



Keith Woodbridge

August 12, 1948 - February 24, 2021

Keith was born in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia on 12th August 1948. His parents had been stationed there in 1946, his father a captain in the British Army. He later worked for the electricity board in KL. In 1951 Keith's brother, Derek, was born.

The family returned to England in 1960, and lived in Cockfosters, Hertfordshire. Keith secured a place at Minchenden Grammar School. From an early age he showed a keen interest in aircraft and studied Avionics Engineering at City University in London, sponsored by BEA (British European Airways), now British Airways. He won a 2:1 BSc Honours Degree and began working for BEA in 1972.

By this time he had met and married Nanette and they lived in an apartment in Harrow, North West London, before buying a house in High Wycombe, Buckinghamshire.

In 1974 Keith had progressed to become a supervisor of a maintenance crew with British Airways. However, he was always looking for new horizons and in October of that year landed a job as an Avionics Engineer with Cathay Pacific Airways in Hong Kong. He and Nanette lived there for 2.5 years, and during that time travelled to most countries in the Far East, as well as Australia and New Zealand.

They returned to the UK in 1977 and Keith resumed his role as Supervisor with British Airways. In June 1978 daughter Annabel was born. She was just 9 months old when the family moved to Seattle as Keith had been offered a position with Boeing. There they spent a very happy 4 years, and along with an American accent, Annabel acquired a little sister, Amy, when she was born in February 1981.

In March 1983 the family moved to Atlanta, Georgia as Keith had landed a position with Lockheed. Driving all the way in a camper van with a 4 year old and a 2 year old had its challenges. Six months later Keith was seconded to Minneapolis to work with Honeywell. The change in climate was dramatic as they exchanged an extremely hot and humid Southern summer for a Minnesota winter that was to break all previous records for both

temperatures and snowfall. Keith always loved extreme weather conditions, so he was happy.

An opportunity arose to work on contract in Munich, Germany in January 1985. This was with the aircraft manufacturer, Messerschmidt Blaukow Blaum. After 2.5 years Keith's contract ended, by which time he had secured a job with Air Jamaica. Nanette and the girls returned to the UK, and Keith took up the position in Kingston, Jamaica. Sadly, the marriage did not survive and they divorced in 1989.

Disillusioned with Air Jamaica, Keith moved to Miami in 1988 when he was offered a job with Eastern Airlines. After a few years the company went into liquidation but fortunately Keith soon secured a position with American Airlines in Tulsa, where he settled, bought a house and enjoyed the rest of his life with a good social life with his close friends.

Just before Christmas Keith was taken into hospital and diagnosed with COVID-19 from which, due to complications, he was never to recover, and he died peacefully on Wednesday 24th February at 7.29pm local time.

Our beloved Keith would not have wanted flowers – instead he would have preferred you to raise a toast to him the next time you have a drink.

If you did want to donate money to charity, Keith didn't specify a particular one, but we do know that his father suffered with Alzheimers and Parkinsons so we believe they would be his preferred charities to support. Although Keith would never have expected anything more than a wish for people to celebrate his life and raise a toast to him.

Like his Mum, Keith always wanted people to remember him in joy and not in sorrow.

Comments



“ Only knew Keith in our apprenticeship days, he was an all right guy so I hope he had a good life and I am sure from the Family photo's he did and they will miss him tonnes.



Terry Mc. - March 15 at 10:04 AM



“ I knew Keith way back at the start of our aviation training in 1965. There were just 10 of us from our year group designated as electrical instrument apprentices as they hadn't even invented the word Avionic back then ! Being a clever lad Keith got elevated to a University syllabus and we lost touch but this news although terribly sad has heartened me that he went on and had such a varied and fascinating life. My deepest condolences to all friends and relatives and yes as requested I have raised a glass to his memory. Slainte. Rex Darby

Rex Darby - March 18 at 05:03 AM



“ I met Keith through my Dad (Jimmy Jackson) and he was a wonderful guy. He joined us a couple times for Thanksgiving and at other family get together s and was always so pleasant to be around. My husband and I always enjoyed the stories he told us and he always had some story that would make us laugh. He was such a jolly person that just made the day. He was a great friend to my Dad and I know my Dad will miss him. Keith talked about his daughters and how much he loved them and I know he will be missed by all that he knew him. Prayers to his family and friends and My husband will drink one for you Keith. We will miss you.

