

- [Home](#)
- [About Us](#)
 - [Testimonials](#)
- [Our Services](#)
 - [What We Do](#)
 - [Why Use Us?](#)
 - [Non Religious](#)
 - [Memorials](#)
- [Useful Facts](#)
- [After The Service](#)
- [Contact](#)
- [Memorial Pages](#)
 - [Add your Tribute](#)

Roger Alan HUME

12/03/1947 - 31/07/2016



Roger was born on 12th March 1947, the only child of Hazel and Leonard. He was born in Ealing, Middlesex and grew up in Ruislip. Roger enjoyed practical and outdoor activities from being a young child and would venture out to Ruislip Lido to swim. As he grew up he enjoyed going out on his bike or on the tube, buying parts and pieces to make things.

Following primary school he passed the 11+ examination and went to St. Nicholas Grammar School for Boys in Northwood, Middlesex. During this time he developed an interest and great enjoyment in theatre and musical productions. Two plays that he had particularly fond memories of were 'Journey's End' and 'Jonah and the Whale.' His particular roles involved the set design, properties and lighting. He enjoyed throwing many things on stage during Jonah and the Whale but only one bucket of water was allowed!

It was during this time at school that he developed his other great love, which was sailing. This was offered at the school as an alternative to Rugby. He learnt to sail on Rickmansworth Water and had the opportunity to go on a trip with the school to the Norfolk Broads.

Due to his enquiring mind and practical nature his love of sailing wasn't limited to just going on boats but he began to build them too. He would save his pocket money to buy parts and built sailing dinghies. He had happy memories of sailing one of them on a reservoir popularly known as the 'Welsh Harp' hence he named his boat 'Harpic' as he always said that it went clean round the bend!!

After school finished Roger was keen to pursue a career that would enable him to link his creativity, scientific and technical knowledge in a practical way. He secured a number of interviews and at one he had

to explain why he had paint on his hands as he had been busy painting his boat prior to the interview. He always thought that this went in his favour as it showed his practical nature and he was offered the job.

Roger started work and developed his career but in his spare time he joined the Fullerian Players and continued to pursue his love of theatre and take responsibility for the lighting. Aside from enjoying this himself it led to him meeting his wife Angela.

Angela was part of the King's Langley Players and was asked to help Roger's theatre group with stage properties. They worked together with Angela off stage and Roger up in the rig doing the lighting and used to pass 'Polo Mints' up and down to each other. On one occasion a plate was smashed and cut Angela's nose and it was Roger that took her to hospital and drove her home.

It was following this that he decided to ask his friend whether or not she was married as she had so many rings on her fingers he wasn't sure! She wasn't and he asked her out for the first time outside room 13 on Friday 13th – so the 13th was clearly a lucky number for them! Romance blossomed and within a few months they were engaged and planning the rest of their lives together. This even included getting their dog Pepys, a Cavalier King Charles Spaniel, before they were married!

Roger and Angela married in 1971 in Berkhamsted in Hertfordshire and they lived in St. Albans. In 1975 they relocated to Leicestershire to start their family and Roger worked at Thorn Lighting. Their eldest daughter, Bridget was born in 1975 and sailing still played a part in their lives – Bridget was even taken on a Norfolk Broads sailing holiday at 3 months old in a carrycot! Two more daughters, Zoe and Susan, followed and Roger and Angela's family was complete.

During the 1980's and 1990's there were many wonderful family holidays enjoyed by Roger and his family. These included canal boating, sailing on the Norfolk Broads, visits to the Isle of Wight, camping in Devon and many long country walks – especially along disused railway lines. Roger had an interest in steam railways and enjoyed gaining his certificate for driving a steam engine. Theatre still featured with visits to see plays and musicals such as "The Ghost Train," "Adrian Mole" and "Me and My Girl." This love of theatre and music still lives on with Roger's family today and he was proud to watch musical performances that his daughter Zoe directs and which his eldest grandson performs in.

During these years work was also an area in which Roger excelled and achieved high professional recognition. He was an accomplished design engineer with patents for his lamp developments and innovation, particularly in the field of halogen lighting. Studio and theatre lighting always proved an interest and he travelled far and wide with work.

