

Archive Tribute of
David Frank Hydes
29/01/1948 – 25/10/2018

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Tribute

David was born in Leeds on the 29th of January 1948 to Albert and Ada, the middle of three sons. He grew up with his brothers Michael and Graham in a close and loving family

The years after the war were hard for most people, but, David was never really aware of what they were going without. They were always well clothed and fed and he looked back on a happy childhood with fond memories.

They were big Leeds United fans and often went to games. Mum and Dad had a tandem with a cart attached to the back for the boys and they used to go out in it as a family most Sundays and to Filey on holiday each year, after the season had finished.

Albert and Ada valued education and passed this onto the boys. They all worked hard and won places at Leeds Grammar School. David enjoyed school, representing the school at rugby, swimming and lifesaving, but outside school he was a bit of a home bird, with his nose always buried in a book.

He fell in love with the works of Shakespeare from a young age and remained smitten for the rest of his life, but his other childhood loves of the Beano and Dandy did not survive.

In later years he often spoke with affection of a childhood train set and so when he first became ill he was bought a joke present of a train set. This was to rekindle a childhood passion, which was to grow and grow as did the size of his model railway and the space needed to house it. He passed this passion onto Archie who will now be the custodian of the model railway

The three boys, encouraged and supported by their parents, did well and David after gaining A Levels attended Liverpool University where he studied English

and Geography. He obtained his degree before undertaking a year teacher training and a teaching practice on the Isle of Man.

His first teaching job was at Ruffwood Comprehensive, one of the first of the new Comprehensive Schools in England. It was a large school with over two thousand students and was very different from Secondary schools today.

The discipline was very strict, pupils wore uniform and David and the rest of the staff wore caps and gowns. He loved teaching at the school and remained there for about seven years.

His love of literature came to the fore and he took charge of many of the school drama productions. He made lifelong friends that he kept in touch with and Pamela has received sympathy cards from friends he made in those years.

But there was little prospect of advancement so reluctantly he moved to Dorset in 1977 where he took the post of head of Upper School at Beaminster School.

Beaminster was a comprehensive which took boarding children from diplomatic and military families as well as children placed there by social services from inner cities. This made for a diverse school population and he loved teaching there.

He first met Pamela when she joined the PTA. Her children attended the school and later she worked as a school nurse. They grew to know each other over the following five years and fell in love.

David thought of Pamela's children Janet, Mark, Helen and David as his own and they were all very close to him.

In 1986 with the full support of their parents and the children David and Pamela moved to Great Yarmouth to start a new life together, taking David

with them. The other three children were by now grown and had started their own careers.

When they moved to Great Yarmouth for David to start a new teaching post their house was yet to be built, so they took their caravan and lived in it together with their dog called Zephyr, so named because he produced a great deal of wind.

But it wasn't to be his wind that was the problem on the 15th of October 1987. The BBC had assured everyone that there were no high winds expected, so when the hurricane struck their caravan they were not ready.

Realising things were getting serious they decided to lash the caravan to a large nearby, tree. This did not offer the security they had hoped, and they ended up crawling on hands and knees to the car and hiding in there. Unfortunately, the tree blew over with the caravan resting at an angle against it.

This stormy beginning was not a portent for times to come and they soon moved into their new home beginning over thirty happy years together.

In 1989, they were married, both for the second time, in Great Yarmouth Registry Office and after their reception at the Waterfront at Potter Heigham the evening entertainment was a trip to Great Yarmouth fair.

David enjoyed his new job and over the following years Pamela started out helping at the school before training as a Special Needs teacher. While teaching they came across children from poorer backgrounds who couldn't take advantage of some of the school trips and holidays on offer.

So, David and Pamela would load a van up with children, dogs and camping equipment and take them on probably the only holiday they had ever had to the Yorkshire Dales.

Working with children with special and such additional needs meant that the job in Great Yarmouth was not the role David thought when he applied but it turned out to be a role he loved and was rewarding in ways he couldn't have possibly imagined.

Outside school they led full lives many of their interests based in the countryside.

David played golf; badly, and they both loved to ride with one of his favourite memories being taking Jamie and Bromwyn on ponies for the first time. David also enjoyed show jumping and later course building.

And of course, central to their lives for twenty-five years were their dogs, starting out by rescuing two elderly Irish Setters, they went on to rescue and rehome many dogs as well as breed and show pedigree Irish setters, at one time having sixteen dogs living with them.

Pamela began to suffer from heart problems and this resulted in her leaving work and David taking early retirement. They decided to move to South Wales and bought their house in Clydach Vale.

This resulted in David developing a new characteristic that caused some friction in the family. As a lifetime rugby fan and an English Rugby fan at that, the family were shocked to find out he had started to support Wales and enjoyed his trips to the Millennium Stadium to watch internationals.

David took a part time job teaching life skills through art to adults with learning difficulties. He loved the job, but when this ended he took a job at Oakwood

School in Caerphilly, where he worked until 2007 when he was first diagnosed with cancer and decided to take full retirement.

His illness changed his and Pamela's life. Used to being constantly busy their lives seemed to stall and become a series of waits for the next hospital appointment while not being able to plan too far ahead.

But there were many good and happy times, most of them involving the family. A weekend at Centre Parcs when everyone was able to meet up was a special memory and there were many other when part of the family got together and there were the cruises and great train journeys David and Pamela took together.

I asked Pamela and Helen what David was like and they said that he was fun and would try anything, they told me tales of him getting on his hands and knees to play with the grandchildren or wading in a stream with Katy and Sean while shrimp fishing and stories of him falling in a canal on one occasion or a pool of mud on another while playing the fool for the family's entertainment.

Helen also told me that he always supported her and the rest of the children. He drove all over the country to help them and was always ready to give his advice, but never put out if you didn't take it. When it came to family, nothing was a chore or too difficult to do.

Before we move on would any of you like to say anything.