

park *people*

“It’s the best thing we’ve ever done!”

Jim and Rosemary Seagrave moved to Three Arches Park, in Redhill, Surrey, 18 years ago and instantly fell in love with park home life!

Throughout life there are always challenges thrown one’s way, but there are also times of happiness and reward. Often there are also things that happen that just seem as if they were ‘meant to be’... Jim and Rosemary Seagrave have had quite a lot of that in their lives! The couple have been married for nearly 50 years and share a close and devoted relationship. Both Jim and Rosemary had previously been married in their early twenties and each had two children from the relationships. At the time, coincidentally, Jim and Rosemary lived only a few doors away in the same street in Horley and, although Rosemary was friends with Jim’s then wife, Anne, Rosemary and Jim had not been acquainted. Jim had later moved away and, during that time, Anne had fallen ill and sadly passed away. Rosemary had since split up with her husband.

AS IF BY FATE

It was during a chance meeting when picking up their children from playschool one day that Jim spoke to Rosemary and explained Anne’s fate. The next chance meeting was when Jim saved Rosemary from standing in the rain at a bus stop by offering her a lift home.

Rosemary suggested Jim attend a gathering for divorcees but decided she liked him and perhaps should keep hold of him!

Fortunately, the feeling was mutual and as if it was ‘meant to be’, they were shortly living together and happily married.

The four children were all young and grew up as close siblings. Naturally they had the normal everyday squabbles but, when it counted, they were a tight ship and stuck together!

Now Jim and Rosemary delight in their 11 grandchildren and four great-grandchildren, with one more on its way.

When bringing up the children, Jim and Rosemary lived in a four bedroom council house in Redhill. Rosemary had her hands



Jim and
Rosemary
Seagrave at the
social club

full bringing up the children and Jim worked hard in various jobs. He worked for Ford as a test driver, driving vans, taxiing – he was never out of work!

It was a struggle at times, but they were a happy family and shared fun camping holidays in Dorset and Devon.

They later progressed to caravan holidays – maybe this gave them the taste for mobile homes! Visits to Dorset and Devon remain firm favourites for Jim and Rosemary to this day.

TOIL AND TROUBLE

The family lived in the same house for 16 years until the children left home, after which Jim and Rosemary moved to a maisonette near Redhill town centre.

At the time it was a pleasant place to live but over the years the location became more heavily populated and lost some of its attraction. Despite this, in later life, Jim and Rosemary decided to take out a mortgage and purchase the maisonette from the council.

While recognising this was a good financial decision, it also put a huge financial strain on them. Jim, never shy of work, was doing three jobs at one point: cleaning in the mornings; engineering during the day; and taxi work by the evening!

Likewise, Rosemary was caring for the elderly full-time, often undertaking 13-hour shifts.

In between all that, however, Jim and Rosemary enjoyed many memorable and special times, with the grandchildren staying over and meeting long term friends at the local social club, often attending the Saturday night dance.

TRUNKS OF TROPHIES

It’s fair to say Jim and Rosemary are both ‘go get’ and positive people. Jim has always been a keen sportsman and modestly mentions that he played both football and golf at county level. So successful at golf, he was encouraged to obtain his Professional Golf Association (PGA) licence and is now a qualified coach.