

Tribute from Barry Wallington

My Brother Allan Roger Wallington.

My younger brother was born in December 1949 but I did not see him for much of the first six months of his life as he had gastroenteritis and was in and out of Ham Green Hospital. It was therefore only later that I became aware of his bright, bright ginger hair and his face covered in freckles!

As a brother five years my junior, Allan became my shadow. On one occasion he found his way to my classroom door having made his own way across open fields. I also remember being compelled by my mother to take Allan with me when I went to play football in Kingswood Park. He was always the youngest so the last to be chosen by the team captains and usually ended up in my team!

As a child Allan was a "sleep walker". On one occasion he removed all the linen from the "airing cupboard". When found in the cupboard he was asked to put it all back and return to bed. He did this and had little recollection of events the next day.

We both attended the Army here at Staple Hill and in those young days walked from Kingswood. On the way we called for two others. They were Vivien and her sister Susan so Allan knew Vivien from a very young age.

On leaving school Allan started a 5 year apprenticeship as a bodybuilder at Longwell Green Coachworks. When the firm eventually closed it became Jones & Bence in Kingswood and Allan moved there. Once in Australia he quickly obtained work in this trade and stayed at the same firm for 26 years.

When Vivien & Allan returned to Bristol he made contact with his former employer and the very next day started work. Not many people walk back into a job they had 26 years previously!

You see that Allan's 45 year working life has always been in the same trade and he would converse with pride about the nature of jobs that he was involved with from motor racing F1 hospitality suites to mobile breast screen units. Allan was obviously a respected, loyal and admired employee.

During his short life of 60 years he remained a committed member of the Salvation Army both here at Staple Hill and at Camberwell in Australia. Some words received in recent days epitomise Allan's life:-

"Some people make a difference just being who they are, Their inner light shines bright and touches lives both near and far".

To us he was a Brother, Brother in Law, Uncle, Godfather and Great Uncle, who will never be forgotten.