

RECORD OF REMEMBRANCE FOR LEONARD HEEKS 1920 - 2009

Leonard was a gentle and unassuming man, always pleased to meet and greet friends and visitors and to offer a helping hand with mundane tasks. He was therefore held in great affection by all who knew him and has been described as a true Quaker. However he had an Anglican upbringing, singing in the choir and later becoming organist at St Paul's Church, Slough. He and Peggy were married in the Anglican Church.

Leonard was passionate about music, which became not only a hobby but a career. He spent his working life with Hickies Music Shop, an old established family firm, working in their Slough, Bournemouth and Reading branches. He took great care of his customers and would be able to identify the music they wanted, even if they could only hum a few bars! He was also chair of the Reading Gramophone Society for twenty years and received an award for 'outstanding association' with EMI.

There were three strands in Leonard's life: his music, his religion and his family and friends. He and Peggy did not discover Quakers until the 1960s, when they met a Quaker family in Devon and were impressed by the sense of serenity. They became members of Reading Meeting, where they remained for nearly thirty years. They also served as Friends in Residence at Pendle Hill and at Woodbrooke. The Heeks came to Oxford in 1988. Leonard soon felt at home, working in the Quaker Centre, serving teas and coffees after Meeting and becoming an Overseer. He and Peter Stark ran monthly 'Music on Sundays' for several years, choosing varied programmes of recorded music which they played in their own homes. Leonard's vast knowledge of composers and their music gave a lot of pleasure to the regulars, and, judging by the gales of laughter coming from the sitting-room, the planning stage was also much enjoyed by him and Peter.

Leonard was a devoted family man, immensely proud of his wife Peggy, his two sons, Alan and Richard, and his four grandchildren. He loved to invite others to his home to share music, poetry and food. In 2002 Leonard's sight began to fail and then a stroke robbed him of his mobility, but he still retained his delight in Quakers, coming to Meeting whenever he could. When he had to go into residential care, he made the most of the opportunity, welcoming visitors and giving support to all around him. Even in his declining years he remained intensely interested in people. After his death, one of his care-workers at The Beaumont Nursing Home remarked, "the spark has gone out of this floor now."

Leonard had infectious good-humour and integrity. He was much loved and is missed by many.

