

A celebration of life

Bob Charles Rush

28th September 1925 - 18th June 2020

12.00, Friday 26th June 2020, New Southgate Crematorium

a personal goodbye

Humanist
Ceremonies

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Bob was born a true Cockney within the sound of the Bow bells. He was the third child of the family of four children. His eldest sister was Millie, and then Kitt, and then a younger brother, Albert. He went to Manchester Street School and left school at 14. Bob was six-foot-tall, the tallest in his family. He started work in a printing factory, but that made him ill and by the age of 15½ he had started his lifelong career as a milkman at College farm. His milk float was horse drawn and he recalled that the horse, called Charlie, knew the round better than he did. This wasn't really a help though because Charlie would go to the houses where he could get food and causing mischief. Bob said he was a "bugger".

By the age of 17 Bob was living at home with his mother. They were very close, and he was distraught when she died suddenly. After this he decided to join the army, lying about his age to get in. He went to Belgium and France in the medical corps as an ambulance driver. He spent the last four years of his time in the army in Egypt, a place he would re visit many years later on one of the cruises he enjoyed with Janet.

When Bob was demobbed, he returned to his original role as a milkman this time with Express Dairies where he was to remain for 49 years. He received awards for his long service, starting his rounds in the Kentish Town area and then, the last ten years were in St Johns Wood. On this round he visited the Lords Cricket ground where he especially came to love the banqueting rooms. He made friends with the chef who encouraged him to try out some exotic dishes especially enjoying the oysters. He also served milk to London zoo. This proved really lucky for his children as he could get them into the zoo for free. He used to allow Jenny to join him on the Saturday milk round. She loved this but in time, sadly, she was "sacked" to allow Angie to take her turn and become his assistant on the milk round.

Bob Met Janet when she was only 16 and, although there was an age difference of 17 years between them, their relationship lasted 60 years. Janet was the love of his life; he would do anything for her and enjoyed spoiling her. They married in 1963 at Islington Registry Office which was followed by a meal at the Trocadero restaurant with family. Janet was only 21 when they started married life at the big house in Tufnell Park Road, Islington. They had merged two families from their former relationships, and this meant that at one stage they had five children under 5. Stephen, Jenny, Lyn, Kevin, Lorraine, and Angie had an incredibly happy childhood. Bob loved being a father and family man; he was always keen to work together with Janet to care for the children. He started work early and finished early, allowing him to be there for the afternoons. He would delight in sharing the care for them, bathing the children, and cooking for them. (His shepherd's pie was legendary and the gravy impossible to copy; Angie has tried!). He was a fully involved father; he loved spending time with his family and would do anything for them. He loved an occasion, or a party, and was happiest when surrounded by his family. All his time was devoted to them, he especially enjoyed taking them on outings to Broomfield park conkering, the fun fair at Battersea or special treats at Lyons Corner House where they could choose whatever treat they liked. He adored Christmas; Janet and Bob would take the children to Selfridges every year to see Father Christmas and

see the lights in the West End. They both looked forward to taking the children on holiday each summer to the Isle of Wight and later Pontins and Warner holiday camps.

As the family grew up Bob and Janet were able to start to enjoy holidays on their own, foreign trips to Spain especially Majorca, Cala D'Or, Santa Ponza and the apartment in Alcudia. Bob could spot a holiday in the paper on a Saturday, Janet would book annual leave and they could be on the plane by Thursday! They really enjoyed cruises and, on a cruise that stopped in Egypt, he was able to re visit some of the sights he had seen when he was in the army. He reminisced about his memories from that time. In a Cairo street he had once narrowly missed being hit by a potty being thrown out of the window! He also remarked there were camels everywhere.

Bob eventually retired from Express Dairies following an accident and, when recovered, went on to volunteer for the Meals on Wheels service for many years; finally retiring at the age of 83. This allowed more time to go on holiday and to indulge in one of his main pleasures, shopping, and especially food shopping. He would never pass up a chance to go food shopping, he loved to shop! He enjoyed being in the garden looking at the flowers that Janet had grown "Loved a garden but not a gardener". He did however grow some runner beans which were "the pride of his life". He loved to read his Kindle; crime stories and spy novels were the favourites. He would like to place a bet on the horses and was good at choosing a winner, occasionally going to Windsor. He supported Arsenal football club but was an armchair sportsman. Bob liked to have a drink of beer and then later in life Gin and Tonic; he was delighted when his grandson made him his own bar in the garden!

Bob and Janet enjoyed doing things together; decorating and shopping, but golf didn't turn out to be such a success. After three golf lessons they both had to admit to each other this was not for them! He had many dogs and was especially fond of large dogs. When the children were young, they had a boxer dog called Fred, then Pixie for 2 years, followed by a cross boxer Benjie. When Janet retired, she informed Bob that she wanted to get a dog and she wanted a standard poodle. Bob seemed disappointed. They went to see the litter and Bob was amazed and relieved when he saw that the parent's standard poodles are big dogs! Oscar joined the family and proved himself to be a highly intelligent big dog. Every morning he would bring Bob his paper from the letter box and bring him his slippers one at a time when he needed them.

Bob was a fun person to have around, loving to have family round to entertain them and, as he got older, he thoroughly enjoyed watching his family grow with his lovely grandchildren. Lorraine's four sons Jason, Lee, Eddie, and Jamie; Lynn's children Cristopher and Emma; Jenny's three boys Ben, Ashley, and Aaron and Angies three children Luke, Charlotte, and Harvey. He also went on to have great grandchildren; an ever-growing family to enjoy family gatherings with. He loved preparing for a family Christmas, polishing the cutlery, setting the table, and serving them all the drinks. He enjoyed getting suited and booted for these occasions, often wearing a bow tie. He made the occasion, thriving on an event. Janet and Bobs 50th wedding anniversary, and renewal of vows, especially fondly remembered by all.

We remember this lovely man; generous, kind and lots of fun. As Janet said he was "a bit of a rogue, a good rogue".