

WHO WAS michael hunton?

HE WAS A DAD WHO, TOGETHER WITH SHIRLEY OUR MUM, WHO HE MARRIED IN 1958, HELPED FORGE THE INDEPENDENT PEOPLE HIS SONS HAVE ALL GROWN UP TO BECOME.

A DAD TO TIM, NIGEL, SI AND DON.

A GRANDFATHER TO AMELIA, LAWRENCE, JONAH, FINLEY AND GABRIEL.

A STEPFATHER TO MICHELLE AND LEONIE AND FATHER-IN-LAW TO MICHELLE, ANNABELLE AND ESTHER.

A STEP GRANDFATHER TO PRU, PRIM AND MONTY.

A DAD WHO WAS INFLUENCED BY THE WOMEN IN HIS LIFE.

A DAD WITH A UNIQUE ABILITY TO INDIVIDUALLY MOVE HIS EARS. ONE CLOCKWISE AND ONE ANTICLOCKWISE...ALWAYS A FASCINATION AND FONDLY REMEMBERED BY THE HUNTONS!

DAD WAS BORN IN 1935 IN LIVERPOOL TO A WORLD OF PRIVILEGE WITH BUTLERS AND NANNIES AND LIVE IN HELP...LIVING AT BRONSHILL IN CROSBY FOR HIS CHILDHOOD.

DAD WAS THE MIDDLE CHILD OF 3 BOYS AND HAVING OUTLIVED HIS BROTHERS HAD AN AMBITION TO BEAT THE INNINGS OF HIS UNCLE TOMMY AND REACH 105, SADLY HIS INNINGS ENDED SHORT AT 89 AND THAT IS WHY WE ARE HERE TODAY TO GIVE TRIBUTE TO HIS LIFE.

DESPATCHED AT AN EARLY AGE TO CLIFTON COLLEGE BOARDING SCHOOL IN BRISTOL AND COMPLETING AN EDUCATION IN MATHEMATICS AND CRICKET, AND AN EXPOSURE TO A UNIQUE PUBLIC SCHOOL AND CULTURES... IT WAS THE ONLY UK PUBLIC SCHOOL AT THAT TIME WITH A SYNAGOGUE.....

DAD'S MILITARY SERVICE WAS IN HEREFORD AND BUILT ON HIS ANALYTICALBACKGROUND AND HE SAID HE SERVED HIS TIME DOING PAYROLLS.

WHEN ASKED WHY HE HAD NO DESIRE TO HAVE A MILITARY CAREER, EVEN WITH THE STRONG FAMILY LINKS MOST NOTABLYBEING HIS UNCLE WHO WAS THE FIRST COMMANDANT GENERAL OF THE ROYAL MARINES. HE SAID HE PLANNED TO TRAIN TO BE AN ACCOUNTANT.

DAD WAS THE ARCHETYPICAL ACCOUNTANT AT THE SAME FIRM (HARRISON LINE AND ITS PARENT THE CHARENTE COMPANY) FOR 40 YEARS...MANAGING TO SUCCESSFULLY RETIRE BEFORE EVER HAVING TO USE A COMPUTER. IT WAS DURING HIS TIME AT HARRISON LINE WHEN HE WON THEIR INAUGURAL TENNIS TOURNAMENT. A TROPHY HE CHERISED AND WHICH SAT AS PRIDE OF PLACE ON HIS DESK. DURING HIS TIME AS FINANCE DIRECTOR HARRISONS DIVERSIFIED INTO BULK CARRIERS AND THE CONTAINER REVOLUTION BEGAN, BUT SADLY HARRISONS DREW TO AN END IN 2000. FOR THOSE THAT AREN'T AWARE THE INITIAL TRADE WAS THE IMPORTATION INTO LIVERPOOL

OF BRANDY AND WINE FROM THE VALLEY OF THE RIVER CHARENTE IN FRANCE. THE COMBINATION OF BRANDY AND WINE ARE THE KEY INGREDIENTS OF DUBONNET, SO NO WONDER THAT WAS HIS FAVORITE TIPPLE. IT IS GREAT TO SEE HIS GRAND DAUGHTER AMELIA NOW FORGING A STRONG CAREER IN FINE ART AND SPECIES WITH AN EXPERTISE IN SHIPMENTS, AS A MARINE BROKER IN LLOYDS OF LONDON. KEEPING UP THE FAMILY TRADITION OF A MARITIME CONNECTION.

DAD EXPECTED A HANDWRITTEN SPREADSHEET (IDEALLY IN REALLY REALLY TINY WRITING) IF YOU WANTED A HIKE IN YOUR POCKET MONEY, HE LOVED LISTS AND CHECKING BANK STATEMENTS, LOVED ROUTINE (WE WENT ON HOLIDAY TO THE SAME HOTEL IN WALES FOR THE SAME WEEK EVERY YEAR – MAYBE THAT IS WHY HIS SONS NEVER HOLIDAY IN THE SAME PLACE TWICE), HE ALSO ENJOYED SORTING NAILS & SCREWS BY SIZE AND LENGTH.

