

Celebration of Life
Colin R Holden
'Col'

11th March 1944 - 12th July 2026



- RANDALLS PARK CREMATORIUM -
26th August 2026 at 12:30pm

Service led by Celebrant Mandy Cook



Please Enter and be Seated



MUSIC

Come Up and See Me, Make Me Smile - Cockney Rebel

Here Comes the Sun - The Beatles

ARRIVAL OF THE CHAMPION

Please All Stand

MUSIC

The Champion - Steve Britton

TRIBUTE

A Last Walk Down Through the Stands for the Best View in the House

led by John Holden

MUSIC

Sports Greatest Anthem

WELCOME

FEW WORDS

Mandy

POEM

For Grief

MY FATHER

Brian

MUSIC

How Long will I Love you - Ellie Golding

OUR GRANDAD

Jennifer, Kristen & Olivia

MUSIC

Sailing - Rod Stewart

FINAL WORDS

Mandy - Remember Col

THE RECESSIONAL

Place a Flower or Two for the Journey Ahead

MUSIC

Que Sera - Doris Day

(In the last months of Colin's life, he started losing consciousness for much of that time. His brother John and his sister in law Sylv took him to a concert at The Royal Alfred, unfortunately he was struggling.

They played Que Sera, Colin sat up, sung all the words perfectly, and then passed out. Time for another sing along Col?)

MUSIC

Don't Let the Sun Go Down on Me - George Michael and Elton John



FOR GRIEF *by*
John O'Donohue

When you lose someone you love, Your
life becomes strange, The ground beneath
you becomes fragile, Your thoughts make
your eyes unsure;
And some dead echo drags your voice down
Where words have no confidence Your heart
has grown heavy with loss; And though this
loss has wounded others too, No one knows
what has been taken from you When the
silence of absence deepens.

Flickers of guilt kindle regret For all
that was left unsaid or undone.

There are days when you wake up happy;
Again inside the fullness of life, Until the
moment breaks And you are thrown back
Onto the black tide of loss. Days when
you have your heart back, You are able to
function well Until in the middle of work
or encounter, Suddenly with no warning,
You are ambushed by grief.

It becomes hard to trust yourself.
All you can depend on now is that
Sorrow will remain faithful to itself.
More than you, it knows its way
And will find the right time To pull
and pull the rope of grief Until that
coiled hill of tears Has reduced to
its last drop.

Gradually, you will learn acquaintance
With the invisible form of your departed;
And when the work of grief is done, The
wound of loss will heal And you will
have learned To wean your eyes From
that gap in the air And be able to enter
the hearth In your soul where your loved
one Has awaited your return All the time.

COLIN HOLDEN “COL”

Father, Grandad, Brother, Uncle and Friend for so Many

Colin was born in Mitcham, London, on the 11th March 1944 to William John Holden and Winifred Martha Holden. He lived at 19 Maple Close with his 3 brothers, David the eldest, John, then Colin and Benny the youngest. For the most part they grew up in the close, playing football in the close as there was only one car.

John and Colin would do “cycle speedway” with Clifford Evans and Roy Beadle. Colin would play football on Sundays, as did his brother David for Elderwood Boys Club at the Oakley Field. Followed by a trip to Rowan Road cafe. At 14 he started cycling to Brighton with his friends, Jimmy Young, Terry Clark, another Jimmy Young and others from the close, and Raymond Young from Oakley Way. They would cycle down one day, stay out under the arches and back the next day.

Colin went to Rowan Road School. He took over from his brother John, working for Harry Norman after school, the mobile green grocer and bagging wood in the winter, so he could make money. Finally left school at 15, in 1959 taking up an apprenticeship with Stanley Dale & Sons, qualifying in 1964 as a carpenter and joiner.

Colin became very sick at 17, with Pleuracy, which became life threatening, but with the support of John and his brothers, John pulled him through. In 1962 both his parents passed away with the boys still living together, fighting to keep the house from being taken back from the council. They won. The brothers kept the house.



Colin started playing for Streatham Vale where he once played against Bob Duncan on Mitcham Common, not realising this until they both met at Chipstead Golf Club.



Colin met his true love, Joan Alice Comber from Devon in 1963, on a blind date. They were married in 1964. The family grew, with children Brian and Tina, living in Longthornton Road near his friend the plumber, Derek Keppler. The family then moved to Stanford Way, developing the house in the process. Then came his love for travel, money was never plentiful but he always made enough for a family holiday. Travelling with the Keppler family to southern Europe on more than one occasion.

