

Phillip Jenkins, 1940 – 2026



Phillip Jenkins, always known as Phill, died on 6 July, 2026. He grew

up in Newport, South Wales, and remained a proud Welsh man throughout his life. He rowed for his school and was a good tennis player. He graduated from Newport College of Art in 1961 with a National Diploma in Design. He worked briefly as a Graphic Designer in an advertising agency in London and then did a PGCE course and became a lecturer at Redruth College of Art in Cornwall.

He was appointed Lecturer in Graphic Design at Liverpool college of Art in 1966. Phill's role in the Graphic Design department was First Year tutor and he ran a very successful diagnostic course enabling students to make informed choices for further specialism for the following two years of the course. He was especially sympathetic to unconfident and over modest students, and was greatly valued for this. Phill developed a very early interest in the use of computers as visual design tools, as well as the vast potential of the newly invented World Wide Web for visual communication.

He was indeed a pioneer in these fields Nationally, arguing the case for them against opposition from more traditionally minded design staff. In recognition of this, he was seconded to the BBC design department at Television Centre for six months to explore the potential for Graphic Design in motion on television.

He was also a believer in the value of field trips to London so that students could experience there the vibrant art and design in the 1970's, 80's and 90's, and make contacts with future employers. He was a skilled organiser of these, which were mostly based on accommodation at The Regents Palace Hotel just off Piccadilly Circus, at that time a slightly louche establishment, now

demolished. These trips were known as “Jenkins’s Tours” The Hotel was conveniently close to West End Central Police Station, Savile Row, where occasionally Phill would have to negotiate with the Desk Sergeant to release with a caution a sobering up student...He was a fondly valued colleague at The Art School and by his many students who went on to successful careers in the design and film and television industries.

With the Liverpool job, Phill moved to Oxton, then known as “The Hampstead of the North” - a slightly bohemian leafy suburb where many Academics, Architects and Planners lived. It was a lively period, with many young families, regular parties and social drinks centred on The Talbot (now OBK) and “The Shrew”.

When he retired, he was an avid follower of Welsh and Newport Rugby. He was always keen to tell people that Newport, his local club, had beaten every major touring team including Australia, South Africa, and the All Blacks. Weekend television coverage of Wimbledon and rugby internationals, were always viewing highlights. He kept up his sporting prowess with less energetic but regular pool sessions with his close chums – easily the best pool player in the group if at times a little distracted.

During retirement he became a proficient self-taught DIY builder. He renovated houses in Oxton, and carried out a major refurbishment of an old farm house and outbuildings in North Wales. He built raised beds there to grow vegetables, for which the local wildlife, particularly the deer and rabbits, were grateful. They were disappointed when after two years he gave up the unequal battle.

Phill, with his partner Ann, were always great supporters of the Oxton Society. He was awarded an “Outstanding Contribution to Oxton” in 2022 in recognition of his impact. His eye for innovation led to a new approach to the job of regularly watering our hanging baskets. Phill proposed an automatic watering system based on 5 supply points throughout the village. Installed, by John Booth and his son Phil, the system has secured the future of the baskets for years to come. He applied his design skills to most of the Society’s graphic output, including posters, awards, etc. He took over the re-design of our

Newsletter and transformed it from an old-fashioned amateurish photocopied nonentity to the slick well-designed product that we all enjoy now. Working with Jim, at Impressions, he introduced a 3-day turnaround for 800 coloured, collated and stapled issues, ready to distribute

Phill was a lover of food and wine and a very good cook. He loved cask ale and a chat with friends in the pub. Always keen to try a new Indian restaurant, he was also a knowledgeable devotee of Chinese cuisine involving regular visits to the Tai Pan on Dock Road, Liverpool for Dim Sum lunches with his builder buddies.

His partner, Ann, died a year before him. He leaves a daughter Charlotte and a son Sam. Both had successful careers, Charlotte as a senior specialist nurse. Sam followed in his father's footsteps and is a successful graphic designer. He was very involved in the lives of his grandchildren, and of Ann's family. Phill was a well-known and popular Oxton character with a great appetite for life. He will be remembered as a generous and hospitable man, who will be missed by his friends and family.