

A Tribute to Andy from his friends in
the uk.d-i-y Usenet Newsgroup

This is very sad indeed. Andy was truly one of a kind, who touched everyone he met, with his fantastic sense of humour and in-depth knowledge of almost all subjects. Both myself and Mrs G will miss him greatly, and feel privileged to have known him.

Grunff <grunff@ixxa.com>

That's terrible. I'll miss lots about Andy...the ideas, the perfectionism (to aspire to, at the very least), and of course taking the rise out of him too! A sad loss.

"Bob Eager" <rde42@spamcop.net>

That is very, very sad news. My sympathy to his family.

Bruce <no@nospam.net>

A terrible shock. His contributions here will be greatly missed. Poor Andy.

Derek Geldard <derek@miniac.demon.co.uk>

How very sad. One of nature's gentlemen - that opinion reinforced on the couple of occasions I met him in person. His posts will be much missed for the levelness they brought into many a discussion - as will his excellent advice on those things he was expert in, which were many.

Dave Plowman <dave@davenoise.co.uk>

Agree or disagree—and I did both—he will be missed. Most especially, by me, on many of the off-topic rambles and meanders. It would be nice to think that his family could come by here sometime and read this.

Rod <polygonum@nthworld.com>

That is very sad to hear, Andy was one of the most prolific and useful posters to uk.d-i-y, he will be missed.

Chris Green <tinnews@jsbd.co.uk>

Over 22,000 posts to uk.d-i-y, over 27,000 to usenet overall. That's quite some record.

Tim Downie <timdownie2003@obviousyahoo.co.uk>

That is a real real shock: I've met Andy at several meets and the Sandown woodworking show. We may not have agreed about everything but his contributions to this group will be sadly missed

Tony Bryer <tonyb@delme.sda.co.uk>

That is very sad news indeed. Andy always demonstrated a very professional approach to all subjects on which he posted, and I had a great deal of respect for him - although I never met him in the flesh. I was aware from his posts that he had various health problems - but his sudden demise is still a great shock. This newsgroup will be poorer without him. RIP Andy.

Roger Mills <watt.tyler@googlemail.com>

I had wondered where he was, and was considering posting to ask if he was okay. His contributions here will be missed.

Sheila Viemeister <sheila@viemeister.co.uk.>

That's very sad news. I too hope that you might pass on to his family our appreciation of Andy's high-quality contribution to this newsgroup over many years.

Jon N "The Night Tripper" <jkn_gg@nicorp.co.uk>

We never met but I'll miss him. The debate about Agas will never be quite the same again. He was always ready to argue his case eloquently yet at the same time gave freely of his time to help others particularly newcomers here. If there is any form of continued existence I suspect their QC department is going to have a real problem on their hands when they have to explain to Andy his relocation was due to faulty pipework.

Peter Parry <peter@wpp.ltd.uk>

Not much I can add to this - sad, sad news indeed ☹ Never met him, but have had plenty of "discussions" on here over the years. Best hope for everyone's sake heaven isn't paved in laminate or someone will have hell to pay :-☹ He'll be missed in here, it'll not be the same without him ☹

Darren Chapman <D.M.Chapman@ukc.ac.uk>

I was genuinely shocked and saddened to hear this news despite never having met Andy. No disrespect to any other members here (as many have been of such invaluable assistance), but it was always reassuring to have a contribution from Andy in the thread of a post - his input was always right on the money. UK.D-I-Y has certainly lost one of its key contributors. As others have said, I sincerely hope that his close friends and family are shown this thread so that they understand the respect that others had for Andy. My condolences to his family.

Phil

Sad news. This newsgroup will be overrun by complaints on cheap chinese ALDI/LIDL tools, and Mr Hall won't get the chance to say "I told you so...". He'll miss that, and we'll miss him for it...

Adrian C

Not to mention his views on laminate flooring. He will be will sadly missed on this newsgroup for both his very good advice and his sense of humour. My condolences to his family.

Adam "ARWadworth" <adamwadsworth@blueyonder.co.uk>

I'm very sorry and it would be good if his family could be sent our condolences.

Mary Fisher <mary.fisher@zetnet.co.uk>

I liked this man. He was always helpful and had time for new people with daft questions. He helped me a lot with my projects, particularly my new central heating and was a great help to me. I will miss reading him. ☹ R.I.P.

EricP <ericp@blueyonder.co.uk>

How very sad. He will be greatly missed. My condolences to his family.

