never forgot the lessons learned the hard way on the A&T.

amazed when I looked in at the A&T to find Charles still bursting with the energy and enthusiasm I had seen decades before. A remarkable man.

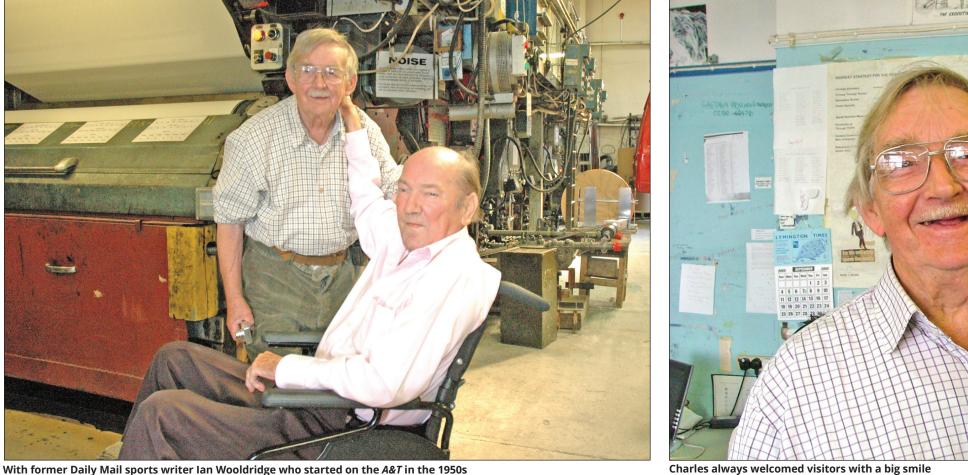
After my retirement, I was always





Taking part in Comic Relief fun







'He could punch through the pomposity of people like me' – MP CONSERVATIVE MP Julian Lewis first knew the personalities but above all more like that of a garage mechanic, with came into contact with Charles when he else, he knew the people. He was a great tools and machine parts scattered over his fought and won the New Forest East seat journalist and a great man." "I realised straight away I was dealing with someone who was hugely well-in- NEW Forest West MP Sir Desmond NEW Forest District Council leader Cllr

whose regard I felt I needed to earn," he ing character. "I thought he was an absolutely phe-proprietor of the A&T with, for so many every subject under the sun and beyond! nomenal and unforgettable character. He years, his own column, he had a wide was completely fearless. He knew how to range of interests and, in particular, with ness career with sound advice and enpunch through the pomposity of people technological solutions to any number of couragement. I believe the A&T through like me." he went on. different problems.

he instantly and wittily then said 'Yes, and deed.'

I want to keep it that wav'!"

the ball is there.

Being interviewed by ITV Meridian reporter Sarah Gomme in his famously untidy office

a time when I was trying to unsuccessfully suggesting technical fixes for issues being of communication in the area. persuade Charles that a particular cause faced by the Ministry of Defence and UK was deserving of attention in the paper and Border Force. "He was always 'on the ball' and with a he said to me. 'That's a subject. I think, for a national', to which I replied, flatteringly, mischievous sense of fun," Sir Desmond

Dr Lewis continued: "I can truly say even though he was 98 and had a tremendous LORD Montagu said: "I didn't know Mr innings, the New Forest will not feel quite Curry well but was always aware that it the same without knowing that sharpness was his editorship which gave the A&T its of wit and commitment to always being on sometimes idiosyncratic character. "He was quick-witted and determined kindly showed me around the works, duced a first class newspaper. I know his and willing to take politicians down a which was one of the last to be setting peg or two if they deserved it. I had huge type in hot metal.

desk. It was clear that he was a hands-on owner-editor in every sense of the word!"

formed and influential and someone Swayne said: "Charles was a truly amaz- Barry Rickman said: "Charles was a modest, kind and independent-minded man "In addition to being a very successful with an amazing degree of knowledge on "He played a great part in my early busi-Charles helped many local businesses "My favourite story in that respect was "I frequently received faxes from him thrive, and in those days was the main way

"I know so many local organisations and societies were so grateful for the valuable publicity they got to advance their aims. "He would say to me on group photos 'Charles people read your newspaper', but added. "He will be missed very much infor use in the A&T, 'Get as many faces, especially children, in the photos with their names for a caption, they and their families will all buy my paper."

Sir Ray Tindle, founder of the Tindle Newspaper Group, said "Charles was one of the real newspapermen of this country. "I once visited him at the A&T and he I greatly admired him and thought he proson Eddie and his daughter Caroline will carry on the great tradition of the *New* respect for him. He knew the area, he "I was amused to find that his office was Milton Advertiser & Lumington Times."

"The response from readers newspaper out of the hands of mer Daily Mirror editor and of the New Milton Advertiser the conglomerates that own professor of journalism, Roy and Lymington Times was loy- the vast majority of Britain's reenslade, said: "I salute alty because they kept on buy-local press." Charles Curry and mourn his ing the title while sales of local passing. He personified what is papers elsewhere declined. "They recognised the virtues Charles to congratulate him