

## Roger Brind Obituary

4 April 1934 – 26 December 2024



Major Roger Brind was a soldier, a Royal Marine, and he took great pride in his service. He was a modest man and as such, there were so many facets to him that it was always hard to get him to share his achievements.

Roger lived a life of service and duty. A Royal Marine through and through, he always tried to do the right thing and was supportive and generous and kind. He was the perfect gentleman.

Obviously, he had a love of sport and fitness in general, being an excellent gymnast, rugby player, squash player, horse rider, sailor, cyclist... the list goes on. And he did crazy things, running the London Marathon at the age of 60 and cycling through the Himalayas a couple of years later to name but a couple.

But was that really where his heart lay? In many ways, in another time and space he would have chosen to be a thespian or musician. He did, of course, tread the boards in many an amateur production and even some semi-professional ones, and was a stalwart of the Seend village panto. He liked nothing better than to drag up as a pantomime dame and show off his slapstick comedy. It was a family tradition to take his granddaughters to the Seend pantomime every year, an outing they always looked forward to.

Musically, he was a child prodigy at the piano and he continued to play the piano and organ throughout his life. But my memory is of him incessantly teaching himself yet another instrument... bagpipes, because he was disappointed so few people played

them when stationed in Scotland, guitar, so he could do a stage show, oboe, because he fancied it, flute, accordion, and so on. In many ways, however, his real love was singing. In Seend he joined the choral society and choir. He was so proud to have earned his Bishop's Award from the Salisbury Diocese.

On retirement, when he moved to Seend, the place he considered to be his true home, he threw himself into village life. He was a leading member of the choir, an organist for the church, organized the summer fete, drove the school minibus and was a member of the Royal British Legion. He was generally regarded as a "lovely gentleman, who always gave time to stop for a chat" and a good neighbour. He loved his cottage and regularly entered his garden into the Open Gardens event.

And then there were animals. He adored them. There was always a well-stocked bird table in his garden. Very few years were spent without a dog at his side, Harry being his constant companion while living in Seend. And he could never walk past a field with horses without going to say hello. His love of wildlife was a constant, always but always taking nuts to feed the squirrels and birds when he went for his walks after moving to Weymouth with us.

He was an amazing man and we are so glad that he found happiness and belonging with the wonderful community in Seend.

Jamie Brind (son)