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## OBITUARY

### RT. HON. SIR CHRISTOPHER STAUGHTON

Christopher Staughton was born in London in 1933 of an Australian father and a Canadian mother who had met in Cambridge. He spent the War years in Long Crendon where he learnt to love gardening and making jam!

A scholar at both Eton and Magdalene College, Cambridge, he was called to the Bar in 1955. He practised at the Commercial Bar as a Junior barrister and then had a distinguished career as a Q.C. He went on to serve as a High Court Judge in the Queen's Bench Division and then as an Appeal Court Judge. He followed his time on the Bench by becoming an International Arbitrator and the President of the Court of Appeal of Gibraltar.

His association with Sarratt began in his twenties when he was introduced to Joanna Burgess, who was to become his wife, at her 18<sup>th</sup> birthday dance. Joanna's family, the Days, have lived in Sarratt since the 16<sup>th</sup> Century and when Joanna inherited Sarratt Hall from her father they both came here with their tiny daughters. Christopher proceeded to garden happily, growing his favourite dahlias and wielding his pruning saw and secateurs with enthusiasm. Indeed he spent his last summer doing just that.

He took a full part in Sarratt life, attending Holy Cross Church regularly for fifty years and even appearing at theatrical events in the Village Hall in his Judges Robes. He always entered the 'Horty' Flower Show with optimism and was delighted when he sometimes won a cup for his beloved dahlias or roses. He was disappointed when his jam did not!

Christopher was a much respected and popular figure in the Village. In his last year he was often seen walking along The Green to the Shop. This was much safer than when he still bicycled erratically along the middle of the road. Sometimes found sitting at the bus stop or in John Guy's garden he was always sure to be rescued by the Sarratt 'locals' and returned safely and kindly to Joanna at Sarratt Hall.

He will be greatly missed, as a distinguished inhabitant of the village, but even more as someone who participated fully in village affairs and who treated everyone he met with the same courtesy and humour.

We extend our deepest sympathy to Joanna, his widow, to his daughters Catherine and Sarah, and to their families.