

# A celebration of life Stuart Jones

1 February 1966 – 1 October 2018

11.00 am, 24 October 2018, Maesteg Cemetery



*a personal goodbye*

Humanist  
*Ceremonies*

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Stuart was born in Maesteg on the 1<sup>st</sup> of February 1966 the only child of Dewi and Gwynneth. His father was a colliery fireman and also drove for Llynfi buses and Stuart grew up in Nantyllyllon attending the primary school opposite his house.

Donna told me that they were in school together, though they weren't friends in those days and that to be honest she didn't like him much, saying he was quite a naughty little boy. He used to get himself in trouble in school and with the friends of his parents, often being sent to bed early by his father.

His father and mother had a camper van and they used it to go away on holiday in it often. They would usually not plan much but just stop where they wanted. But their favourite place to visit was Cornwall and Stuart grew to love the county, returning often throughout his life.

He spent most of his childhood, when not in school, playing with his many friends, getting into various scrapes, taking up smoking when he was eleven and when he was older he enjoyed going camping up in the forestry with his mates.

He had a close relationship with his parents and shared his father's interest in all sorts of vehicles and enjoyed pottering about with cars with him.

He left school at sixteen and as soon as he passed his driving test got driving jobs, going on to get both HGV and PSV licences. At around this time he moved away and many of his friends lost touch with him.

It seems that he lived in Cornwall for a while working as a HGV driver, but moved back to Cardiff when his dad died in 1996, so that he could be closer to his mum, if she needed him.

While living in Cardiff he worked for National Welsh and Bebb's Coaches driving holiday coaches all over Britain as well as to Switzerland, Italy and France.

Next he lived in Bridgend for several years while driving HGVs and working as a bouncer at Aston's and Munroe's.

In 2000 he moved back home with his mother and lived with her when he wasn't away with work until she died in 2013. And he was away a lot driving long-distance HGV's travelling widely but he didn't like all the time spent on the roads and sleeping in the cab.

So in 2010 he got a job driving for Valleys2Coast and never looked back. He enjoyed his work there because of the friends he worked with and the banter. He wasn't afraid to give or take the Mick with anyone and happily told Donna his nickname was Tuco. I am sure his colleagues can explain why later. One of his colleagues told Donna that Stuart was quite unique, always wearing shorts whatever the weather and summed him by saying "Stuart was Stuart"

All of our lives are complicated, and relationships are often their most complex aspect, Stuart's was no exception. Stuart had some long-term relationships that did not last but his relationships with Katrina and Emily resulted in three wonderful children, Ethan, Enzo and Zeta, who he thought the world of.

Sometimes the complexities of life have meant that he wasn't able to spend as much time with them as he would have liked, and he regretted this. He looked forward to any time he could spend with them, his weekends in Reading visiting Enzo and Zeta and taking all the children on holidays with him to Cornwall.

Donna and he had not had any contact since school until July 2014. Donna used to wait at the bus stop each morning to go to work and Stuart would pass her in the Valley2Coast van, so he messengered her in Facebook and asked "Did you used to be Donna Griffiths who went to Nanty School."

She said she was, and he asked her to pop around for a chat about old times. They chatted on the phone and then went out for a drink and she found out that he was totally different to the naughty little boy she remembered, he was charming, charismatic and a good laugh.

They got on really well and started seeing each other. Stuart also got on well with Donna's father who lived with her. The three of them went on holiday and when Donna's father was taken ill they both moved in with Stuart and he helped look after her dad, until he died last year.

Stuart was always quite a homebody, not really going out very much and was happy with his own company. He preferred to stay in in the evenings with Donna and he treated her like a princess , running her baths when she got home from work and cooking her meals.

He also enjoyed spending time with his best friend Jason and Donna said that when Jason, who Stuart had known since school, came over she would hear them talking and laughing in the kitchen for hours.

On the weekends Stuart and Donna rarely stayed at home, preferring to go to their static caravan in Aberystwyth or the tourer in Fontygary and in the summer they visited Stuart's favourite place, Cornwall.

Stuart had suffered from flu like symptoms for a few weeks which he couldn't shake but no one could have foreseen what happened, and his sudden heart attack on the first of October came as a complete shock to everyone.