

ANDY FULLER (Frances Baskerville writes)

Known for many years by plenty of us, old friend Andy Fuller sadly died 26th April 2020, succumbing to COVID-19. This is just awful for his partner Debbie, particularly when they were so happy in their home near Devizes in Wiltshire. Andy was fully integrated into the community and was full of beans when I last spoke to him about four months ago, telling me about their plans for the garden and inviting me to stay this summer.

He was supremely proud of his two girls, Tori and Lizzie, always ready to describe their adventures and progress at work which, for both of them has been magnificent. A very proud father, was Andy.

Kim Fisher wrote to me saying:

'It is sad news about Andy Fuller. I worked with Andy for 40 years one way or another. When I first knew him he was at UKHO Taunton and was the NAVAREA 1 coordinator for navigation warnings. There was a night watch for which the radio room had a bed in an alcove. I always used to remind him that when I first knew him they used to lock him a cupboard at night.'

Michael Rambaut has also been very kind and supplied us with this below and a couple of great pictures – the first of Andy and Caroline, and the second known as the Teddy Boys!:

'I first met Andy when he was doing NAVTEX and Safety NET for the Hydrographic Office in Taunton. He joined Inmarsat to look after Maritime Safety Services. on the privatisation of Inmarsat Andy started a consultancy company called Marine Works. Soon however, he joined IMSO which was established as an IGO to protect the public services related to maritime satcoms.

I regularly met him at the international meetings, where we would consider maritime matters together and talk about yachting which was a passion of his. The sail number of his yacht was 2182, which will remind those older members of one of the frequencies used for distress.



As two couples we met up quite often, particularly at RTCM when we had very memorable evenings together.

The last time we were together was during the assessment of Iridium for access to the GMDSS, when he was enjoying life, having retired to Wiltshire and doing a bit of consultancy. I'm very sad to lose such a character from our maritime world, and send condolences to his family.'

Andy had breathing problems, never really complaining about this but I know that this was quite a trial for him, particularly at nights when he told me he needed a continual oxygen supply. He was good at being stoical and brushing this off as a passing annoyance! We all know how good he was at his job (as well as the Times – or was it Telegraph? - crossword) and his genuine smile and nature will be missed by all of us.

