

ALAN RAMPLEY (1947–2017)

Alan Rampley was a man much admired and a loyal friend. His family were Eastenders, although he was born in Loughborough because there was a post-war lack of hospital beds in London. In his first few years he grew up in a large house with a grandmother, aunts and uncles before moving to their family flat in Finchley, where he remained all through his childhood.

Alan was a member of the Red Cross during his school years sparking the beginning of his lifetime commitment to serving the community and public, in the UK and overseas. After initially working in a builders' merchants, Alan joined the Metropolitan Police and, during his training in the mid-60s, met Maggie. It was a familiar story of a policeman and nurse falling in love. Their first date was at Battersea Funfair with a host of policemen and nursing friends. They became engaged in a lift at the jewellers before celebrating with a tin of stew from Woollies before night shifts beckoned.



In the heady sixties, there were many scrapes when Alan would cram nurses in the police mini-van to take them to work to save the bus fare, and making headlines when he chased a motorbike on Clapham Common. The motorbike fitted between two trees, Alan's panda car did not.

Alan and Maggie married in 1970 and settled in their flat in Balham where daughter Hazel was born. This was followed by a move to Croydon for a couple of years during which time son Greg arrived. Alan loved his community work in Balham and Tooting with a kaleidoscope of people, gaining respect from all races and factions.

Times were changing in London with increasing violence and bombings. Alan was present at the infamous siege of the American embassy and a safer environment for the family was sought. Joining Thames Valley Police and moving to the police house in Deddington was a success from the start.

Alan took to village life, son Paul arrived and life was a happy round of involvement in playgroup, schools, church, Scouting, Guiding and all manner of village events.

Alan did gain a family reputation for things happening, when they were out. For example, getting involved with lost cows, people having seizures, heath fires, an abandoned woman with baby, shop-lifters, fights and people collapsing on planes.

Alan launched himself fully into his role as Rural Beat Officer, having many adventures. He dealt with every conceivable emergency including road accidents, rounding up sheep, burglaries and even a murder or two. At the police house there was a steady stream of callers reporting thefts, accidents, missing people, pets, arrivals of drunks, injured animals and people. Alan dealt with them all calmly and with good humour.

Alan worked a lot in schools with children of all ages, as well as being a governor of Warriner School and helping on school trips. Many people still remember the talks he gave in schools.

Alan was one of the last of the old village bobbies and many a young person has been given a few chosen words which kept them from straying. The family has received many tributes from people who have said how grateful they were for his support.

In Deddington, Alan was a committed Scout leader, taking them on hikes, camps, training them and Guides and leaders in first aid. As a Police Officer he was in the force first aid team, travelling to competitions around the UK.

After 31 years as a Police Officer on active service and a spell in crime prevention, he was asked to write a job description and list the qualifications for someone to set up a Police First Aid department. He was rewarded as being the only person qualified for the job. So began the last phase of his career as a civilian in charge of a growing first aid department, responsible for training the whole of TVP. As a trainer with St John's, he helped write material guidelines for training members in Sri Lanka, Kenya and Trinidad.

He was a key person in the Tour de Trigs and played a major part on committees and on the activity weekend itself. He was a roving marshal solving problems and encouraging participants to complete the 30 or 50 miles. When all the equipment was lost last year Alan was at the forefront of getting it replaced by sponsors.

After retiring, his commitment to helping others with his First Aid and volunteer hospital driving continued. Retirement allowed Alan's passion for steam trains to come to the fore with the Gloucester and Warwick railway.

The family moved to Adderbury in 1985. Alan was hugely proud of his children and grandchildren and their achievements, showing them love and support in everything. Alan was always a loving and protective husband and showed great support to Maggie in all she did, especially in Guiding and her work at the nursing home. As many people have said he was a big character. He loved being with people and will be lovingly remembered and sadly missed by so many.

Ron Sangster