

CMA 8/20/06

Tributes to former journalist

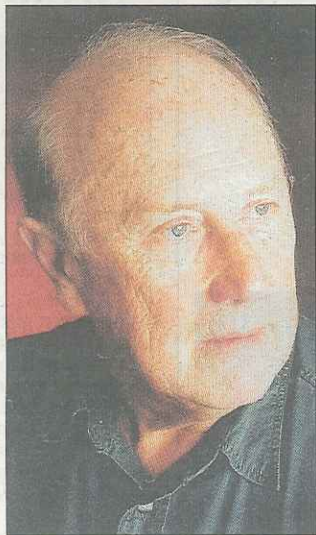
TRIBUTES have been paid to a former *Chester Chronicle* journalist, who died last week, aged 76.

Kevin Catchpole was born in Ellesmere Port and educated as a chorister at Chester Cathedral and at Chester City Grammar School, after which he began his long career as a journalist with a particularly strong interest in theatre and the arts.

Later, academic study awarded him an Associate of the Drama Board (ADB) and a BA (Hons) in Theatre Studies, at Rose Bruford College, London.

Mr Catchpole joined the *Chester Chronicle* as a junior reporter in the 1950s, taking time out in the mid 60s to work for HM Central Office of Information in Manchester which included a spell of freelance announcing with the BBC North West region.

After this brief time away from journalism he returned to Chester as arts editor and subsequently deputy editor of the *Cheshire Observer*, becoming editor of the *Whitchurch Herald* in 1986.



Kevin Catchpole

In his mid 30s, Kevin was one of the youngest magistrates to be appointed in the City of Chester. He also enjoyed extensive travelling, in particular accompany-

ing the City of Chester Male Voice Choir on several visits abroad.

Kevin Catchpole will also be remembered in Chester for his work in amateur theatre, both as a performer, a director of musical theatre and the Chester Mystery Plays in particular. He was a founder member of the Chester Mystery Plays Company, inaugurated in 1986, and played an active role until his departure for Salisbury. He played the role of God in 1977 in front of Princess Margaret.

In 1988 Kevin was appointed communications officer, bishop's spokesman for the Diocese of Salisbury and editor of the *Sarum Link*, retiring in 1997 when he joined the *Salisbury Journal* as theatre and entertainment writer. He also wrote extensively for the British Theatre Guide website.

Kevin Catchpole died peacefully on Friday, September 7, in Salisbury District Hospital after a short illness.

His funeral will take place on Tuesday, September 25, at 12.30pm in Chester Cathedral.