Jerri Lea Estep - March 11 at 05:46 PM



“ A great guy who had an unusual sense of humor & made you laugh!

New Year's Eve Parties - Never a dull moment at Keith's house. Always a great start to a new year with great friends in attendance good food & plenty of home brew.

Mother's visits from the UK - Dinners at the Italian Restaurant. Keith (always had the violinist play "Danny Boy" for his Mom) which she hated. So we always had a good laugh before dinner. We enjoyed her visits here in Tulsa & her stories of World War II in the UK & their family times in Malaysia.

Our daughters Holly & Marcy both always enjoyed seeing Keith, Annabel, & Amy whenever they were all in Tulsa. A lot of good times remembered.

We will lift our glasses & have a toast to you our forever friend. Not goodbye, but just till we meet again!

Darryl & Judy Brumfield

Judith A Brumfield - March 11 at 05:19 PM



“ Have lots of great memories with Keith from CJ Moloney's in Broken Arrow to England and Germany. Had some great trips to Munich and Prague with Keith. Had many beer brewing sessions together. Unfortunately due to our health issues we did not see Keith for last several years. He always was a great friend. Rest in Peace. Jim and Cherri Jackson

Jimmy Jackson - March 11 at 11:22 AM



“ Dear Keith

I will remember with fondness our family gatherings, especially the wonderful Christmases spent in Southgate in the early 70's. We had a lot of fun and you were always playing practical jokes – no one escaped! A particular highlight was the Morecambe and Wise show, especially the sketch with Andre Previn, how we all laughed.

On one occasion, my Morris Minor broke down when I went to a party in High Wycombe and you very kindly spent a lot of the evening repairing the fault so I was able to get back home safely.

John only met you a couple of times and there again the conversation revolved around the drinking of beer.

You are in our thoughts and prayers and will be missed by us all.

Rest in peace.

With love

Carolyn and John

XX

Carolyn Enright - March 11 at 11:18 AM



“ 2 files added to the album Memories Album



Jimmy Jackson - March 11 at 11:12 AM



“ 1 file added to the album Christmas at Keith's 2004 Jim and Cherri



Jimmy Jackson - March 11 at 11:04 AM



“ 1 file added to the album Memories Album



Jimmy Jackson - March 11 at 10:53 AM



“ As part of the family, we would all meet at functions, weddings, christenings, parties etc, and it was always interesting to watch Keith work the room. To the elders he was always respectful but cheeky with that glint in his eye, to the young ones he would always make them laugh with his silliness, but to the rest it was open season. Of course by this stage he would have had a beer or three and he had the knack of joining a conversation interjecting his words of wisdom, which were not always PC. From the sidelines it was so funny but he really did not mean it, he just found it fun to get a rise out of people. One thing is for sure he loved his girls and would do anything for them and we are sure he felt the same for all of his grandchildren. That is the mark of the man. Our love, thoughts and sincere condolences to Annabel, Amy and family.

Rest easy Keith.
Susan and Chris XX

Susan Traynor - March 10 at 08:13 AM



“ Dearest Keith

Transported back to the sixties/early seventies seeing photographs of you in younger days when you married Nanette and joined our family. Happy times.

Remembering your practical jokes, like the time you put a brick in my handbag, and the hilarious game you played on our mother by turning off the electricity. At the time power cuts were a regular occurrence. Watching from outside you waited for Mum to get up and find the candles and matches, light them and settle down again in her chair. Only then did you turn the power back on. I can't remember now how many times you did it but it was several! You laughed so much. And so did she. There was never a dull moment with you around.

You had a wicked sense of humour, but a kind heart. I remember how very upset you were when you lost one of your beloved cats, though you didn't want to show it.

Ian only met you once or twice but remembers your jokey manner. In different times you'd have shared many (probably too many) a beer!

Your life ended too soon, you will be missed by your friends and your two lovely girls, Annabel and Amy.

