

EULOGY
Gerald Booth

To avoid this being a CV and boring family and close friends (especially the B.Sc, Ph.D, C,Col, FSDC, C.Chem, FRSC bit) I would like to list a selection of life changing chance events.

1. The depression of the early 30's brought me from Glasgow to Huddersfield;
2. A six year old school friend selling his house led directly to my Grandmother buying "355" to rent to my parents (10/- a week!);
3. Activities centred around Frederick Street from the 'Rec' to the lamppost was character building for sport competitiveness and adventure. Long may the "gang' continue;
4. Neighbours (Joan Westrip and Lily Woods) led me to St Barnabas and thus a lifetime connection with the Church (and tennis!);
5. A Foundation Scholarship at age 11 meant King James rather than my preferred Huddersfield College;
6. A Job at I.C.I. was obtained via a friend of my Fathers;
7. A lifetime friendship with Roy Goggs led to an introduction to a cross-town group of teenagers including Betty Charlesworth who took me on after a lot of persuasion;
8. Early marriage (but 3 years courtship) expecting National Service that never happend led to a struggle to buy 871 Manchester Road (1952 - 1959);
9. Three children later (David 1953, Liz 1955 and Jo 1957) I.C.I made a major change by sending me to The Frythe (a sort of private university, with lots of very clever scientists in beautiful surroundings) and supporting us for two and a bit years in a rented bungalow in Hertfordshire;
10. Returning to work in Manchester in 1961 started the Thorpe House era (a chance purchase if ever there was one);
11. Jonathan (1962) and Peter (1963) duly arrived at Thorpe House and the family of seven was very happily established;
12. Over the years Thorpe House has proved an excellent base to work in both the Manchester and Huddersfield areas, to bring up and launch a wonderful family; now enjoyed also by the much loved grandchildren (and great-grandchildren). I hope that many of you reading this will have happy memories of parties at Thorpe House; my own most memorable being our Golden Wedding year of 2002;

13. Retirement in 1987 after 40 years at I.C.I. / Zeneca meant that life was enjoyed to the full, dominated by family get-togethers, holidays and collecting antiques category.

The first eleven of the above thirteen mini-reports were definitely life-changing for me and for others. I am afraid the number 14 is also in the earlier category.

14. 2005 - the first really bad item - (not bad in 75 years!); losing a leg was only tolerable through the support of family and friends - thank you all.

I write this coming up to 78 - will I reach 80? Or will this never be updated?

P.S. Nothing about a wonderful 60 years relationship with adorable Bett - mainly because she doesn't take kindly to compliments.

P.P.S. May 2015 - Through God's good grace I have enjoyed (with some struggles) 10 years as an amputee.

Highlights:

- a) Diamond Wedding May 2012;
- b) Six (!) great-grandchildren;
- c) Wonderful family holidays - especially Guyzance.

P.P.S. May 2021

Still here and coming up to 91 and 34 years of retirement; highlights of the last 5 years:

- a) Great-grandchild number 7 (Zac)
- b) 2019 - broken leg (again!) and long recuperation;
- c) Tenby family (25) holiday;
- d) 2020 lockdown and only just managed with help of family, friends and neighbours.