

To celebrate the life of James Alexander Doran

James, known to all as Jim, was born in Twickenham on the 27th January 1920 to James and Elsie Doran. He was the eldest of his two brothers Ronnie and Tony, and his two sisters Betty and Nommie. He also had two half-brothers Jackie and Stanley as well as one half-sister Margaret. Although he was the eldest, Jim was the last pass away.

Jim joined the army in 1939 and served until 1945 with the Royal Engineers. He served in Germany, France and Iceland and was wounded twice. Before going to war, Jim had already met his dear wife Lucy at Hanworth Royal British Legion when he was 18. They married on the 23rd December 1939 at St George's church in Hanworth when he was 19 years old and Lucy was 21 years old.

After leaving the army, Jim and Lucy set up home at 28 Hounslow Road in Hanworth. Jim worked as a bricklayer and continued with this for all his working life, except for a time when he had his own fruit and veg van, selling produce to local Hanworth people that he had grown at home.

Jim and Lucy moved from Hounslow Road to a post-war prefab in Bear Road and then finally in 1952 moved to Wigley Road where they remained for the rest of their lives.

Despite Lucy being diagnosed with tuberculosis when she was 22, Jim and Lucy went on to have nine children together. They had a hard life over the years but were very happy together and in 1999 celebrated their diamond wedding anniversary with all the family – on this occasion they even received a letter from the queen.

Jim and Lucy loved their children and had many grandchildren and great grandchildren – far too many to mention – all of whom they loved dearly.

Jim was a bit of a character and was well known in Hanworth. He loved to socialise at the Royal Naval Club and the Hanworth British Legion. In his earlier days at the Legion he became chairman, then social secretary and was eventually given life membership. He loved to meet all of his old friends that he had known since being a young man in his twenties in Hanworth.

Jim liked nothing better in his younger years to be in his garden and grew all his own produce from seed – much to Lucy's disgust as she preferred him to grow flowers rather than veg.

As you will all know, he loved his whisky, and even up until a couple of months ago looked forward to going to the Hanworth Naval Club for a few drinks with his family.

Jim made sure that he never interfered with anyone's life; in fact he had a saying of "do your own thing"....which we will always remember him for. He also used to joke with Lucy his wife and make us all laugh – years ago when Lucy used to work in the local plant nursery he used to call her 'the worm disturber'. As Jim's grandson I always remember looking forward to when he and Nan would be coming to babysit for my brothers and I – they would always let us stay up at least an hour after the time that mum and dad had told them that we should be in bed. We used to play a game where I would read Trivial Pursuit questions to him and he would amaze me by knowing most of the answers; he was a very intelligent man.

As a family we would like to thank everyone who has cared for Jim in the past. We all want to remember the good times, of which there were many.

We will all miss and love him, but we know that he is in safe hands, free from pain and will be reunited with his lovely wife Lucy, his dear daughter Janet and dear baby Peter.

They will all be together again – god bless them.

Love from us all.