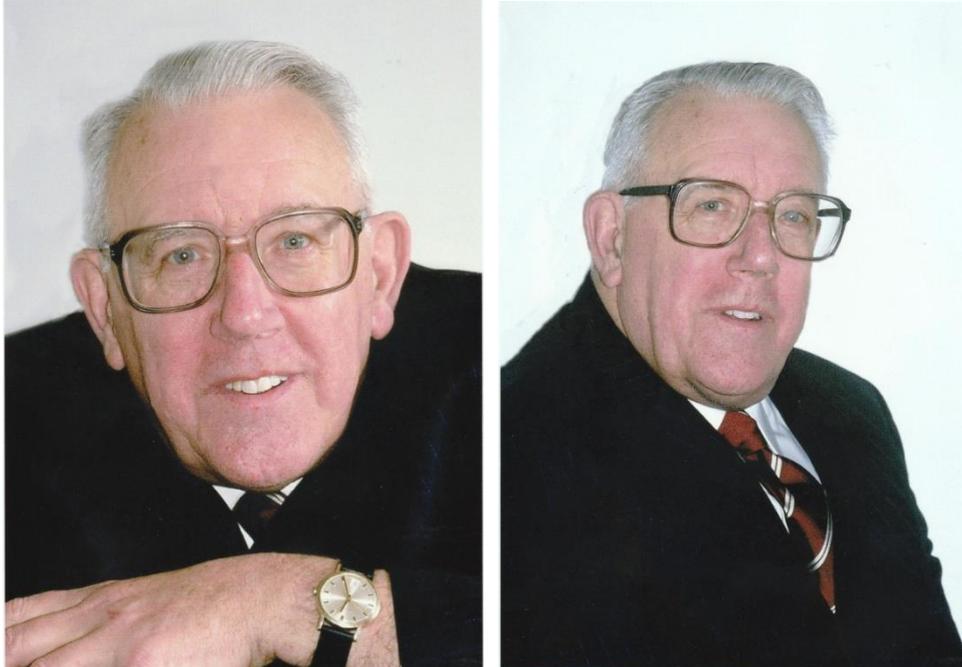


**A Quaker Meeting for Worship for the life of
Wilfrid Ernest Frances Chambers Hayler
Tribes Shoreham Chapel, Eastern Avenue, Shoreham.
Thursday 2pm 25th March 2021**



(9th May 1931 to 21st February 2021)

Wilf Hayler was a member of Croydon Quaker Meeting all his life, the son of a nationally-known Quaker, Mark Hayler, who had been a conscientious objector in the First World War; yet he never lived in his father's shadow.

The trauma of his mother's death when he was very young and being sent away to board at Friends School, Saffron Waldon, had an immense effect on him, and he used to say that it was the root cause of the depression he suffered from all his life. He was immensely proud of his father and loved the aunt who brought him up.

He remembered his time at Saffron Waldon with gratitude for the many friends he made. He became Secretary to the Old Scholars Association, helped to organise reunions, attended all the meetings as Croydon Meeting's representative, and kept up-to-date the list of Old Scholars' deaths.

He was a librarian, a profession that suited his studious nature, and the custodian of his father's diaries and other papers, liaising with the Imperial War Museum.

Music was his great love. He sang and played the piano, and in this capacity regularly organised carol-singing in the meeting house at Christmas. He had a wide knowledge of classical and light music, especially that of the big bands of the 1930s, and when Philip Barron left the meeting took over as co-presenter of Croydon Friends' regular Christmas and Easter sharings of words and music. He was especially fond of jazz, and with Anthea Underwood, a fellow-member of the meeting, followed Live Band performances from venue to venue, always enjoying the fish and chips which were served in the interval.

He shared his knowledge not only with the meeting but also as a volunteer DJ at Mayday Hospital Radio (now Croydon University Hospital). He greatly enjoyed his weekly stints, collecting requests, organising a programme, and playing patients' choices over the internal radio.

He was a man of strict morals. A lifelong pacifist, he neither drank nor gambled, Later in life he part-owned a racehorse and followed its fortunes on the race-track. Visiting the stables and talking to the

manager and stable hands gave him great pleasure, which he shared with his friend Anthea. We remember them telling us all enthusiastically, after Meeting for Worship, which racecourse they were visiting that afternoon and which horses they were following (but of course not betting on).

Wilf was very popular with the younger members of the Meeting. He was always kind, approachable, with a sense of humour they enjoyed. Everyone who attended the musical concert given in aid of a Young Friend going to university remembers Wilf's songs, which he sang unaccompanied, to much laughter.

His decision to remove to Bernhard Barron Cottage Homes was made after much thought and soul-searching. It is a Quaker Foundation, and several members of Croydon Meeting were in residence there and spoke favourably of its organisation and caring atmosphere. Clearing his house and finding a home for his vast collection of books and sheet music, many of historic value, was very time-consuming. He faced his new life with courage, finding tasks which would support the lives of the other residents, especially the Quakers, reorganised their library, and, after a lifetime of living alone, settled in to a structured day among people he had little in common with. He kept in touch with his friends at Croydon, writing from time to time for their newsletter, glad to see visitors when that was allowed, always happy to chat on the phone.

He was valued as the oldest and longest-time member of Croydon Meeting, and was much loved by us all.

(Gillian Turner and David Parlett, Croydon Quakers)

Wilf had a great deal of contact with the family. He spent every Christmas with us until he went to Bernhard Baron. He quite often came for Easter, always on his birthday in May and then for a week or more in August. After the pandemic Shirley and Jonathan were able to Skype him every week. Keeping in touch with us all was an important part of his life.

(Shirley Hare)

