

For the Monte San Martino Trust, the death of our founder Keith Killby feels like the end of an era. Keith was one of the last of our original PoW veterans, and the only surviving former prisoner member of our board of trustees.

He was also, until very recently, a very active member of the Trust team. Having set the Trust up, developed its activities, and funded many of them personally, nearly thirty years ago, he might have been forgiven for taking a back seat.

But not Keith! He was passionate about the Trust and its work to the end, completely determined that it should flourish and grow, untiring in his efforts to ensure that the courage of so many Italian families should be recognised, unflagging in his encouragement and support for those prepared to help - and at times irritatingly if justifiably constant in his insistent focus on priorities and attention to detail.

Even in the last days of his long and extraordinary life, he was asking for updates on the work of the Trust, and wanting to discuss possibilities for the next speaker at the Trust's annual lunch.

He was in every way an inspiration to all of us, a source of wise counsel, sound common sense, dry and impish humour, and active and constant compassion.

Thanks to his care and attention, the Trust is in good heart and health, with a vibrant membership, a dedicated bunch of trustees and volunteers, the prospect of increasing student numbers, and growing public awareness in Italy and the UK.

The baton has been well and truly passed from Keith's generation to the next; a baton that sons, daughters and grandchildren have been proud to pick up - the principled and inspirational example of our founder and friend Keith Killby ever before us."