

An Appreciation

Andrew Jobbings, who died in July 2019 after two years of illness, will be well-known to readers of the *Gazette* as the writer of incisive Notes and Articles, nearly always of direct use in the classroom, and with intriguing titles such as *Sudoku is four-dimensional* and *Folding a triangle*. He was also a reliable referee and a regular contributor to Feedback. However, his main contribution over the last thirteen years has been as a proof-reader of the Notes section of the journal. This is a painstaking but essential task, as it ensures that what appears in print is free of spelling or grammatical mistakes and represents what the author wrote, as well as conforming to the house style of the journal. As expected, he was meticulous in carrying out this task.

Andrew was a key figure in the work of the United Kingdom Mathematics Trust, with a real gift for problem-setting. He was responsible for the IMOK suite of papers and chaired the setting committee until very recently, when ill-health prevented him from doing so, but he still turned up to the marking weekends and was keen to talk about problems which intrigued him. He was also a member of the board of the *Association Kangorou sans Frontières* since the 1990s and was well respected amongst the European problem-setting fraternity. He also wrote a number of textbooks for the Trust and contributed to Summer Schools and other events. Since retiring early from teaching he had founded the company Arbelos which produced excellent posters which adorn the walls of many a school mathematics classroom, as well as writing and publishing books on knot theory and geometric origami.

He loved mountains and the outdoors and had climbed challenging routes on Skye, and it was while walking in Majorca that he first noticed symptoms of a neurological condition which affected his balance. What was particularly tragic is that this also prevented him sitting on his laptop to design the meticulous text and beautiful diagrams which were instantly recognisable as his work. I remember in particular a picture of sixteen incircles and excircles, all of which are tangential to the nine-point circle, which he produced for a geometry book of mine, and which has been reproduced in colour in publicity material.

More than anything, Andrew was excellent company, with a unique sense of humour. With new or inexperienced volunteers, he went out of his way to encourage them and to show how much he valued their contribution. He will be sadly missed by everybody who was privileged to know him.

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