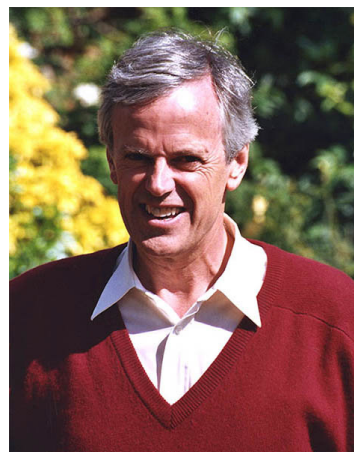


Philip Allan, 1944–2021

Philip was born in West Kirby, the Wirral, the second of four children. He was educated at Shrewsbury School from where he gained a place at Emmanuel College, Cambridge, reading firstly PPE, changing to history. He became president of his college's debating society. Debating, discussion or arguing a point, especially in the field of politics were activities that engaged him all his life. Very recently he was totally engaged with and delighted by a discussion with his 20 year-old granddaughter on the effects of pollution and climate change on the environment.



After university he moved to London to the publishing company, Thomas Nelson, working for their academic division as commissioning editor in social science for four years. While living in London he met and married his wife, Suzanne, in 1970. Given what was the success rate demanded of him in his role with Thomas Nelson, he reckoned he could set up his own company out of London. The couple bought 'The Cottage' next to the Red Lion pub and, in 1973, Philip set up Philip Allan Publishers. His colleague in production at Nelson's moved with him and he had the backing of two eminent professors of economics who wrote the first two books published under his company's imprint. The first book was published a week after the couple's first baby, Edward, arrived.

Ash, Tom and Will followed, so the couple was fully stretched in the early years of the company. For the first ten years the company struggled with a perennial cash flow problem until Philip started to publish educational magazines; the book list was sold to Simon & Schuster International in 1989. Ten years later the company acquired Updates Ltd, an educational conference provider. Trading now as Philip Allan Updates, the company expanded into textbooks for A-level and GCSE, as well as publishing magazines, running student conferences and teacher training courses, employing 50 people.

In the mid-1980s the company bought Wells House, Deddington Sale Room and Forrester's Hall (which, before it was used for selling second-hand furniture was the village cinema) to accommodate the increasing number of people employed by the company.

After 33 years of building up and running his company Philip sold the business in 2006 to Hodder Headline. Hodder maintained the imprint and allowed Philip to retain his office overlooking the Market Place, but once they decided to move the company to Banbury in 2015 it was time to redevelop the buildings for domestic use.

After selling the company Philip turned his business expertise to help other start-up companies. His main focus in 'retirement' though was charitable work. The contribution he made at the Cheshire Foundation at Greenhill House, Adderbury, took a new direction with the establishment of Ryder-Cheshire volunteers. The charity operated across several counties in the Midlands, helping disabled people participate in leisure and learning activities. He worked for the charity as treasurer and chairman from 2003-2016. From his days helping at Greenhill House he is remembered for taking residents out for a spin in his Z3 sports car.

Philip also helped as treasurer for two Deddington charities: Friends of Deddington Church and The Holly Tree Club. As a family, we took up sailing when our sons were young, graduating to yachting, an activity he enjoyed until 2020, when both ill-health and Covid stopped it.

Very many thanks for the cards and letters we have received. They were a great comfort. Philip's courage and enterprise are evident and many are aware also of his innate kindness and generosity of spirit. We miss him greatly.

The Allan family

NB We are holding a memorial service for Philip at the church of St Peter and St Paul, Deddington, on 24 June at 2.00pm. We hope all Covid restrictions will be lifted by 21 June but, should this not be the case, there will be a video link for the service streamed from the church. Please keep an eye on the media and the church website.