

Memories from his Brother-in-law Ian and sister Helen.

Geoff was born in Aylesbury on Valentine's Day 1964 to Vera and Derek Bishop, being the elder brother of his beloved sister Helen.

Up until the last 7 years Geoff lived all his life in the cottage at 84 Wycombe Road, Princes Risborough.

Although he didn't travel too far, even though he did a little as a younger man including a month inter-railing around Europe, in 2016 he made the massive move of about one whole mile across to the other side of Princes Risborough! There is Hawthorne Road he was lucky enough to be welcomed by some lovely neighbours and friends and their dogs! Although he never had a dog of his own Geoff loved dogs, particularly the neighbour's Atlas and Wilson. He would always have some dog treats in his pocket just in case.

Geoff had a real liking for hot, spicy food and it wasn't long before, just like 84 Wycombe Road, the whole conservatory and some of the house was devoted to the propagation and production of some devilishly hot chillies! Another favourite was the humble Cornish Pasty. While visiting us he would always have to visit Looe and enjoy the best Cornish pasty money could buy! He would always bring a stock of them back to Bucks to enjoy at a later date.

Geoff attended Aylesbury Grammar School. One of the main highlights of school was the summer holidays! Often a trip to the Elan Valley in Wales with the caravan so that Helen could ride horses and Geoff could fish. He absolutely loved fishing and has taken great delight in teaching Lester to fish and watching Faith ride – even in Cornish liquid sunshine.

Geoff has always loved sport whether taking part or supporting. He was an accomplished rugby player – winning Chinnor's most promising player in 1981 and helping them win the Colts cup in 1982. It's probably no surprise that he played prop forward. He was also good at darts – and again 1981 was a good year for him because he also won the county youth competition and continued to play in the PR District Darts league for about 20 years. A keen archer in his youth he also came 3<sup>rd</sup> in the European Championships for his age.

After doing well in his A levels Geoff went on to study Chemistry at Loughborough University where he made some life-long friends. One of the main reasons for choosing Loughborough was its reputation for sport and Geoff main intention was to further his rugby ambitions. However, due to two nasty knockouts he had to retire early. It was also whilst at university that his mother Vera very sadly died. After University Geoff continued to live with his father Derek and was a tremendous support and companion for him until his passing in 2011.

Geoff found employment in laboratory computing software, working for Clive and Di Collier for about 25 years where he was almost part of the family before moving to his current employer Gladstone – here are some memories of Geoff sent from Claire Rollins (CEO) and her colleagues at Gladstone.

*Geoff was an absolute gentleman, kind, funny, clever and well-liked and respected in his role as a Technical Support Analyst by everyone at Gladstone, as well as being hugely popular with our customers. His passion for cricket and in particular his cricket club and community was infectious and something he was incredibly proud of and we will miss his dry humour and generally pessimistic outlook on England's performances.*

*His wide and varied general knowledge of all sorts of subjects was a source of fascination and members of the team would frequently reach out to him with random questions ranging from history to sport to TV, and generally he would know the answer. Geoff's remote presence was equally memorable – his lockdown beard put other attempts to shame, whilst any comment on the Christmas decorations adorning the mantelpiece behind him in June were met with the quick retort "well I won't have to put them up again"!*

*Geoff was both colleague and friend to members of the Customer Serviceteam and beyond, and his readiness always step up and help was stand-out and something that he will be remembered for. Geoff truly cared; something that was appreciated by his customers from North Lanarkshire to Cardiff, Jersey to London and many places in between, who have gone out of their way to specifically recognise the incredible customer service and technical expertise provided by Geoff. He was an absolute credit to Gladstone and to the team he was such a big part of.*

Geoff was admirably not materialistic – clothes needed to be functional and practical, not labelled! Cars were merely to transport you from A to B, colour, make or model made no difference. But ironically in the time I've known him he's driven everything from a Morris Minor Traveller to a Porsche!

Geoff was the ultimate gentle giant, but if by any chance you didn't see him coming you'd probably hear him – he would always have a pocket full of coins and a key ring with about 30 keys!

He was an extremely caring and thoughtful brother, brother-in-law and uncle – never forgetting any events, anniversaries and birthdays.

So I really do encourage you to make the most of your time at the Cricket Club later if you can join us. Sadly, he won't be celebrating his 60<sup>th</sup> Birthday there as he and we would have so liked. Instead, this must be a celebration of a great life – so come along and enjoy one of Geoff's beloved Cornish Pasties!