

KEITH ANDERSON (1941–2013)



Keith was born in Coventry in 1941, the second child of an engineer (his older sister, Marlene, survives him), but the evacuation of the family to Bradford during the bombing of his place of birth meant that he would always think of himself proudly as a Yorkshireman; even before he arrived in that county he had started to develop those characteristic Yorkshire traits, inner strength, determination, grit – as, born three months premature, he had to, if he was to survive.

He attended St Bede's Grammar School where his passion for team sports grew. This was to be a dominant feature of the rest of Keith's life. In his earlier days he played football (which he was not far off embarking on as a career), cricket and latterly bowls for Deddington, where he and Anne, whom he married in 1963, moved seven years ago. He was an avid spectator of rugby games in which his sons John and James and then grandson Jake were involved; he was a red-coated 'legend' at Banbury Rugby Club and a particular encouragement to the teams of which Jake was a member. The love of team, as opposed to individual, sport was bound up with his valuing of other people; and that came through in his working life where his interest in his customers was real, so that not only did goods change hands, but also real relationships were created.

Keith won the respect, trust and affection of many in whatever sphere he met them through his reliability, friendliness, kindness, his cheerfulness and humour, his capacity to encourage and affirm and to offer wise advice. Enjoying the company of others in general, Keith was happiest of all in the company of his family. A fine man, greatly loved and greatly missed.

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