

Brian Crawford (RIP)

by Duncan Crawford

Richard Brian St. Aubyn Crawford born 4th May 1945
Mowbray Nursing Home, Cape Town, died 17th August 2013
at Sherburn in Elmet, Yorkshire.

Brian was educated at Bramley Primary School and Northview High School, both in Johannesburg. Brian set out from school to study wine making, and commenced wine studies at Stellenbosch, but switched courses and graduated from Stellenbosch University with a BA in Economics.

Brian met his wife Anne whilst studying in Stellenbosch: they were married in Cape Town in 1967, with Groomsman Andy Collin and Best Man his brother, Duncan (NVS 1957 – 1961).

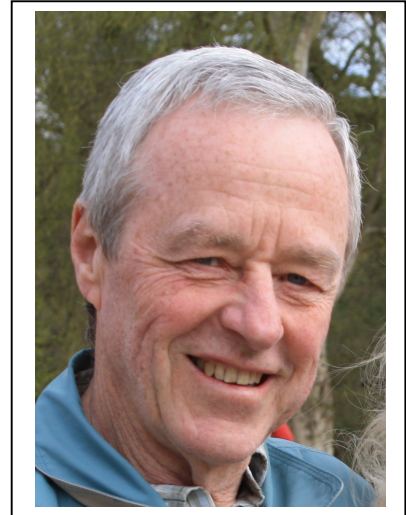
Brian was foremost a people person: he had many friends both in the UK and in South Africa. He was a great story teller and teller of a seemingly endless jokes and one-liners. Brian was also gifted at languages; he learnt Afrikaans at university and in his forties, learned fluent Dutch to a business level.

Brian enjoyed travel, both within each country he and his family lived in, and abroad. He also enjoyed entertaining and was a charming host. His hobbies included gardening, reading, music, steam trains, good food, and an appreciation both of good wine and good beer.

Brian was successful and always committed to his job. He was able to relax out of work and was never short of highly amusing stories gleaned from morsels from office day-to-day business. He commenced a career in transport with Stuttaford's Van Lines; a career in transport which took him to the UK with a position with Pickfords and later to a private UK company in the antiques trading business. He then secured a London-based position with a private Saudi company in charge of logistics. During this period he was offered an attractive position by a Dutch transport business Wassing BV in Tilburg, Holland, and relocated with his family to take up his position. He then returned to the UK where he owned a landscaping business in Leeds, and finally joined the multi-national service provider Serco, working first in London and then in Liverpool where he continued working until his passing. During his time with Serco in London, he had the unusual pleasure of working in the same office as his son Aubyn.

Brian will be greatly missed by his family and friends, and is survived by his widow Anne, his son Aubyn and daughter Kate and his nephews and nieces. Anne, Aubyn and Kate are settled in the Pocklington and Wilberfoss area near York.

Brian's ashes were scattered on a green rolling hill overlooking a valley in Great Givendale, North Yorkshire, a part of the country much loved by him (see picture below).



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Crawfords in the field at Great Givendale where Brian's Ashes are scattered†. From l-to-r: Louise, Michele, Anne (wife), Aubyn (son), Lawrence, Duncan (brother) [†Ashes are at 53°58'26.81"N, 0°45'17.66"W]



From l-to-r: **Adults:** Aubyn (son), Louise, Duncan, Michele, Anne (wife), Christian, Lawrence, Kate (daughter), Jo
Children: Theo, Isabella, Alexia, Ellie, Luke



Brian with Andy Collin -
in Cape Town, 1963