Anne Welsh Jackson <amygdala@zetnet.co.uk>

Really sad news. He'll be sorely missed on here.

Frank Erskine <frank.erskine@btinternet.com>

I'm saddened. Truly. Andy had his own opinions, and was not backward in coming forward, but I mean that as a compliment. I enjoyed occasional debates with him, and truly appreciated his advice.

Graeme <Graeme@nospam.demon.co.uk>

The month's silence was ominous, and the news is quite a shock. I add my condolences.

Andy Wade

What a sad loss for his family and this group. He will be sorely missed. This newsgroup will never be the same without you and all the help you have given. There is something to be said for someone who will give their time away for free helping others that they will never meet for real. Rest in peace Andy our thoughts and prayers are with you. Thank you for all your help Andy even though I never told you how much you have help me specifically I couldn't have done my house without you. God Bless.

Samantha Booth <mail@cheekySPAMchurros.com>

Beautifully put. May I take the opportunity to add my condolences. The response here has been truly touching and as other have said, I hope his family can see the appreciative sentiment expressed in this newsgroup.

Andy Capp

I've always admired and respected Andy's posts, and he will be a great loss to the newsgroup. I met him a number of times at the DIY meetings we had in London and Berkshire areas. His area of business was similar to mine, although we never actually worked together on anything. However, I did use him as a voice of reason and logical thought when I was weighing up two slightly different career paths, where his advice was just as valuable as his comments here have always been. I will certainly miss him, and my thoughts are with his parents, wife, and children.

Andrew Gabriel

I am now thoroughly annoyed with myself. No such meeting having been mentioned in ages, I had thought to suggest one earlier this summer. (Circumstance made this difficult, so I did not do so.) I certainly would like to have met Andy. I am finding it poignant that those posts of his that I most appreciated were on OT health issues. Please put my name to any such card - and if I have said anything quotable, do so.

Rod <polygonum@ntlworld.com>

Just goes to show that once the “*If only*” have gone, they are gone and that you only get one go. Andy put a fair amount into that one go. Maybe a wake up call for some of us.

geoff <raden@kateda.org>

I've been arguing with Andy for longer than I care to remember, but I don't think we ever fell out. Despite not agreeing on anything, I shall miss his consistency and reasoned arguments

Stuart Noble <stuart_noble@ntlworld.com>

Please put my name on the card too. I've always valued Andy's contribution, and shared his general outlook. I'd like to think that he has contributed more than mere practical advice, but also valuable advice on how best to consider things for yourself. Farewell Andy.

Ron Lowe <ronATlowe-famlyDOTmeDOTukSPURIOUS>

As a relative new comer and lurker, I can see how much of a loss this will be not only to this group but also, undoubtedly, to those closer to Andy. Not to mention the manufacturers and vendors of premium tools. A sad loss all round. RIP Andy.

GMM <Handyl@dsl.pipex.com>

Please add my name. I can't think of any thing to say that hasn't been said already. Farewell Andy, we never met but you will be missed.

Dave Liquorice <allsortsnotthisbit@howhill.com>

What sad news. My last message exchange with Andy was a biscuit pun. Good to have a happy memory.

Paul Herber <SubstituteMyFirstNameHere@pherber.com>

That is really sad news. I hope Andy got as much from the group of what he gave to it. The power tools have spun down and the lid of the toolbox closed.

Owain <owain47125@stirlingcity.coo.uk>

That's not right.

The Natural Philosopher

This is a shock. My condolences to his family - I will always be grateful for Andy's contributions to this group. He has given me a number of ideas over the last few years, which are now proving to be invaluable for the current job in hand. Although it will be no consolation for Andy's family at this time, if a man can leave this world thought of so highly by even people he hasn't met, he's done well. But, no, it's not right.

Tim S <ts@dionic.net>

I thoroughly agree on all counts. To be rich in spirit and remembered as a decent person is the greatest thing anyone can aspire to IMHO, all other aspirations are frippery and will pass. Andy seems to have met all the requirements to be regarded as high quality. Please pass on my condolences if there's to be a card or such.

Clint Sharp <clint@clintsmc.demon.co.uk>

Ah, bugger. Really, really sorry to hear that - the place definitely won't be the same without his good-humoured (and sometimes pig-headed) defence of quality. Pass on my condolences. Please ask his wife to make sure the coffin/urn is made of the finest materials and delivered by hand-selected veiled maidens. He'd appreciate that.

