



Vale

Joseph Henry Christian

5th February 1943 - 25th October 2016

Friday, 28th October 2016 was a sad day for the family and friends of Joseph Henry Christian, affectionately known as “Sparks”, when they laid to rest their father, relative and friend at the Kingston Cemetery.

We are indebted to his wife Virginia and his son Callum for providing us with the following Eulogies.

Firstly, from Virginia:-

“Joseph or sparks as we all knew him as was the oldest of four brothers John, George and Barry. And son to Olwyn and Gilbert. He had a carefree life growing up and I hear many a tale of the mischievous antics the boys got up to. The boys sadly lost their father at the young age of 42 and their mother struggled to keep her family together with relatives looking after Joe and John. Olwyn married Ken Fortune and he was a great stepdad to the boys.

Joe went off to New Zealand when he was sixteen to train as a boiler maker and came back to the Island at the age of 22. In 1967 he had a terrible accident which nearly cost him his life and caused him trouble for the rest of it. He married Pika and had a son Sean but sadly they parted. Sparks was always coming up with ideas and schemes and some of them were brilliant but unfortunately he didn't quite ever see any of them through.

He married Virginia in 1988 and they had a son Callum who was his pride and joy. Virginia and Callum moved back to Norfolk in 1997 with Joe following some time later. He was a very artistic man who also loved books on history

and especially the history of his heritage which as his health deteriorated he spent many an hour reading. He certainly crossed the path of many and varied people and whether he was loved or hated he left a mark on many a person. He found a loyal friend in Roy Nobbs and he spent many an hour drinking tea with him and his family and probably talking non stop. I will now hand you over to Callum who would like to pay a short tribute to his father.”

From Callum - “Sparks, a man of many words and deaf ears.

As any that knew him well would have experienced, his ideas and points of view could be a one way street. Stubborn and sometimes selfish. Traits he carried in life, all the way up until he passed 2 hours before I landed. But if you knew him well then you knew he could be a father too. A caring and easy going man, very easy going.

Although it took me time, I know now how lucky I was to have a father that could teach me to fish, ride a motorbike and drive a manual car and all the things that build a young mans confidence so that he can meet life head on and stand his ground and that he can pass on the same confidence to the next generation through his life experiences.

And so young man I am here, we are all here to say without words;
rest, job done.

Thanks from myself and family to hospital staff, nurses and doctors who cared for him in the end.

All involved in funeral proceedings Tardy, Gavin, Edie and the ladies, Shane and the grave diggers, Jodie, our minister Doug, Milt and all who have offered support and condolences through this tough time.

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