

Jim Upton 1942-2013

On the 29th January 2013, we lost a wonderful long-time resident of the Wychwoods.

Jim was born in Birmingham and spent his boyhood years obsessed with cars and aircraft. At the age of 15, he enlisted in the Royal Air Force

at RAF Cosford. His service career took him to Cyprus, the Middle East, Singapore, Indonesia, the Libyan Desert, Zambia and Kenya, including serving in the Indonesian-Malaysian conflict for which he was awarded the General Service Medal. He returned to the UK in 1966 and moved to RAF Brize Norton. He left the RAF in 1972 after 15 years of service.

We met and married in 1970 and had two children, Simon and Suzanne. We have four wonderful grandchildren, two each side of the Atlantic, as Simon lives in New York and Suzanne lives in Witney. As many of you know, Jim became the 'James Herriot' of electricians serving the Wychwoods and beyond for 35 years. He had many funny stories to tell about cows that had to stand with their legs crossed at 4am while he was fixing the milking machine. Harvest time was always



stressful as grain driers refused to work, to say nothing of garden water-features and outside security lights!

In 2007, Jim put away his tool box and meters, and said goodbye to his beloved van. We enjoyed many years of travel, our

grandchildren and bird-watching. We both enjoyed caravanning, travelling extensively all over the UK and France. Neighbours were often heard saying, "You're not going away again?"

He faced his final challenge with the utmost courage, bravery and dignity. Even in his final days, he was still putting the needs of others before himself. Jim died peacefully of Mesothelioma (asbestos related lung cancer) in Katharine House Hospice with all his family around him. He will be desperately missed.

We would like to thank all the staff at Katharine House Hospice and the Wychwood Surgery, in particular Dr. David Nixon, for all their support and kindness during the last difficult few months.

Sue Upton

In our February 2008 issue, we featured Jim on his retirement. Editor