

A Tribute to James

Peter Jones

Sadly this July many of us learnt that our dear friend James Davis had died.

This news has hit many of us like a hammer blow, and with every passing day it is clear he touched so many people. James was a wonderful man, whose passion, joy and love were boundless. He had the ability to make anyone he met feel special, and at that moment the most important person in the room. Like many, I feel privileged that I was able to be part of James' life and I know my life has been made richer because he was in mine.

I thank this car club for bringing many of my friends into my life, this included James. I can remember vividly the first time I met James, it was on the GCCG stand at the National Classic car show at the NEC Birmingham. James was displaying his superb Rolls-Royce Silver Shadow, a special car indeed having previously been the transport for the Iraqi Ambassador here in the UK, and still carried the all-important flag holder.

From this, many other friendships and happy memories have been created. James regularly attended and supported club events and I was pleased to join him and many friends on trips around the country and to France on the Ledorga weekends. Much fun and hilarity happened on these trips, and my lasting memory will be of laughter, and if I am entirely frank his guttural snoring, that could shake the plaster off the walls!

James was a complete and utter petrol head, and his professional career in the commercial vehicle world, spilled out into many of his projects. Most noticed the restoration of a 1988 Ford Transit Mark 3 which so



happened to be a covert surveillance vehicle back in the 80s and 90s! James painstakingly restored the vehicle including period specific recording equipment and then auctioned the van, giving a record breaking (for a MK3 Transit!) amount, all to the Alzheimer's Society, a charity which James supported with all his heart.

More recently James recommissioned his father's MGA. A car which he thought he'd lost forever after it was sold to pay

for his father's care as he suffered from Alzheimers. After the death of his father, James used the MGA as a platform for his charity work, generating thousands of pounds for charity. With the car itself a lasting legacy bequeathed to the charity.

I know James would not want anyone to feel sad or pain from losing him, and he'd want us to remember the fabulous times we shared, and they were FABULOUS! He will be dearly missed by all his friends,

and while we shall make sure the champagne continues to flow in his honour, there will be one less sparkling bubble in the glass.

Here are a few pictures of some the superb times we shared.