Dave "Grimly Curmudgeon" <grimly4REMOVE@REMOVEgmail.com>

Very sad news. I have been busy today so have come late to this thread so will just say that I agree with all the good things that have been already said about Andy. He will surely be greatly missed. My condolences to his family.

Roger Chapman <roger@nospam.zetnet.co.uk>

I am so sorry to hear that Andy has died, he will be missed. I appreciated being able to trust that he would always have his facts right .. and his opinionated views. My condolences to his family.

Anna Kettle

I'm always one of the last to comment on announcements such as these even though usually one of the first to see them it would seem. I never know just what to say or how to say it. I'm a bit rubbish with this sort of stuff, so bare with me... For me no-one "passes away" for that indicates they leave those they loved, places they appreciated and tasks they enjoyed behind. Passed over, crossed over, gone to the other side, how ever it's termed, it's *never* "passed away" ! I, like many (most) others here I didn't know Andy Hall personally so I can't relate to him as just "Andy" for me he will always be "Andy Hall" a man with great input into the group who's opinions and thoughts will be greatly missed and always respected. No doubt he will be keeping an eye on his family from the other side and giving guidance in whatever way he can to anyone that asks him for DIY spiritual assistance. The answers that come to us in light of sleep are I believe answers from those that have passed before us and those who are always in our thoughts. My thoughts and wishes go to everyone touched by Andy Hall; friends, family, acquaintances and those like myself that only knew him as a source of wisdom in the realms of uk.d-i-y Andy Hall, gone but never forgotten.

Pete <0845.86.86.888@GymRatZ.Gym.Equipment>

As a long-time lurker and occasional poster, you echo my sentiments completely. My condolences to his family and friends.

Grumps

Jings, I'm really sad to hear it. I'd assumed he was off seeing to the massive business empire. I'll miss the irascible, but thoroughly worthwhile Andy.

Steve Firth <%steve%@malloc.co.uk>

I am not a believer, but if he is there, God bless Andy, I always admired his very knowledgeable posts to this group.

Dave <davenpat@btopenworld.com>

That's a tragedy. I met him in Exeter before an Axminster tool show at Westpoint one time. He was a gentleman. My condolences to his family.

Al Reynolds <ajr-news@bat400.com>

Poor sod, he'll be missed greatly ☹ RIP Andy

Colin Wilson

Oh no. I just can't believe that, what a tragedy. I'm going to miss the guy, things won't be quite the same around here anymore.

Dave "The Medway Handyman" <davidlang@nospamblueyonder.co.uk>

I will certainly miss his expert contributions on many many subjects. His contributions were often laced with his wicked sense of humour. I never met the guy but had a great respect for his views and advice. He steered me towards several excellent products with his constant search for perfection - boilers, garage doors, fridges particularly spring to mind. I'm sorry I never made it to one of the uk.d-i-y meets - sadly I won't now have the chance to put a face to the name. My sincere condolences to his family.

Simon Stroud <simon.stroud@btoutternet.com>

I'd like to add my name to the growing list of those expressing their sadness. Through the wonders of Google I've just been looking back at questions which I asked the good people of uk.d-i-y to which Andy gave answers. Until I did that I hadn't actually realised how much help he'd given me over the years, and how many things in this place owe something to his advice. He was always generous with his help, and remarkably patient given some of stupid things I've asked at times. His contributions embody the spirit of uk.d-i-y and what makes it so agreeable. I can't imagine what his family must be feeling, but I'd like to pass on my condolences.

Martin Pentreath <martin_pentreath@hotmail.com>

A sad loss and the newsgroup will miss his in depth and incisive posts.

Ed Sirett <ed@makewrite.demon.co.uk>

I haven't been on this newsgroup for some time but I know Andy was a regular poster. I just saw a thread the other day wondering where he was and now I see this. I'm really sorry. Didn't always agree with his insistence on buying the most expensive tools, but he did give a lot of good advice including some to my DIY queries.

<daddyfreddy@gmail.com>

He was one of a very few people on my Highlight list. Their posts light up red. I never wanted to miss his contributions. I'm not surprised to learn he was a Technical Director. The Memorial is a nice touch on their website. His family are in my prayers.

R. "TheOldFellow" <theoldfellow@gmail.com>

Losing this man leaves a space that will require several to fill. Remembering his opinions on quality power tools was always a welcome read although sometimes infuriating :) A couple of weeks ago I began looking forward to the next Andy Hall Quality Power Tool 'Seminar' in order to 'offer' something but I've missed that chance now. I'm remembering the Prof Toff, this day.

