

# Coroner says it was a tragedy

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A RETIRED electrician for the Ministry of Defence died after being electrocuted in a tragic accident at his home.

Ian Sandy spent more than 30 years working at Portsmouth Dockyard and had spent many years wiring warships.

The 62-year-old worked his way up to the respected position of higher professional technology officer, in charge of a team of electricians working on minehunters.

But his life was cruelly cut short after a freak accident while rewiring some cables in the roof space of his home at New Road, Clanfield.

His heartbroken family today spoke of their huge loss and said they felt cheated as Mr Sandy was such a safety-conscious man.

An inquest at Portsmouth Guildhall heard Mr Sandy and his son Kelvin, also an electrician, were rewiring the loft on the day of November 27 last year. The pair were working with the power on, using electrical testing meters to establish the job of each cable.

The inquest heard Mr Sandy touched a live cable and became unconscious.

After switching the power off, Kelvin desperately tried to revive his father using mouth-to-mouth resuscitation, but was unable to get a pulse.

Firefighters from Horndean station arrived at 12.40pm and continued resuscitation until an ambulance crew came.

Mr Sandy was taken to Queen Alexandra Hospital, but was declared dead shortly after arriving.

Kelvin, 38, told the inquest: 'We were rerouting a lighting circuit to another place.'

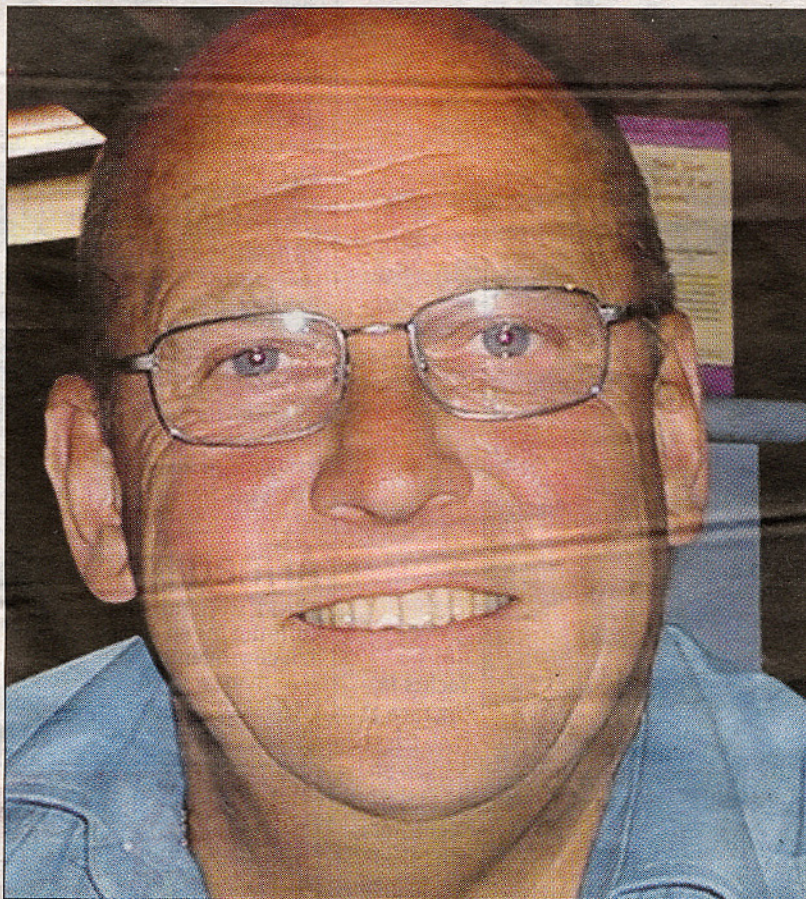
'We need to work live as electricians to establish which cable does what. There's a lot of cables there.'

'He did exactly what you would have done.'

'I have had many shocks myself and I am sure my dad had had many shocks in the past. I know he had.'

'Unfortunately this time it went across the heart.'

Recording a verdict of accidental death, Coroner David Horsley said: 'He was beyond help from the moment this



**TRIBUTES** Ian Sandy

## A loving husband and family man...

**WARM tributes have been paid to a loving dad, husband and grandfather.**

Mr Sandy, who was known to family and friends as Poppy, was a dedicated family man whose passion was travelling and caravanning.

His daughter Adele said: 'He was very popular. He was everybody's friend. There were over 280 people at his funeral.'

'He was a very loved, warm character and always the practical joker. He was just loved by everybody.'

She said he had continued electrical work after retiring at the age of 50 following an injury to his back. 'He was an all-rounder,' she said.

'There wasn't anything he couldn't turn his hand to.'

'He was one of those characters. He kept on with the electrical work.'

'He always did his own work. He did my work

and for other family members.'

Mr Sandy leaves behind his wife Yvonne, children Adele and Kelvin, and grandchildren Charlotte, Georgia, Max, Luke, Ella and Harry.

A joint tribute from the family said: 'Ian Francis Sandy, Our Poppy, was a loving and devoted husband, father and grandfather; he loved life and dedicated himself to his family.'

'We have many, many treasured memories that bring us comfort and fill us with love and laughter, there were just so many happy times we shared as a family unit, always united through the years.'

'Poppy was an amazing man, an inspiration to us all, he was our best friend and our hero and although he was taken from us by this tragic accident he will remain with us forever, always in our hearts and thoughts.'

'We love you Poppy, Appy Days!'

happened.

'It's a tragedy when you have two professionals working on something and doing it in the way it's done in the trade and when it's virtually impossible to do any other way. It's entirely due to an accident.'

Mr Sandy's daughter Adele Richards, 35, of Pyle Close, Cowplain, told *The News* the inquest had brought some clo-

sure for Kelvin.

She said: 'He blamed himself for a long time, thinking he could have done more, should have done more.'

'We have accepted the fact there was nothing that could have been done.'

'Everything was done. It was an instant thing.'

She added: 'We have always been an incredibly close family and always supported each

other. It's been hard.'

'It was something we felt should not have happened.'

'Obviously it was an accident. We feel slightly cheated that we did not have more time.'

She said electrical safety was always paramount for her dad.

'Of all things for it to have been, it just feels so wrong,' she added.