

A Tribute to Jack Dixon by Keith Pearce, March 2024



Keith Pearce, Custodian, writes:

“The Friends of the Cemetery were greatly saddened by the death of our long-serving Committee member, Jack Dixon, on 24th November 2023, at the age of 83, after a long illness.

Jack was a Town Councillor for 32 years, from June 1986, was Mayor of Penzance from 1992 to 1994, and was granted the Freedom of Penzance in acknowledgement of his service to the town. He was a prominent and vocal supporter on the Council of the town's historic Grade II listed Jewish Cemetery, which he regarded as a jewel in the town's heritage.

When I became the cemetery's custodian in 1998, Jack, was consistently supportive of my early efforts to seek better protection and maintenance for the cemetery, and he became an invaluable ally during a particularly crucial period when the former St. John's school and community buildings, adjacent to the cemetery, were re-developed. He was also a supporter of the cemetery's restoration, attending the civic ceremony which marked the cemetery's formal re-opening in 2016.

I owe him a great personal debt of gratitude for his constant help and encouragement, which played a significant part in conserving the cemetery's future. He was always a source of valuable advice, observation and practical knowledge, qualities which he brought with him as a member of the Friends' Committee. During his last illness, Jack was prevented from attending our Committee, and decided to relinquish his membership. We were delighted, however, that he agreed to become an Honorary Member shortly before his death. His integrity, humanity and warmth were always a source of strength and he will be greatly missed by all who knew him.”