

OBITUARY - JACK SWEETMEN My tribute to a gentle man

How well I remember our committee meetings back in the 90's. We held them in Jack and Jean's home in Heathlands Park just off the Foxhall Road.

Jack was the society's Membership Secretary ably assisted by Jean. Their home was always warm and cosy with large comfortable arm chairs, one of which 'Holly' (Charles 'Holly Hall) always made a bee line for. Jack in his working life was a sign writer. He produced some remarkable art work for the society some of which can still be seen today. Jack was a very gentle man and hid his light under a bushell. Nothing was to much trouble and he never appeared to get upset. Computers were around, but Jack preferred to keep the membership records in a little plastic box, it worked.

Eventually Jack and Jean felt it was time to hand the reins over to someone else and they were both made Honorary members. Some years later Jack became ill and required specialist nursing. Jean along with their daughter Marilyn had to make that horrible decision that many of you will have made, to place Jack into a specialist home.

Jack sadly passed away in November 2015 at the grand age of 97 years.

But that's not the end of the story. During the funeral service we heard that Jack was lucky to have made it through the war. Jack served in the army and was captured and became a Prisoner of War.

Jack's story is something out of a Boys own Annual. I said at the start that Jack hid his light under a bushell. I will try and get a copy of the story from the family for the next issue of Runway 22, don't miss it.

Martyn Cook