

Geoffrey Parr

Dad

My dad was born in Torquay in 1944 to May and Dennis Parr. He spent all of his early life in Torquay and was educated at a local grammar school. He made many lifelong friends there many of whom are here today.

He met my Mum, Jenny in 1968 and they later went on to marry in 1969. They spent the early part of marriage in Potten, Bedfordshire. Dad worked for the BBC and was often posted abroad. One such posting was to Ascension Island, a volcanic island in the middle of the Atlantic where they spent about 4 years.

They returned to Newbury in 1985. I was born in 1986 and Dad was then posted to Cyprus where he was in charge as engineer to the riggers for BEMRS. We returned to the UK and now lived in our newly acquired property Chesil Coppice. My sister Fiona was born shortly after in 1990. My Granddad then came to live with us just after she was born.

Dad continued to work for the BBC but was now based at Rampisham. He was still regularly posted back in Cyprus and as children we spent many a happy holiday there. Dad was extremely fond of Cyprus, he loved the weather and he loved the people. He formed many strong friendships there, many of which he was still in regular contact with who unfortunately could not be here today.

After dad retired this left him with plenty of time to indulge in his many hobbies, Gramophones, his beloved Morris Minor, steam trains and gardening. He was an active member of the local gardening club and had been a long standing member of the amateur radio club enjoying regular rallies and time "on the air".

I'm not sure I quite understood how deep his love of gramophones ran until I recently opened up his garage, his chalet, his shed, his loft, every spare room and every available space in between!!

Then my dad's peace was ruined, along came grandchildren first Lilly then Ollie and finally very recently, Fiona's daughter Ella. My dad embraced his role as grampy wholeheartedly, instead of keeping his precious gramophones out of reach he taught Lilly and Ollie how to play them, much to my Mums delight I'm sure! Dad already had an extensive model railway collection but it was missing some vital characters according to Lilly, Thomas the tank engine of course! Dad set about acquiring him much to the kids delight. He loved nothing better than getting down on the floor and playing trains with them explaining how everything worked in that calm patient manner he had. I would often watch them wondering who the bigger kid was and who was enjoying it more, the kids or dad.

My dad believed everything could be fixed and nothing was every totally broken, the contents of his house were testament to this! Many a time over the years I would go to throw something out only for dad to say "there's plenty of life left in that yet, hand it over" and sure enough sometimes hours, sometimes days later the broken object would reappear back in full working order often sporting the odd modification or two and my dad looking chuffed too bits.

My dad was a man of faith, his love of the church began as a child where he attended Ellacombe church in Torquay. More recently he has been an active member of Swyre church, not only attending services but getting involved with the church's maintenance and fundraising.

We had a wonderful childhood growing up in West Bexington and its thanks to my Dad I have been able to give my own children that same life. Dad loved living here for many reasons but he always claimed one of a good homes greatest assets are good neighbours and we have certainly got the best and I know he would be deeply touched by how many of you had made it here today.