Rest in peace, Keith.
With love, Claire and Ian
xx

Claire McKenzie - March 07 at 12:10 PM



“ So sorry to hear of your passing Keith. I will always remember you for your wicked sense of humour which nearly got us in some scrapes a few times. Ray and I enjoyed many fun-filled times with you and Nan as we all were then. There was a particularly fun holiday in Spain I remember. You will doubtless cause havoc where you are now so enjoy.... and rest in peace. Love Cathy (now in Malta)

Catherine Cole - March 06 at 02:52 PM



“ Unfortunately Keith, I did not get the chance to know you as well as I would have liked, but it was easy for me to see that you were someone who enjoyed life and had a great sense of fun, with a sense of humour to match. I know we would have had many great nights, with a lot of laughs and a few too many drinks. Annabel and I will always raise a toast to you with every Bacardi & Coke we have so expect many, many toasts to you in the future. Rest in Peace Keith

simon - March 05 at 12:11 PM



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Simon

Simon - March 05 at 10:52 AM



“ 1 file added to the album Memories Album



Annabel Woodbridge - March 04 at 09:11 AM



“ Keith, you and I were together for twenty years and although we didn't last the course, I have so many happy memories of our married life.

We met at the Court Dancing School in 1968 when I was 18 and you 20. Never before had I met anyone quite like you - your crazy, wicked sense of humour was so appealing. We fell in love and married 3 years later. What an exciting life we led, travelling the world, living in Hong Kong, the USA and Germany.

You were a terrific dad, and our greatest achievement and your lasting legacy are our two beautiful daughters, Annabel and Amy. How proud they've made us! And now the addition of granddaughter, Darcey, and grandson, Beau, complete that legacy.

You're now at peace, Keith – sleep well.

With love, Nan x



Nanette from the UK - March 04 at 08:19 AM



“ I first met Keith when he joined my senior school on his arrival from Malaysia. I made a wise decision to sit next the cleverest boy in the class. However this did sometimes have its down sides. As mentioned by others, he had a mischievous nature and was always up to something.

Whenever something went wrong, or there was some disturbance in class, the cry from teachers was WOODBRIDGE !!!!! stop it.

He enjoyed winding people up and watching their reactions. But underneath it all he had a caring nature that he tried to hide from as many people as possible.

There are many things that I would not have done had it not been for Keith.

He joined the Air Training Corp (ATC) and so did I, even though I was in the Boy Scouts at the time.

He (and his Dad) gave me the confidence to do some basic Maintenance on cars. I would not have known where to start without him.

He joined BEA and started travelling. I thought that would a good idea but BEA did not want me so I joined BOAC instead.

We did not always agree on everything. He supported Spurs and I supported Arsenal A rivalry that continued through the years and he has never been happier recently, that Spurs were better the "A'ole" as he used to call Arsenal.

I was Best Man at his wedding and he at mine.

All that remains to be said is - Farewell my old friend, I will miss you.

Malcolm Davidson - March 02 at 01:25 PM



“ So many memories of a great friend from our days in Munich. We had some great party and Bier Garten times with Keith and Nan all those years ago - I remember Karen and I cycling back from Keith's on several occasions, when we perhaps shouldn't have been left in charge of a bicycle. A great, but wicked sense of humour - I remember one occasion when he was asked to leave a party just because the host didn't agree with his sense of humour. He was always the life and soul of our parties.

We were lucky enough to stay with Keith in Broken Arrow for a few days, probably in the early 90s. He was a great host and introduced me to some of his favourite craft beer haunts near his home. Whilst there he took us on a day trip to Dallas and Fort Worth. What an experience - especially when we approached some dodgy looking guys for directions to the Book Depository - "Keith, wind the window up, don't stop, just drive".

We next met Keith on a reunion in Munich - a great time was had by all and much Bier was getrunken. I think the last time we met was at the RAF Cosford Aircraft Museum. A wonderful day out with our families and his brother. Not so much beer this time, but his second passion, aircraft.

But more than anything else, Keith was a great family man and truly loved his daughters, as is evidenced by many of the photos posted. It was lovely to see pictures of him with grandchildren too - I am sure he was a fantastic grandad.

Rest in Peace mate - you will be sorely missed by many.

Steven Cubberley - March 02 at 03:19 AM



“ So sorry to learn of Keith's death. He and my dad, Bill Schneck, were fast friends, spurred by common work at American Airlines and a mutual love of beer. I believe they enjoyed many hours together, bottling and drinking beer. Friends and family will miss you dearly, Keith.

Lisa Albanese - March 01 at 08:34 PM



“ Keith and I first met back in the late seventies, when we were introduced through our now ex-wives, who both worked at G-Plan in High Wycombe. From the outset we all got on and with Keith it was very much WYSIWYG and that went down well with me. We became good friends and remained so, even after our respective divorces.

