

Celebrating
THE LIFE OF



John Rich

9TH OCTOBER 1939 - 22ND MARCH 2023

*Service held at Efford Crematorium, Plymouth, Devon
Tuesday, 2nd of May at 10am*

"Tell them I've had a wonderful life"

Ludwig Wittgenstein

"What you put into life is what you get out of it"

Clint Eastwood

"Music is life itself"

Louis Armstrong

WELCOME & INTRODUCTION

With a heavy heart, we are sorry to express the loss of our devoted Dad John, and doting husband to Margaret, he passed peacefully at home on 22nd March 2023.

Sorry for the news to those who knew him, being extremely prideful he wanted his illness kept private, we are very sorry for your loss too.

To you most beautiful souls being there with your unwavering giving of your love, support, kindness and guidance, we want express our heartfelt gratitude. Sincere appreciation also to the few who knew for your love, sympathies, thoughts, cards, flowers and compassionate offerings of help.

We are having a celebration of Dad's life at the Cornwood Inn, Ivybridge, where he was the resident musician entertaining others for over 20 years. We shall be playing his own music, a CD of one of many of the masterful pieces he created. We welcome those who knew Dad to join us on 2nd May from 3pm until late.

ORDER OF SERVICE

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Entrance Song

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"Dream a little dream of me"

Michael Bublé

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Eulogy

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Exit Song

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"Sweet Caroline"

Neil Diamond

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Eulogy

"A Musician Never Retires"

It's said a musician never retires, they stop when they have no more music in them, yet you remarkably continued your passion passing on your eclectic talents teaching into your 80th years!

Having left the boroughs of Tottenham at the age of 25, you and Mum followed your dream of moving to the moors of Devon, residing in Ivybridge, and never looked back. Your best friends Mick and Ann soon joined you, continuing your everlasting dear treasured friendships, and the many memories shared between you all.

You and Mick were able to pursue a lifelong dream of visiting Tottenham Hotspur Stadium with Dave making this dream a reality for you, where you also relived the memories growing up on Riveulet Road, and with the kindness of the current homeowner, you were welcomed into your childhood home.

You loved sea fishing, which led you on many adventures, and your lake fishing too, with Bake Lakes being your most favourite place of peace to fish, where you loved being at one with nature. You were blessed with the most memorable experience when a Kingfisher, your favourite bird, came to sit on your fishing rod to share a special moment with you.

You worked tirelessly within your trained career as a 'Printer's Composer' for 30 plus years between London and The Sunday Independent in Plymouth.

Making the move from then living in Plymouth to Bodmin moor, for us to grow up in the countryside surroundings in the village of Pensilva. You continued to travel daily to Plymouth for your main employment, and every evening you taught your love of music through private lessons.

You soon made your dream come true where your reputable business 'The Music School' was born in Stoke, Plymouth. Soon needing to expand, you found new premises in collaboration with Make Music from London, to successfully branching out on your own with you and Mum taking 'The Keyboard School' to 'HQ' in Plymouth.

Your harmonious melodies and musical legacy will live on through Dave, and the hundreds of pupils you taught so exceptionally well during your 30 plus years of your dexterous music teachings. Your 'once seen, never forgotten' charisma follows you with many amusing stories still being told by those from your music school and The Cornwood, sharing these memorable meaningful musical times with you, with special friendships made along your journey.

You overcame many challenges from your early years, born in 1939 with Spina Bifida. You resourcefully learnt to walk on your hands with doctors stating you would never use your legs yet defied all odds as you succeeded to do so through your ever determined remarkable strength, will power and belief!! You never, ever complained once in your life, and never considered yourself to have a disability, your utmost heart you gave to everything was admirable. You were heroic, incredibly strong, resilient, loyal, honourable, brave, courageous, honest, understanding, humble, endearing, unique in every way, and larger than life.

Even through the pain you endured in your last months and days, you made sure to make everyone else laugh, as always. You made Mum laugh every day with your morning chorus as you entered the room, bringing your humorous aura with you. I shall always be blessed and laugh with the times you would say 'hop on lovey' and we would both sit on your mobility scooter to ride together or wheelie it, with appalled looks from passers-by.

You are greatly missed by all, especially Mum, having met with you both in your teens, you've shared 63 years of doting, honest, dedicated love for each other. Being by each other's side in your wondrous 58 years of marriage, you have shared many of the most special memories together. You were always there for each other with respect, listened to each other, understood each other, allowed each other space to be yourselves in what you both loved, and supported one another throughout. You would both help one another in what each other could not do for themselves, you were each other's rocks.

Remember to express gratitude for, and how much you love each other, to those nearest and dearest to you every day, so there is peace in knowing and no regrets. Dad and I were blessed to share this daily with 'I love you, and I love you more'.

Thank you for being you and for everything you did, it was for us, and thank you for being the most kind hearted man you were, you are forever in our hearts with endless love.

Your encompassing characterful cockney 'monge tu mae oui, and 'un cup of roseylea' renditions, shall always keep us laughing, and in the poignant and so very true words of your favourite Del Boy mug:

"It's not farewell, just Bon Jour"

Rest in peace now Dad.



APPRECIATION

*The family would like to thank you all for your
kind support during this time of sadness.*

The celebration of John's life will be held after the service from 3pm at:

***The Cornwood Inn
The Square
Cornwood, Ivybridge, PL21 9PU***

DONATIONS

*If you wish to kindly make a donation, our chosen
charity is Macmillan where it can be made on behalf of John Rich.*