

A tribute to Joshua Bains

November 26th 1989 - October 4th 2018

Joshua Bains was born on November 26th 1989 at Northampton General. Lyn tells us he was pretty much the perfect baby - an excellent sleeper, who barely cried. In fact, he did all the things babies are supposed to do. He walked and talked early and was a funny, inquisitive child. He was physically active and adored his climbing frame. And of course, he was forever getting into scrapes.

In fact, let's hear from Josh himself. Here's an extract from his autobiography - written at Primary School.

"My name is Josh Bains. I have one sister, whose name is Francesca and we always argue. When I was two years old, I crawled under the gate and crossed the road to go and look at the sheep. My neighbour saw me and brought me home. One day I tried to crawl through the cat-flap and got stuck. My mother had to twist me to get me out.

When I was about five or six years old, I trapped my finger in the door and had to have my nail taken off. I also fell over a trailer and cut my head and had to have stitches."

But Joshua was an endearing little chap. Yes - he would frequently get into mischief, but as he was being told off, he would invariably pull funny faces, or he'd look up smiling innocently with those beautiful eyes and long eye lashes, making it impossible for the 'teller-off' to keep a straight face themselves.

He enjoyed life at the local primary school, rarely blotting his copy book, except perhaps for the occasion when, feeling miffed at the way a teacher had spoken to him, Josh decided to run off home.

Secondary School followed at Campion in Bugbrooke. You'd never describe Josh as an academic. But he was certainly bright, with an almost tireless sense of curiosity. He loved finding out about stuff and gathering facts about almost any topic. And Josh was a great one for arguments. He loved the cut and thrust of a good discussion and, of course ... he was never wrong!

He relished his role as the class comedian, managing to make everyone he came across, laugh. He was a popular lad. Just a skim through his school leavers' book gives a pretty good idea as to how he was liked by so many of his school mates.

But Josh won't only be remembered for being engaging company. He would always think of others, forever taking the side of the underdog. There was more than one occasion when he'd stand up for the victims of bullies.

Josh loved being outdoors and took every advantage that village life offered. He'd go off 'round the corner' with Francesca and friends from the village and spend endless days mucking about and building dens.

Holidays played a big part in Josh's upbringing. There were plenty of them too - often to exotic locations, such as Florida, Cuba and Mexico. Dave tells the story of one such holiday which perhaps tells us a lot about Josh's remarkably generous side. It was in Mexico. Dave had given him a five-dollar bill as spending money. As the two were walking along, they passed a beggar. Josh asked his dad about the chap and what it meant to be 'on the streets'. On their way back past the beggar, Josh approached him and handed over his five-dollar bill.

Joshua was always active. He loved taking part in all kinds of sport and activity. Although he didn't excel in any in particular, he'd try them all - football, rugby, basketball, cricket, skiing, skateboarding, knee-boarding, water-skiing, boxing. He didn't just indulge in these sports for himself. He enjoyed helping others out too. Typically, when he was fifteen or sixteen, Josh would help to instruct children in water-skiing on Delapre Lakes.

Josh's talents weren't restricted to sport. He was a good carpenter, doing plenty of jobs around the house, including laying floors at home. He was also immensely talented and dealing with people. For a while, he worked with Dave, in the kitchenware business on the market. He was a great salesman - terrific at engaging with customers and developing a rapport with them, young or old.

So, we know that Josh was great company and that he was talented. But what about Josh the man? What of his character and personality? Well, he was always well turned-out, in fact, we should say, immaculately turned out. He'd have his hair done every two weeks. He was very particular too about his clothes. His favourite birthday treat would comprise a trip down to Bicester Village to stock up on a few designer pieces, as well as extending his amazing trainer and shoe collection.

Josh's desire to keep everything immaculate wasn't restricted to his personal appearance. He loved keeping his car clean - leaving it in gleaming, pristine condition. Lyn and Ian were especially pleased about this trait. Often, having polished his own car to within an inch of it life, he'd go on to give the same treatment to their cars too.

Josh's brother-in-law, Craig, recalls a famous occasion, his stag do in Barcelona, no-one could persuade Josh to join them in the pool. There was no way he was going to risk ruining his favourite £150. branded swimming shorts, by actually getting them wet!

We've already heard how adept Josh was at getting on with customers on the market. He was just the same outside work. He would get on with simply everyone. Regardless of their age or background, he would unfailingly show an interest and put them totally at their ease.

Josh's sociability knew no bounds. He knew everyone and everyone knew him. Claire recalls a simple trip to the tip. They were delayed for ages - there were so many people there who Josh knew and who he just had to chat with!

If we have to mention a fault, perhaps it would be his time-keeping. Josh was invariably late for most things. Fortunately, he was so consistent with this habit, that it was quite easy to make allowances. For mealtimes, for example - all you had to do was tell him that dinner would be served an hour earlier than was actually the case. The result? He'd be bang on time!

This is not to say that Josh was unreliable. Far from it. When it really mattered you could count on him to be punctual - for example, when he walked Lyn down the aisle on the occasion of her marriage to Ian. Francesca and Craig were equally delighted when Josh agreed to be a witness at their wedding too.

Josh was an immensely kind man, with a heart of gold. He was unfailingly respectful to the older members of the family. When his grandmother or auntie were unwell, he would take time out to support them and be with them. You see, Josh understood that time is the most precious gift we can give.

Family meant so much to Josh. He was a terrific uncle to Francesca's boys, Jay and Casper, always buying them extravagant gifts - Nike trainers being a real speciality.

In fact, let's hear what young Jay himself wrote about his Uncle Josh only the other day -

"Dear Uncle Josh. You are a sweet, handsome man. You bought us the best presents and Nike trainers. I will always love you and miss you loads. You are the brightest shining star in the sky. Love Jay"

Josh was also a wonderful Dad to Rebecca's daughter Liyah, whom he loved. And of course, he worshipped his own little boy, Cyrus. Without a doubt, his proudest moment was when he was born in 2015. Josh was a devoted and terrific Dad to both children.

It was some ten years ago at the tender age of eighteen that Josh and Rebecca met and started their lives together.

It was on October 4th that Josh died. So ended the life of a fantastic man. A man who knew his own mind and who chose his own path in life. A man with a wonderfully warm heart. A man who would do anything to help his fellows. A man of so many talents and enthusiasms. But above all, Josh was a 'people' man. A man who, above all things, cherished the love and the company of his family and his friends.

