

Loved ones remember 'winning combination'

'Kind and loyal naval officer, 26, died while jogging

by Bess Browning

sittingbourne@thekmgroupp.co.uk
@KMSittingbourne

Friends and family of a Royal Navy lieutenant whose sudden death shocked the community yesterday gathered to pay tribute to a "kind, fun and loyal" man.

They packed into St Mary's Church in Teynham to say a final farewell to Joseph Wright, who is believed to have collapsed while out jogging in Scotland, where he was based.

The 26-year-old, from Conyer, had a promising career ahead of him, having been recommended to return to Submarine School and undertake the navy's most prestigious navigational course.

A former Borden Grammar School pupil, he was a keen sailor, rugby player and cyclist, and leaves behind his parents John and Janice and girlfriend Lottie.

Friend and colleague Lt Hamish Maxwell said: "Here was a man who would not only delight in cheering up his friends, but also take the lonely guy in class under his wing.

"He would make tough times easier and good times unforgettable.

"To the Navy, Joe was highly professional and immensely sociable; a winning combination in a sailor.

"To his mates, Joe was kind, fun and loyal; a winning combination in a friend.

"Joe loved the navy. In return,



Joseph Wright

Picture: MoD

the service has lost a very bright star, an irreplaceable officer, a one of a kind, larger than life friend."

Known as Joe to friends and family, he loved his dogs, off-road driving in his beloved Land Rover, shooting, as well as meeting new people and debating current affairs.

He passed away on January 8. Joseph joined the University of Stirling after school to study politics, philosophy and economics, before 18 months later realising it was not the career for him.

Looking for adventure, he joined the navy, entering Britannia Royal Navy College in early 2010 as a submarine warfare officer.

His training began aboard the HMS Ark Royal and with hard work and determination, he joined the Royal Navy Submarine School.

As a correspondence officer for the HMS Tireless, over 18 months he participated in operations in the Mediterranean, the Gulf of

'MORAL STRENGTH'

Staff at Borden Grammar School remembered Joseph with great affection.

His religious studies teacher Richard Sherwood-Farnfield recalled him as: "A young man with both moral and intellectual strength, with a strong commitment to social justice.

"He was able to analyse complex moral issues and understand a range of perspectives, and could debunk ill-supported and shallow arguments with aplomb.

"He was prepared to act as well as talk, attending, for instance, a Swale Minority Policing Panel event on a Saturday, and organising a quiz to combat prejudice.

"It was with great sadness that we heard of his death."

Oman and as far afield as Australia, where he supported international efforts to locate the Malaysian Airlines flight MH370.

On his return to the UK, he once again joined the Submarine School to prepare for his most anticipated job - becoming the navigating officer on a nuclear submarine.

He latterly joined HMS Victorious' Starboard Crew as the navigating officer in late 2015, ready to conduct his first nuclear deterrent patrol.