We share a tribute from a colleague who worked with Roger.

I worked with Roger for over twenty years during which time we visited most of the TV, film and theatre lighting manufacturers, and worked with TV & film studios throughout Europe and the USA. There are too many to name all, so a few examples are BBC, ITV, ZDF Germany, REI Rome, RTE Dublin, Pinewood, Shepperton and Paramount Film Studios.

Working with the technical teams of these customers Roger made a massive impact with his technical abilities, and was responsible for producing many light sources some of which are in use today. Particularly the Par64 which was launched on the film Flash Gordon which was made in the late 70's.

I remember calling with Roger on a customer who wanted something completely different and unique, a difficult task. Roger said it could not be done, I asked 'why?' – looking over his glasses he replied "because physics says so!" – but, Roger being Roger, he came up with an excellent compromise and the result sold world-wide. He never gave up and this is why he had the respect from customers and colleagues alike – not only for his technical prowess but his integrity and sense of humour as we did have some laughs along the way.

From a marketing and sales point of view we always knew that Roger would be there to help us with any problems that we encountered.

It was a pleasure and privilege to work with Roger; and Pam and I are delighted to say he and Angela remained good friends after we retired. **(Clive Salmon)**

Roger's family were immensely proud of his achievements and supported him in the development of these.

Throughout his life his sense of humour shone through. He had a quick wit and enjoyed plays on words.

Following Rogers's retirement he moved with Angela to Cargreen in Cornwall for the sailing. He became a member of Cargreen Yacht Club and took over duties as Clubhouse Officer. In this role he looked after all aspects of the clubhouse and building including removing part of a wall to open up the upstairs room and create a lighter, larger bar area. He helped with regulations, like the 5 star rating for food hygiene. He was incredibly kind and thoughtful and would always give or offer advice and support to both his family and the community.

Music was also an important part of Roger's life. His grandparents both worked at the London Palladium – his grandmother at the ticket office and grandfather organising the acts. His grandfather was a bandleader during this time hence Roger's love of Thirties music and the music hall. Lately, the Yetties, sea shanties and folk music have been particular favourites with all the family. Roger had a good appreciation of all music, encouraging and supporting Angela in her playing of the piano accordion – joining in with percussion. He liked to play the washboard and jingle stick.

He was a proud grandfather of three boys, Jacob who arrived in 2003 and more recently Kai and Arthur earlier this year. He enjoyed time with Jacob on his boat when he came to visit. He had a keen interest in supporting Jacob with school and interests and would regularly send him magazines, newspaper articles and books alongside regular telephone conversations including help on learning German and Pareto's Law!

Although Roger had been feeling unwell for a while he was so pleased to have recently made the journey the Midlands for a week to meet his new grandchildren and see his family. It has given us all a lasting happy memory to hold when his death was so sudden and unexpected.

Previous post: [Barbara Joan TURNER – nee Sharman](#)

Next post: [Michael "Mike" John PARSONS](#)

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• **Archives**

- 2016
 - [September](#)
 - [August](#)
 - [July](#)
 - [June](#)
 - [May](#)
 - [April](#)
- 2015
 - [March](#)
 - [February](#)
 - [January](#)
- 2014
 - [December](#)
 - [November](#)
 - [October](#)
 - [September](#)
 - [August](#)
 - [July](#)
 - [June](#)
 - [May](#)
 - [April](#)

- [March](#)
- [February](#)
- [January](#)
- 2014
- [December](#)
- [November](#)
- [October](#)
- [September](#)
- [August](#)
- [July](#)
- [June](#)
- [May](#)
- [April](#)
- [March](#)
- [February](#)
- [January](#)
- 2013
- [December](#)
- [November](#)
- [October](#)
- [September](#)
- [August](#)
- [July](#)
- [May](#)
- [March](#)
- 2012
- [September](#)
- [May](#)
- [February](#)
- 2011
- [March](#)
- 2010
- [March](#)
- 2009
- [July](#)
- [February](#)
- 2008
- [December](#)

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