

‘Joe’

Joseph Staples

17th November 1941 – 21st May 2019

Tribute to Joe

Joe was a war baby – born in Leamington Spa in 1941 to parents Joseph and Edith. He arrived in the company of his twin sister Josie and 6 years later, their younger sister Jill was born.

By his early twenties, Joe was serving in the Army and a trooper in the Queen’s Lifeguard based in Hyde Park Barracks. He was chosen to be one of the horsemen guarding Winston Churchill’s coffin in 1965.

At around this time Joe and Barbara met. It seems she was not keen on him remaining in the Army so they returned to Nottingham where they married and Joe took up building work. Two sons followed, Andrew in 1965 and Mark in 1966. They were together for a scant 3 years before Barbara left to stay with her mother on the Wirral, leaving the boys with Joe. The reasons for this have died with those who knew them. Over a year later she reclaimed her sons and they and their mother were to have no further contact with Joe until 2013 when Mark, having been reunited with his family, met his father again after a separation of 46 years.

Joe and Barbara each distanced themselves from their families so all other family members were affected by the couple’s separation: Joe's sisters Josie and Jill; brothers-in-law Harold and John; nieces Nicola and Claire; and Barbara’s brothers Lenny and Stephen. And there are other stories here: that of Joe’s brief relationship with Christine and their son Adam, born after Joe had left and who never met his father; and that of Adeline, the daughter born to Barbara and her second husband Gus. Both have taken their places in this welcoming extended family.

Here is Mark, to pay tribute to his father.

Eulogy to Joe Staples

Mark Staples

Father , September 2013 was such an important and emotional month for you , you sadly lost your beloved Pam , but you were re-united with your 2nd son.

For my part (thanks to my Uncle Harold) I was so proud , thrilled and delighted not only to meet you at long last but then to get to know you , get to know about your life in various places but particularly in Brushford. I soon then had the pleasure to meet your great friends and neighbours in Somerset , particularly Kev, Lee and Des , who all did so much to make your life a happy and better one in Brushford , to those three I will always be so grateful and thankful for the support and love they showed you in the good times and the bad. So thankyou guys.

Dad , when we met it was obvious to all the instant chemistry we had , our mutual love of quizzes , sport , in particular Cricket and exactly the same outgoing personality , helped us bond.

My treasured memories of building a relationship with you, having the chance to spend time with you, living with you and discussing with you all the missing years from our pasts will always be something I'm so grateful for. It saddens me that you didn't get to meet your other two sons, Andrew and Adam and your two wonderful grandchildren Nathan and Daniel, like me you would have really enjoyed knowing them and being in their company.

Pater , finally meeting you was the missing jigsaw piece for me , a son could not be more proud of the amazing parents I had. Your days in the army with the Queen's life guards, the stories and laughs about your building days, your time spent with the Galeozzie family and the colourful life you had in Brushford are a credit to you, your natural exuberance, fun and joviality shone through and so many people will have so many great memories of you and the difference you made in their lives.

Today will be about celebrating your life , making sure that your beloved sisters Josie and Jill , the love of your life Pam, your son Andrew and your first love Barbara all their memories will be honoured today in your memory. You were never one to discuss your family network but you will be so proud today Dad that your family and friends are here with you giving the send-off you deserve.

I'm proud to call myself your son and thank you for the last six years. Sleep well father. *(End)*