OUTSIDE OF THE FAMILY LIFE AND OFFICE SUITS....HE WOULD PUT ON HIS BELOVED RED TROUSERS AND STEP OUT LIKE THE HEROES OF THE VERY SPY THRILLERS HE USED TO LOVE READING....TO ENTER, IN OUR MINDS, ANOTHER LIFE CLOAKED IN MYSTERY AND INTRIGUEMAYBE NOT A COINCIDENCE THAT THE SAS WAS BASED IN HEREFORDWHERE HE DID HIS MILITARY SERVICE.

WAS HE A SPY AND WAS THAT THE REASON HE WOULDN'T SHARE HIS EXPERIENCES WHEN ASKED TO RECORD THEM IN AN INTERVIEW?

MAYBE JUST A COINCIDENCE BUT:

DAD WAS IN BERMUDA IN 1973 WHEN THE THEN BRITISH GOVERNOR WAS ASSASSINATED.

DAD USED A FLAT IN CURZON STREET LONDON DURING THE WEEK, NEXT DOOR TO THE HOME OF MI5.

THE YEAR DAD MISSED XMAS AND WAS IN GDANSK WHEN THE SOLIDARITY UPRISING STARTED AT THE LENIN SHIPYARD AND DRANK VODKA RATHER THAN HIS USUAL SIGNATURE DRINK OF DUBONNET AND BITTER LEMON WITH TRADE-UNION ACTIVISTS AND WITNESSED FIRST HAND THE NEGOTIATIONS THAT LED TO THE GROUND-BREAKING GDAŃSK AGREEMENT BETWEEN STRIKING WORKERS AND THE GOVERNMENT. NOT A SURPRISE THEY NAMED THE HARRISON SHIP BUILT AT THAT TIME IN POLAND "THE ADVISOR" AFTER HIM.

DAD'S BEST FRIEND HAMISH LIVED OFF GRID IN A CAMPER VAN AND WOULD CALL AT STRANGE HOURS OF THE DAY AND NIGHT BUT WOULD NEVER SAY WHERE HE WAS.

ON ANOTHER OCCASION DAD WAS SEATED NEXT TO AN IRA BOMBER TRYING TO SET FIRE TO A PLANE TO BELFAST.

DURING THE FALKLANDS WAR HE NEGOTIATED THE SECONDMENT OF THE ASTRONOMER FROM HARRISON LINE AND ITS CONVERSION INTO A HELICOPTER BASE.

HE WAS BANNED FROM THE CONSERVATIVE PARTY FOR STICKING TO HIS PRINCIPLES....OR WAS IT FOR OVERUSE OF THE FREE CAR PARKING SPACE?

EVEN HIS FOREIGN CARS SEEMED TO BE FROM JAMES BOND FILMS, WITH THE CITREON SM HAVING SELF-LEVELING SUSPENSION, AND ADJUSTABLE HEADLIGHTS THAT SWIVELED WITH THE STEERING AND SAW ROUND CORNERS....AND AT THE TIME WAS THE FASTEST FRONT-WHEEL-DRIVE CAR IN THE UK.

IT WAS NO COINCIDENCE THAT THE SHREDDER WAS ALSO INVENTED IN 1935, THE YEAR HE WAS BORN, AND THAT WAS HIS FAVOURITE GADGETMAYBE TO REMOVE EVIDENCE.

DAD WAS KNOWN FOR WEARING TIES AT ANY AND EVERY EVENT, EVEN WITH BERMUDA SHORTS. IT WAS PROBABLY THE WAY HE WAS IDENTIFIED BY HIS CONTACTS. EVEN A WHITE TIE WAS WORN AT THE WEDDING OF ALI AND TONY JACOB, WHEN HE WAS THE BEST MAN.

ON THE DAY HE DIED, DAD WAS SEEN AT COSTA COFFEE WITH HIS TIE CORRECTLY KNOTTED FOR THE LAST TIME.

AS AN INNOVATOR AND EARLY ADOPTER, HE WAS AT THE FOREFRONT OF RECYCLING WITH BIRTHDAY CARDS BEING COLLECTED AND THEN REUSED EVERY 3 YEARS AND WAS THE FIRST PERSON IN MERRILOCKS ROAD TO HAVE A COMPOST HEAP. IN TODAY'S WORLD HE WOULD HAVE BEEN A TIK TOK INFLUENCER.