Arthur <pangga@btinternet.com>

To add my name to the list - so sudden, and scarily young.

Andy Champ

Indeed.. but he was just too young☹...

Tony Sayer <tony@bancom.co.uk>

Really sorry to hear that. I sometimes wondered how he managed to find the time to fit work in around his dedication to uk-diy. I met him a couple of times, and he'll be sorely missed

geoff <raden@kateda.org>

As a regular lurker and very occasional contributor I'd like to add my condolences to his family. I always read his posts with interest, although I didn't always agree with him - especially around his view on cheap tools. Anyway, I'll miss the old sod. R.I.P Andy Hall

Iain, in Pudsey "Swarfmaker" <iain@swarfmaker1.co.uk>

Damn. I don't know what to say, but I'll try to say it all the same. I was fortunate to meet him at one or two of the Thames Valley meets, must've been a few years ago. I liked him. I think if I'd only had his posts to the group to go by I might have found his rather right-wing views[1] disagreeable, though that only came through in a few threads - I recall discussions on postal services, and how the private sector was almost by definition superior to the public sector (although Andy made it clear he was speaking from his own experience: he never came across to me as a bullshitter). I did find his views of parts of Reading I drive through and work in as being no-go areas comparable to the warlord strongholds of Baghdad rather comical! And that's about all I can say about him that's less than eulogistic, and other contributors have spoken much better than I can of Andy's prolific, informed, helpful, expert contribution to this group and elsewhere. I suppose if you can't die instantly in an accident with a monstrous angle-grinder then Andy's was at least mercifully swift, but what a blow for his family. And for us all, in a relatively tiny way. I'd been thinking of suggesting another local meet but never got the round tuits.

[1] as in economic libertarian rather than social authoritarian: I didn't get the impression Andy would have wanted to or approved of dictating anyone's personal lives to them.

John Stumbles <john.stumbles@ntlworld.com>

Like everyone I can only say that is truly bad news. I enjoyed his contributions here; his clear thinking, tenacity of expression, a determination never to settle for second best.

djc <slais-www@ucl.ac.uk>

I was fearing the worst about Andy. I knew he was a diabetic. I have been away and just logged in and saw this thread. I never thought I could cry about someone I had never met.

"Doctor Drivel"

So long Mr Hall, him up stairs doesn't do arguments. ;-)

George <20xx20@blueyonder.co.uk>

Oh dear, I am gutted at that. We should have realised it would take a lot more than another of Andy's epic jaunts around Europe, the far east, S. Africa or America to keep him away from here for more than a few days. I first met Andy in the early 80's, when he was commissioning a fancy new piece of microprocessor development kit for us in British Aerospace, before his career really took off. This kit ran the (then) mysterious Unix system, and Andy took extra time out to teach me the basics of it - he was clearly an expert in Unix and comms even then - and I owe him a lot for getting me started in Unix and its offshoots. He moved on to the more esoteric technologies that now keep the web in good shape, and we lost touch until meeting up again in cyberspace, courtesy of uk.d-i-y, and then in person at that DIY meet in London in 2001. I met him again a couple of times at the 2004 meets in Exeter, where he recommended the hotel he was staying at - I guessed then it was not going to be cheap, but as in all things Andy did, it was the quality that mattered, not the cost*. That's not to say he was a snob, far from it, Andy was as comfortable as the rest of us supping ale (so long as it was a good one!) in any pub, along with a bar meal. He never once mentioned he was a Technical Director, nor indeed what his job was, and in discussions on here never pulled rank, relying on logic and his knowledge in a very wide range of topics to fire his many debates. Andy's death is a very sad loss, and though I only met him a few times he was a genuinely *NICE GUY*, and as others have said, a gentleman in the real sense. I am proud to count myself amongst those that have received much helpful advice from him, both as direct answers and from his host of helpful responses to others. My usenet filters have for years been set up to capture posts authored by "Andy Hall". I will miss posts ending with ".andy". Please add me to the condolence card list (if there is room!).

*Yes, it was expensive, but a damn good hotel.

Phil Addison <phil_a@bigNOSPAMfoot.com>

That's a shock and I'll miss his posts. My condolences to his family and especially his parents, I hope I don't suffer the grief of losing a child.

