**Roger John Sweet**

**1st June 1943 – 26th January 2024**

**Tribute to Roger (written by his 3 children)**

*Dad was born in 1943, the eldest son of Jack & Marjorie Sweet. His brother Roland was born in 1949. Dad did not really talk much about his early years. He enjoyed cycling**and went on long cycle rides with friends. He even cycled to Woburn and met the Duke of Bedford.*

*Dad followed in his father’s footsteps by becoming a scout. He went on scouting holidays with his father’s Scout leader ‘Skipper’ which included a holiday to Switzerland. Dad later became a Scout leader himself with his friend Barry and often took the boys on scout camps on the train.*

*He met his late wife Margaret, our Mum, at the grammar school in Harrow, Middlesex they both attended.*

*They married on 4 September 1965, however, tragically, our Mum passed away from a brain tumour at the age of 30 on September 5, 1974, just one day after their 9th wedding anniversary.*

*After Mum died, Dad looked after his three young children in West Drayton with Whisky the cat. We remember nice Christmases, being read bedtime stories at night, and being taken on adventurous camping holidays to Northumberland. Parenthood did not come easy to Dad, especially as we got older.*

*In 1988, when the children were grown up, Dad and Karen relocated to the bungalow Uplands, which he bought from Mr and Mrs Kimber. Dad and Karen soon welcomed Patsy the cat into their family. Sadly, Dad’s mum Marjorie died two months later and his father Jack (Grandpa), who lived alone in Stanmore, would visit them frequently.*

*Soon after moving to Oxfordshire, Dad helped form the West Hagbourne Village Association and was a member of the Association’s committee for some time. He was appointed Parish Clerk on two occasions and held the post for several years. He also helped to create and was co-founder of the village website with John Baile.*

*Dad enjoyed living in the countryside and appreciated the changing of the seasons more. He was a passionate gardener and took delight in seeing the first signs of Spring and the arrival of the cowslips.*

*Dad was always good at DIY and decorating and was often heard whistling while he worked. When Karen eventually bought her own house, he was as ever a great help with his practical skills. Driving was his other passion and he enjoyed going out for the day on long drives to the south coast. He also enjoyed watching Six Nations Rugby on television and he would often be heard shouting at the screen. He also dabbled in painting landscapes and was inspired by Bob Ross on the television.*

*In the 1990s, while working at the London Borough of Hillingdon, he acquired computer skills and later in 2005 used his skills to create a unique website named ‘Oxfordshire Villages’. This project involved him visiting every village in the county, capturing their essence through photographs, and conducting extensive research to write about each one. It inspired enquiries from individuals around the world who were interested in particular villages.*

*Dad retired in 2004, and enjoyed a relaxing and happy retirement with Rosie the cat to keep him company. Throughout his retirement he was able to spend time on his passions whilst tending to his website and his garden, and participating in activities such as reconnecting with old school friends at meet-ups in country pubs.*

*Sadly, his brother, Roland, passed away in 2007.*

*Unfortunately, Dad’s later years were overshadowed by health issues, particularly in the last five years. Emergency surgeries had led to the need for a stoma and catheter, which he managed with remarkable stoicism and with minimal complaint. His declining health was a source of frustration, especially when it hindered his ability to walk and engage in various activities. Despite this and his frailty, Dad maintained his dignity until the very end.*

*Dad celebrated his 80th birthday in June 2023.*

*After spending 4 months in hospital Dad died peacefully at home, which is where he wanted to be, with his 3 children around him on 26th January 2024, which was also his father’s birthday.*