A DAD WHO SPENT ALL DAY IN BOARD ROOM MEETINGS WITH BANKERS AND TRADERS BUT IN HIS FREE TIME WAS TO BE FOUND HAPPILY OUTDOORS GARDENING WITH THE FIRST FLYMO LAWNMOWER AND SEEMED TO LOVE CREOSOTING FENCES. HE ALSO HAD A LOVE FOR ANIMALSOFTEN FOUND CHASING THE BUDGY AROUND THE LIVING ROOM IN MOOR LANE, AFTER TIM OR I HAD LET IT OUT AND HAD SEVERAL CATS – MISTY, BELINDA, RUSTY AND FLUFFY ...HE ALSO SPENT MANY HOURS TRAINING RUPERT THE VISCOUS ALSATION AND IN LATER YEARS WALKING WITH INDY BINDY THE JACK RUSSELL. HE ALSO WOULD DILIGENTLY FIND THE TORTOISES EVERY BONFIRE NIGHT.....

A DAD WHO HAD A VERY SWEET TOOTH AND PREFERRED TRADITIONAL BRITISH FOOD (ROAST ON SUNDAYS, FISH & CHIPS, SPONGE PUDDING & CUSTARD) AND ALWAYS LOVED FULL FAT SAUSAGES WITH MARMALADE FOR BREAKFAST...AND EVEN THAT HAD TO BE THICK CUT...UNLIKE HARRISON LINE FUNNELS THAT HE USED TO SAY WERE FONDLY DESCRIBED AS TWO RINGS OF FAT AND ONE OF LEAN.

AS WELL AS FOLLOWING WATERLOO RUGBY CLUB, HE WAS A LOYAL EVERTON SUPPORTER AND A TRUE BLUE....THEY SAY HE ONCE ASKED FOR 6 EVERTONIANS TO CARRY HIS COFFIN SO HE COULD SAY HE WAS LET DOWN BY AN EVERTON TEAM FOR ONE LAST TIME. HE STILL TALKED ABOUT THE TIME HE OVERPAID SCALLIES THAT LOOKED AFTER HIS CAR AT GOODISON BUT STILL LOST THE WHEELS. SO HOPEFULLY THE Z CARS THEME TUNE WILL RESONATE WITH SOME OF YOU. HE

WASN'T THE MOST ABLE FOOTBALLER BUT HE DID TRY AND TEACH US A FEW MOVES AND MUCH OF HIS DRIBBLING TALENT HAS NOW PASSED TO HIS GRANDSON JONAH.

HIS LIFE OF GLOBAL TRAVELLING FOR BUSINESS, HIS ENCOURAGEMENT OF INDEPENDENT THINKING, HIS VIEW THAT THOSE WHO WANTED HAND-OUTS WERE WEAK, HIS HONESTY ALL HELPED FORGE FOUR BOYS TO SPREAD OUT ACROSS THE GLOBE AND BECOME SUCCESSFUL BUSINESS PEOPLE AND ENTREPRENEURS. FOR THIS WE THANK HIM.

LIKE HIS FAVORITE COMEDIAN JIMMY TARBUCK. HE WAS PROUD TO BE A TRUE SCouser AND COULD TELL YOU THE HISTORY OF THE LIVER BIRDS AND ESPECIALLY THE ONES ON THE MERSEY CHAMBERS BUILDING. JUST LIKE JIMMY TARBUCK HE DEVELOPED A PASSION FOR GOLF AND UNTIL HIS BACK FAILED HIM, WAS SEEN MOST WEEKS ON THE GOLF COURSES IN SOUTHPORT. OFTEN RETURNING WITH MORE BALLS, AS HE ENSURED HE DREDGED EVERY STREAM FOR A WAYWARD BALL OR TWO.

ALL OF HIS FAMILY ARE GOING TO DEARLY MISS DAD AND HEARING HIM RECOUNT HIS AND HUNTON FAMILY STORIES. AND OF COURSE WE ALL REMEMBER HIS ACCOUNT OF THE HARRISON VESSEL THE POLITICIAN, OF "WHISKEY GALORE" FAME, WHICH WAS STRANDED AND WRECKED OFF SCOTLAND IN 1941....ALWAYS A FAVOURITE AND OFTEN REPEATED!

HE ALSO WOULD PROUDLY CELEBRATE HIS LINKS TO THE JACOBS FAMILY OF BISCUITS FAME, WHERE HIS BROTHER AND FATHER HAD WORKED, THE CONNECTIONS DATE BACK TO THE FAMILIES UNITING IN THE 1800S AND PROBABLY WAS EVEN MORE EXCITED TO RECEIVE EACH DECEMBER THE XMAS BOX FROM JACOBSALWAYS WITH ONE OR TWO TRIAL FLAVORS (SUCH AS CLUB COFFEE, WHICH SADLY WAS DISCONTINUED) TO EXTEND THE JACOBS CLUB RANGE....AS WE KNOW HE LIKED "A LOT OF CHOCOLATE ON HIS BISCUIT"!