Andrew Heggie <news@sylva.icuklive.co.uk>

I am deeply saddened by the news. My thoughts are with his family and friends at this time. I think when I first stumbled across uk.d-i-y some six years ago or so, Andy was one of the first posters that truly made a lasting impression on me, and he helped set the tone for the group as a whole. I was thrilled to have found such a great collection of like minded people with wide and diverse interests and knowledge who were so willing to devote their time. Andy's devotion to providing detailed and comprehensive answers to questions even when from people just "dropping in" to the newsgroup was inspiring, and I felt a yardstick by which ones contributions could be measured. I will miss not only his detailed contributions, and advice, but also the humour, and the joy of someone else who liked the occasional bad pun as well!

John Rumm <john@internode.co.uk>

Oh, wow. Having been aware of Andy's absence for the last few weeks, as soon as I saw Andrew's email header I had that sinking feeling in my stomach. What a sad loss. Andy will really be missed round here; he's certainly helped me out on diy stuff over the years on more occasions than I can begin to count. Please convey my sympathy to his family, too.

David "Lobster" <davidlobsterpot601@hotmail.com>

Just a simple set of thoughts: 1. His advice was always honest. There was never self-interest in it. 2. His advice was usually correct. Yes, there were arguments but on balance he was always the most sensible contributor to this site. 3. I brought up my kids with a few messages. One of which was that the sort of people who mended and fixed things were better than those who wrecked things. My lads install things in their homes, are engaged in useful practical jobs and are happy. Sort of "Andy" people, perhaps. Thanks Andy
My big regret is that I have to say thank-you this way.....

Tim Brook "naffer" <timbrook99@hotmail.com>

I will miss Andy. My sincere condolences to his family and real-world friends.

Mike Harding "Ziggur" <ziggur@morlaix.com>

I'm late to the wake, but I'll add my own condolences to the family, and also say that he'll be missed. I can only aspire to the thoughtful and knowledgeable contributions he made to uk.d-i-y. I'm glad that people like him take the time and trouble to help others using his extensive experience. As others have said, a gentleman, and the kind of person who makes life better for everyone, not just himself.

Sid.

Brilliant: well said Sid - for me too. RIP Andy.

John <lalaw44@hotmail.com>

I'm truly saddened to hear this. I had a number of disagreements with Andy over differing points of view, but despite this it was obvious to me he was a gentleman with great integrity and knowledge covering many subjects, that he was able and willing to share with other people on this group. My heartfelt condolences go to his family and all his friends.

Mark

Oh Bugger ☹

Fred Carnot <FredCarnot@mob.invalid>

I think like you all I have followed the enquiries as the Andy's whereabouts with increasing concern, and to find that he has died is truly a great loss. The list of contributors to this thread covers all the regular members and more, and is a true reflection of the respect we all hold for him. And then his total resistance to anything that wasn't the best, which was all very well if you could afford that, but he wasn't prepared to compromise. So sorry - the world is a poorer place. My thoughts are with his family - and so young too.

Rob Graham <robkgraham@btinternet.com>

I'm sorry to hear of Andy's death. I have received much valuable advice from this group, of course including valuable advice from Andy that I will refer to throughout my future endeavours. My thoughts are with his family and friends.

Simon <sm_jamieson@hotmail.com>

Highly respected. "The Singer, not (always) the song."

Cicero <sheldrake@hellfire.co.uk>

How very sorry I am to hear of Andy's sad and untimely death. Please pass on my very sincere condolences to his family. As a long time lurker and occasional contributor to uk.d-i-y I appreciated his constructive comments on matters as diverse as DIY tools through to network attached storage devices. With the all-too-late knowledge of his background, I now understand the depth of experience from which those comments came. He will be missed

Richard Perkin <richard.perkin<AT>myrealbox.com>

I think everything has been eloquently put already. I too am a frequent lurker and very occasional poster. Andy responded to my first ever question here with advice I took and have never regretted. Very sad news indeed my thoughts are with his family. God bless you Andy R.I.P.

Andy Barron <andy@the-barrons.freeserve.co.uk>

Oh no, this is so sad. And one of those situations that words can never do justice. His clarity on political matters will be missed as well as his DIY expertise, though this is no comparison to the loss of his nearest and dearest.

NT <meow2222@care2.com>

Finally, in Andy's own words,

"Perfection is just an illusion, and as I've said to you before, when you've achieved it, there is only one way to go."

.andy