

# Richard Vaughan Knight

(23rd May 1949 - 10th July 2020)



It is with great sadness that we announce the passing of Richard, the Founder and Vice-President of the Imp Club.

Richard was born in Bradford, Yorkshire in 1949 and at the age of four moved with his family to Swindon, Wiltshire. Together with his brother and sisters he enjoyed many happy hours of family time and adventures around where he lived. He often recalled the family returning to Bradford to visit family, the children all in the back of a Bedford van, no motorways in those days.

He was apprenticed in telecommunications and spent many years with the then Post Office Telecommunications (now BT) before doing contract work at various places. It was between contracts and with a love of motorbikes and cars that he 'temporarily' took a post in a car

accessory business. At this time he owned an Imp and was aware that some of the parts were becoming difficult to find.

Richard met his wife Sue through a mutual friend and married in 1976. With his two daughters, Sharon and Lisa, the time was never right to move on to another contract and as the family was his number one priority, the temporary job became permanent.

Richard's original green Hillman Imp was replaced with a blue Singer Chamois and with the impending birth of his daughter a deal was made for a Commer Imp Van with rear seat conversion to make room for the family.

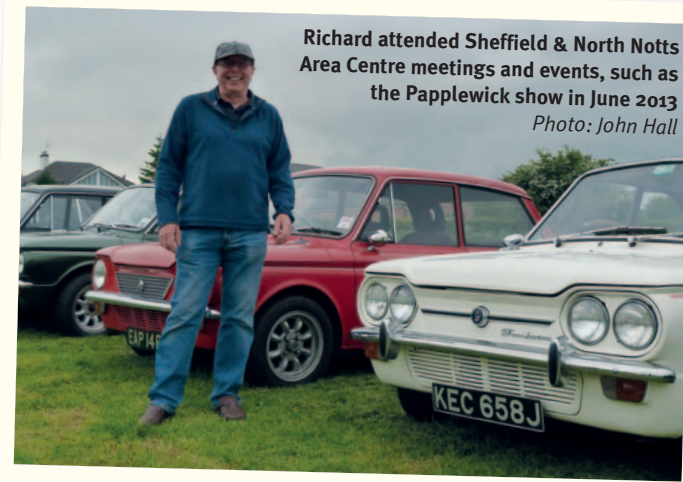
The idea of meeting other owners began to grow in 1978/1979 and in 1980 he wrote a letter to various car magazines to find other like-minded owners. Before long many people answered and the embryo of an idea became a reality. Membership numbers rose and a club magazine was launched, Sue typing on stencils and Richard printing on an old duplicating machine followed by collating and



c.1984: Richard with his Commer Imp Van  
Photo: Alan Platten

posting. After a while a committee was formed and the Imp Club as we know it was well and truly in business. Regular meetings and get togethers gelled the club which has gone from strength to strength ever since.

Richard's beautiful Commer Imp Van was written off by a speeding motorbike and sadly this was the last Imp that Richard owned. Richard moved back to telecommunications and with company cars and long hours of work was unable to find the time to own and care for an Imp although the love was never lost.



Richard attended Sheffield & North Notts Area Centre meetings and events, such as the Papplewick show in June 2013  
Photo: John Hall

Visiting events and meeting Imp owners was always a pleasure. Richard was looking forward to the 40-year anniversary with delight that the idea had lasted that long.

Through his illness he would often reminisce on the journeys and adventures with various breakdowns and repairs *en route*. The love of the Imp remained to the end and within the family for ever.

Sue Knight

Among friends at Imp o8 Malton, left to right: Graham Anderson, Richard Knight, Colin Valentine, Rosemary Smith, Dave Cull & Dale Bishop

Photo supplied by Graham Anderson

