

Alan Roy Nichols 1949-2012

Alan's life was tragically cut short in December when he suffered a heart attack on the M4.

Alan was a Milton boy who spent most of his life here. From twelve weeks old he lived with his parents, Gerald and Rose Nichols in Pear Tree Close and then the Old Forge in Milton. Gerald and Rose still live in Wychwood Drive.



Another passion was horses or one horse in particular. After much persuasion, Dad eventually gave in and bought me the horse I wanted and Wren came into our life. That horse fell in love with my Dad from the day he arrived. The feeling was returned; Al had a new best friend and an expensive hobby.

The only reason Al left the Wychwoods was to join the Navy, where he visited many places and loved to chat about his adventures. After leaving the Navy, he passed his HGV test, allowing him to drive local buses for many years.

He met his wife, Sue, when they were both working for Roy Betts & Sons Transport of Chipping Norton. Later on they moved to Wales to run their own pub in Blaenavon, one of the toughest pubs for miles. But staying in one place was not for Al and after a year he joined the Gwynedd Shipping Group, which covers routes between the UK and Ireland. Al was with them for 12 years and made some wonderful friends, particularly the seven who became the Llanwern 'Band of Brothers'. Even after the family had moved back to Shipton, Al continued commuting to Newport every week until the day he died.

Al would play golf every Sunday with his mate Tom on the Shipton Golf Course, near Andoversford, where they are planting a tree in his memory.

Alan was the perfect man for Sue, a loving son to Gerald and Rose, brother to John and Sandra, adored Dad to Sian and Toni, and an incredible Grampy.

The Funeral Service in St Simon and St Jude, just before Christmas, was led by Anne Hartley with an amazing service; flowers, the Christmas tree with lights- quite magical. 230 people attended and £600 was raised for the British Heart Foundation. The procession into the church was accompanied by two brand new HGV tractor units, sent by Gwynedd Shipping Group. Red was Dad's favourite colour so when Wren led the procession from the church to the graveyard his mane and tail were plaited with red flowers. The 'Band of Brothers' placed their red ties along with Wren's beautiful rug to be buried with Dad. Alan's riches were his family, his friends, his dogs and horses, he loved us all and we loved him. He was to us one in a million, that is why the void in our hearts will be so great. As he would say to you all, "Make the most of today, tomorrow is not promised."

Sian Hunt