

# Lauri Say

Viv Fraser

*Through the involvement of editorial board members in the Liberal and General Studies Project during 2013-14, we have become aware of the death in 2010 at 79 of Lauri Say, a GS lecturer who started teaching in the early 1960s at Carshalton College and afterwards worked at the Isle of White, Tottenham and South Downs Colleges.*

*(An extended interview with Lauri was printed in issue 30 [September-October 1994] of our predecessor publication General Educator. For a copy of this interview, please email the editor on [cwaugh1@btinternet.com](mailto:cwaugh1@btinternet.com).)*

*We hope to include a fuller appreciation in our next (January) issue. In the meantime, we print here an initial response to the news of Lauri's death by a former GS lecturer who worked with him during his time at Tottenham College (Easter 1972-summer 1974).*

'These are my immediate thoughts: he was truly inspirational to all of us, and I still recall many of the things he said to me, along with all the lateral thinking problems we spent so many coffee breaks on. He gave me a whole new direction in my teaching, as I'm sure he did for all of us GS teachers. He really made me question my assumptions about what teaching involved, and indeed, what education was all about. Yet his questioning and challenging of my narrow 'academic' approach to learning and teaching, my respect for pedantry, was always with the gentlest of touches. I never felt defensive with him, only engaged in an exploratory exchange.

What charisma he had, and what an example he set to staying true to your principles and living a life truly expressive of who you are. He was charming, engaging, insightful, and without being a conventional authority figure commanded respect; it seemed as if he would never grow old. A very rock and roll man in a suit. Lauri is someone I will always remember, and I imagine that is true for anyone who has spent even the briefest of times with him.'



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