

Diabetes group saddened after sudden death of key member



Robert Goldsmith had a dry wit and a lovely sense of humour

ENTHUSIASTIC TREASURER ROBERT GOLDSMITH REMEMBERED FOR SUPPORT, SAGE ADVICE AND SENSE OF HUMOUR

IT IS with great sadness that the Croydon Diabetes UK Voluntary Group announced the sudden death of its member and treasurer, Robert Goldsmith.

Robert, 82, was an enthusiastic committee member for a number of years and treasurer for the past six years. He supported the group in many initiatives and programmes and was a strong supporter of promoting greater diversity of membership and activities to better reflect the population of Croydon.

Robert, never a Bob, was diagnosed with Type 2 diabetes in 2003 and joined the Croydon Group a little later. He joined the committee in late 2008, became the Newsletter Editor in 2009 for three years, and then Treasurer in 2012 – a role he held to the end.

Gifty Nmaju, chair of Croydon Diabetes UK Voluntary Group, said: "Merely to say that Robert 'held' a role would be to completely misunderstand the man. He was totally calm at all times and completely unflappable – his business background was invaluable to us. He

always found time to take part and help in every activity the group did – with his daughter Karen helping as well. Robert contributed to all the discussions, attending every committee meeting, plus helping at public meetings and events.

"He had a very dry wit and lovely sense of humour that was always present in everything he said and did. We will all miss his enthusiasm, support and sage advice.

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Robert was a hero, a committed member, a loving father and a dear friend. He will be greatly missed by all of us."

Robert, a retired accountant, took part in yoga, walking and the healthy food programme that the group ran locally.

He was sociable and loved playing Bridge and sailing Heron dinghies well into his retirement. He was also active in his local Church.

Roz Rosenblatt, London head of Diabetes UK, said: "We were all saddened to hear of Robert's death. We send our sincere condolences to Gillian, his wife for over 60 years, his sons Peter and Stephen and his daughter Karen."