Colin continued to play football and then started to play golf with Derek Keppler and his sons Stephen and David. He also ran a local boys football team. Where did he get the time? Playing football had to give way, but then he started to watch his local teams at Wimbledon and Crystal Palace, difficult to play golf after 3pm in the middle of winter, so it was a good choice. This was also an opportunity to spend time with his brothers and nephews. That's probably why he bought into a time share in the 80s at Aloha, Spain, with Graham Wolcott, Bob Duncan, Roger Kerslake and Barry Partner, using winter sun to improve his golf ahead of the season.

Then he made the move to take the family to Lackford Road in Chipstead. Close to Chipstead Golf Club, where he and the Kepplers were members. He won the Autumn Bowl in his first year and the Pine Coffin the following year, and many other competitions. His business moved from general works and developing houses to working as a contractor for Sutton Council e.g. schools, homes, council property and offices.

The business grew, and so did his golfing ambitions, he moved to Woodcote Park Golf Club following his good friend Derek Keppler. He won the prestigious trophy, The Webb Cup, twice, along with many other competitions. Often travelling to the Carolinas in the US, Scotland and Ireland with his friends from the club. Joan meanwhile, starts collecting border collies.

As the children grew up and went off to college, Colin planned one last move, to his current residence in Chipstead, Glenlyn, Rickman Hill Road. He developed the property, creating a home with Joan and made many friends in his neighbourhood, as he took on the management of the private road.



With business and life good, along came the grandchildren. He was the best grandfather, he had all the right qualities. Prioritising time for his grandchildren, he would listen to them endlessly, play all sorts of games with them, involve them in his work, cook for them on the BBQ grill and his face would light up the room whenever he was with them. Missing much of this experience himself growing up the hard way, he made the most of it now. Colin would watch them play sports, take them on holiday and attend the schools as often as he could. More often than not, he would step in and do the school runs, to spend

more time with them. As they graduated, and stepped forward in life, Colin shared in their success with a sense of achievement and pride, in that he had supported their pathway in the world. Opportunities not afforded to him, he wanted to make sure his grandchildren had every opportunity in life. Their graduation was his graduation.

Family, work, sport and travel. All he could want in life. Then Joan took up golf !.

Travel became Colin and Joan's passion. Travel broadens the mind, and is an education in itself. They travelled to Australia to meet Joan's family, also Singapore and Hong Kong. They played golf together in Mexico, Mauritius, Morocco, Turkey, Cyprus, Caribbean and South Africa, taking in a Safari, and enjoyed an outstanding trip to the Emirates to play golf with Chris and Bob. They played golf all across Europe. They spent time with Clive (Joan's brother) and Claire holidaying in Cyprus and Rhodes.

They traveled with their son's family right across the US, from Boston and New York, to Florida, to Las Vegas, Phoenix Arizona, Utah, LA, San Diego, Carmel, Monterey, Pebble Beach and San Francisco in California then to Kaua'i in the Hawaiian Islands. Playing golf with his son, in an attempt to lure him into the game, at the Ocean Course. Throw in the odd cruise here and there, his passport tells a story of a rich life, full of adventure, with nothing left on his to do list. A life fulfilled.

Throughout Colin's life he never forgot who he was or where he came from. His same friends from Mitcham, friends made through business and his brother John would meet every week for a beer or two, throughout his adult life. This carried on until Colin's passing.

Then came Covid. Colin was a very social person and this was hard for him caring for Joan 24 x 7, who went into late stage dementia at this time during lock down. It took its toll.

With the support of the family and Joan's brother Clive, the HNS stepped in and helped Joan with her illness by taking her into care. Although Colin couldn't care for Joan in Covid, he also couldn't live without the love of his life. A part of Colin died at this time.

After Joan had died, Colin struggled to live on his own without his soulmate. He kept the house spotless and the gardens tendered in respect for his wife. And of course golf 3 times a week. But nothing could fill the void of losing his wife, the love of his life. That void is now filled as they will lay together, again.

A further service to be confirmed by the family in due course, when they are both laid at rest together.





Brian, Bonnie, Jennifer, Kristen and Oliva would like to thank all of the family and friends of Colin for the kind messages of sympathy and attendance at the service. The flowers will go to The Royal Alfred and your donations will go to the British Heart Foundation and Age UK.



www.funeralguide.co.uk/obituaries/146426



We will continue to remember Colin at the Celebration of his Life, at

Cuddington Golf Club
Banstead Road
Surrey
SM7 1RD