His mischievous, wicked sense of humour was always abounding, never more apparent than at one of his New Year's Eve parties where inflated condoms were used in lieu of balloons. I'd cringe sometimes as, in his good natured way; he'd take great delight in embarrassing others, and most especially his daughters in front of friends and boyfriends.

His great passion however, was football and supporting Barnet FC. On a number of his whistle stop visits to the UK, he'd arrange in advance to attend one of these games, via the corporate hospitality route – an event to which I'd be invited and always accepted. His brother Derek, a fellow Barnet supporter, would be at his side. Barnet's current plight at the foot of the National League would be of serious concern to Keith if he was still with us, so he'd be relieved that due to Covid-19, relegation will most probably be waived this season.

News of Keith's passing came as a great shock, as I'd always thought of him as “indestructible” and that he'd go on and on forever. I am going to miss his visits, his warm generosity, his wicked sense of humour and most of all, the man himself. Let's hope he continues to dish it out when he passes through those pearly gates.

Your good friend Arnold

Arnold Brown - March 01 at 07:10 AM



“ A message from Derek, Keith's brother:
I miss you a lot. Thanks for the good times we had together. I will never forget your companionship when we were on holiday and I will never forget your generosity and the way you looked after me when Mum passed away.
Love from your Brother Derek

Annabel Woodbridge - March 01 at 05:06 AM



“ 3 files added to the album Memories Album



Annabel Woodbridge - February 28 at 02:01 PM



“ 4 files added to the album Memories Album



Annabel Woodbridge - February 28 at 01:52 PM



“ 4 files added to the album Memories Album



Annabel Woodbridge - February 28 at 01:51 PM



“ We have good memories of Keith & Nanette in the late 60's 70's, we were married within a week of each other, and spent our courting days and early married life enjoying each other's company, RIP Keith xx love Sue & Roger Rigg

Susan & Roger Rigg - February 28 at 12:23 PM



“ Dearest Dad (aka Winepops),
We've been thinking back to old times, looking through old photos and home movies and what's so great to see is that in every memory you are always smiling and laughing – always having fun. You played jokes, had laughs and never took life too seriously. Well, apart from soccer/football. That was serious business. Your sense of humour was outrageous, and you were always the life and soul of the party.
You opened our eyes to an incredible amount of experiences. From seeing so many different places and living in different countries, to going on Concorde and flying a plane ourselves. Amazing times and experiences that we will never forget and we'll always treasure.
Your 'go getter' approach and 'living life to the full' attitude will live on in your friends and family, and we may even play a few pranks on people in your memory.
You were taken far too soon, but go and cause havoc in heaven! The angels are lucky to have you.
We love you so much Dad (Winepops) and miss you deeply.
Annabel, Simon, Amy, Robbie, Darcey and Beau xxx

Annabel Woodbridge - February 28 at 12:08 PM



“ 3 files added to the album Memories Album



Annabel Woodbridge - February 28 at 11:37 AM



“ 4 files added to the album Memories Album



Annabel Woodbridge - February 28 at 11:36 AM



“ 3 files added to the album Memories Album



Annabel Woodbridge - February 28 at 11:35 AM



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Annabel Woodbridge - February 28 at 11:34 AM



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Annabel Woodbridge - February 28 at 11:32 AM



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Annabel Woodbridge - February 28 at 11:31 AM



“ 2 files added to the album Memories Album



Annabel Woodbridge - February 28 at 11:31 AM



“ 1 file added to the album Memories Album



Annabel Woodbridge - February 28 at 11:13 AM



“ 25 files added to the album Memories Album



Annabel Woodbridge - February 28 at 11:11 AM



“ Keith "Wanker" Woodbridge. Sir, you will be missed. I have and always will remember our conversations about aviation and engineering. You are one of the most respected and loved people i know. God speed sir!!! Till we meet again.

Mike Koloff - February 27 at 08:41 PM



“ Keith Im gonna miss seeing you often. I will miss celebrating your Birthdays and hearing you rant about soccer. It was a pleasure knowing you for all these years. From the Pineapple that lives under the sea. Monica



Monica Bray - February 26 at 10:00 PM



“ Keith i am going to miss you so much. It will not be the same not seeing you often but i know you have gone to a better place. I will miss celebrating your Birthday and listening to you rant about your soccer team. Untill we meet again sweet friend. From the Pineapple that lives under the sea. Monica



Monica Bray - February 26 at 09:37 PM