

Celebrating the life of
John Stanley Bethell

16th May 1935 - 8th May 2024



Lodgehill Crematorium
28th May 2024

Order of service

Entrance Music

Welcome
Rev. Jon Grant

Hymn

Dear Lord Father of Mankind

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| <p>1. Dear Lord and Father of mankind,
forgive our foolish ways;
re clothe us in our rightful mind,
in purer lives thy service find,
in deeper reverence, praise.</p> | <p>4. Drop thy still dews of quietness,
till all our strivings cease;
take from our souls the strain and stress,
and let our ordered lives confess
the beauty of thy peace.</p> |
| <p>2. In simple trust like theirs who heard
beside the Syrian sea
the gracious calling of the Lord,
let us, like them, without a word
rise up and follow thee.</p> | <p>5. Breathe through the heats of our
desire
thy coolness and thy balm;
let sense be dumb, let flesh retire;
speak through the earthquake, wind,
and fire,
O still, small voice of calm!</p> |
| <p>3. O Sabbath rest by Galilee,
O calm of hills above,
where Jesus knelt to share with thee
the silence of eternity,
interpreted by love!</p> | |

Eulogy & tribute

A moment of reflection

Stranger on the shore by Acker Bilk

Reading

Badger's Parting Gifts

Written by Susan Varley

The Lord's Prayer

Closing Words

Committal

Exit Music

John Stanley Bethell

John lived an extraordinary life full of adventure, teachings, and love. He often told stories of his time in the RAF with such positivity and mischief that his face would light up with his well-known cheeky grin. One of the most memorable stories was when he and his fellow servicemen set off to Spain, driving a van without brakes, taking turns to pull the handbrake.





Much to our relief, he met Joan, who ensured John's adventurous side remained but was somewhat tamed. They were inseparable, always complementing each other and working as a perfect team. Forming an enduring bond, they had two daughters with whom they created fun and exciting memories. Some of these memories had his children accused of vivid imaginations, such as the time Karen went to school and told her teacher about her adventures involving a sailing boat and an octopus making its way onto the boat.

John often reminisced about his times on the factory floor, quick to point out production flaws and how he would apply his skills and experience to make improvements. A man of many talents, John was very much the family photographer, well-known for setting up the camera and tripod for family events, holidays, and the well-attended gatherings at Northfield Road. Thanks to him, we have a variety of imagery and footage that will forever ignite our memories of him.

With creativity and a keen imagination, John was rarely seen sitting down with his feet up. Instead, he was forever pottering up and down the garden or on a mission in his garage. The rare times he did sit down were for family meals, where he would enjoy resting his eyes at the head of the table once finished. However, John could be tempted to relax with a bowl of ice cream, one of the key benefits of his grandchildren's visits.





Woodlands Park



Bowling Club

Finals Weekend 2003
Saturday September 6th
Sunday September 7th



John loved taking on and developing creative hobbies, including fine art drawing, and playing musical instruments such as the clarinet and saxophone. In retirement, John and Joan took up crown green bowling, not only learning the sport but becoming key members of their local bowling community. During the summers, their granddaughters would cheer them on and have a go themselves.

One of John's most memorable creations was his Cornish Tin Mine diorama on the kitchen wall. His resourcefulness was evident as he repurposed materials and invented textures, showcasing his creative ingenuity.

Although John was keen on DIY, some projects took longer to complete than others. Broom handles held ovens shut, and a lack of floorboards became a feature of the family home for some time. Thankfully, these and most jobs were eventually completed, but the fond memories of these features continue to make us smile.





By example, John set the bar high for the men in the family, showing us what a real man is. He welcomed Brian and Adrian with open arms, later also welcoming Kurt, and John into the family.

Fond of traveling, John and Joan would regularly venture far and wide together, accompanying their family on holidays such as a road trip in Arizona, USA, and catching the rays in Egypt. The travel bug never left them, with their most recent trip being a cruise through the islands of the Mediterranean in 2023.

With a strong sense of family values, John always put his family first. For Karen and Sonia, it meant sitting outside the nightclub ensuring their safe return home or providing encouragement for education and development. For Emma and Amy, it meant providing endless entertainment and projects in his workshop. For Alexander, it meant keeping up with the times and modern technology, enjoying watching funny YouTube videos together. However, it may be, John was always involved in the lives of those around him, forming connections in any way he could.





John was fortunate enough to live to see the next generation, meeting his two great-grandsons. Luca gave John a shine of youth in his eyes, and Harry, who was just three days old, provided some light in what turned out to be his final days.

It is hard to put into words what John truly meant to those around him. A man of kindness, respect, humour, extraordinary skill, and wisdom. His legacy will continue through each generation.

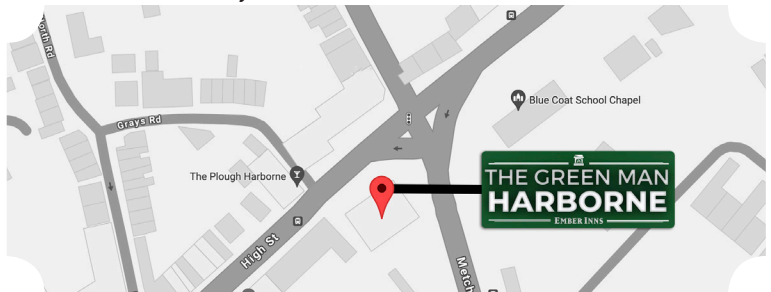
The family would like to thank you all for joining them for the celebration of John's life.

If anyone wishes to do so,
the family would encourage donations towards:
Parkinson's Disease Society of the UK
Birmingham South Support Group
Sort code 20-00-00
Account n° 53537730

This group have supported John and Joan over a number of years.

The family would like to invite you to refreshments at The Green Man

2 High St,
Harborne,
Birmingham
B17 9NE



The car park at the rear of the Green Man is free,
remember to record your registration number on the tablet at the bar.

A digital copy of this booklet along with photos
and memories are available online at:
johnbethell.com

