



## Gerry O'Shaughnessy

August 17, 1953 - April 4, 2020

Gerry O'Shaughnessy, 66, of Rotonda West passed away quietly on Saturday, April 4, 2020 at his Charlotte County residence with his loving wife by his side.

Born on August 17, 1953 in Poplar, London, England to the late Patrick and Bridget O'Shaughnessy, he had served in Her Majesty's Armed forces.

Gerry spent most of his working life as a detective with Scotland Yard.

He was a dearly loved husband, father, grand dad and friend to all who knew him.

A warm wise and witty man, with a great big heart of the kind that is rarely seen. He left to go fishing with the fishing gods in the blue lagoon in the sky.

He is pre-deceased by a brother, David.

Survivors include his devoted wife of twenty-six years: Ann; son: Lee Harper; grand-daughter: Tayla-Jade Harper; sister: Heather (Bill) Hellier; a dear friend who he loved like a brother: Rick (Lori) Westman; also, dear friends Keith, Samantha and Cindy – his fishing buddy.

There will be a celebration of Gerry's life when this world-wide situation ends.

Special thanks and love to friends and colleagues at Englewood Community Hospital for the professional, heartwarming attention and care during this time.

Englewood Community Funeral Home with Private Crematory has been selected to handle arrangements. You may share a memory with the family at [www.inglewoodfh.com](http://www.inglewoodfh.com)

# Comments

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“ Gerry and I loved to fish. So we go out fishing one day with another friend John. While out on Tom Adams pier I got a call from my son in NY. I rested my pole on the rail and paced up and down the pier. Suddenly I turned to watch my pole start to move. I started to run but I was too late. My pole went flying over into the water. Gerry and John laughed so hard. Two weeks later back at the pier I turned and saw Gerry pull back and go to cast his line and when he went forward he threw his pole right in the water. I looked at him and said, did you just throw your pole in the water.? He said yes. I said why.? He said I was not doing good with the hook so I thought I would try hitting them on the head. He laughed and said honestly I don't know what happened. We both just laughed.

**Rick Westman** - May 03 at 08:52 PM

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“ Gerry always had a smile on his face, even when he was asked to carry his friend Roy from the funeral home to his home (2 doors down from Gerry's). As Gerry carried him he made the comment "your are right Roy, you gained some weight'. Roy. We had some wonderful times together with Bill, Heather, Rick and Lori all playing games and laughing all hours of the night. God granted me a life of happiness with you and I just want to thank him for that. Miss you and God speed. Always in my thoughts.

Patti Bedinghaus

**pat** - April 15 at 11:19 AM

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“ I am so sorry Annie for your loss . Remember Gerry as such a funny guy much like my Rick . So smart and interesting . My son Doug just met Gerry one time at my 60th birthday and just was amazed at his stories of Scotland Yard !! Know i am here for you  
Love you Annie

**kay rack** - April 12 at 10:52 AM

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“ My most fond and lasting memories of Gerry are the endless patience that he had when he was teaching me the skills of kayaking in Florida:

From the first time he gave me a push off from the waterside, when I merrily paddled onto a sandbank and Gerry had to wade out into the muddy water to push me off, to paddle again. Keeping me safe by repeatedly shouting out instructions when I was caught in the wake of passing large boats, as I was trying to escape! To the persistence he had and the time he gave to me, to have the opportunity to kayak amongst the dolphins that came to play next to me and seeing the manatee's nearby.

Gerry was such a knowledgeable, helpful, kind and humorous Guy, who gave me so many opportunities by showing me the most wonderful places in Florida, leaving me with so many fantastic memories.

Thank you Gerry, for being such a lovely and supportive friend. I will miss you dearly.  
Carole x

**Carole Murphy** - April 11 at 05:33 AM

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“ Worked with Gerry at Barnet, lovely lovely man. Did a night duty with him, two O'Shaughnessy's on the same crew.

Gerry met and married Ann who ran the Queen Adelaide, Shenley where the CID hung out. Great memories of going to that pub.

So sad that he has died. He made a very positive impression on everyone he met

**Mark O'Shaughnessy** - April 09 at 12:59 PM

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“ Gerry

Where do you start? He was such a loveable Character, we can hear him now saying “BE HAPPY PEOPLE”

We are going to miss all the in-depth interlectual discussions on US & UK Politics and the vast wealth of his knowledge, Gerry was such a fastinating person to listen and talk to.

He was a true friend that you could depend on, nothing was too much trouble, he would come round at the drop of a hat if you needed him .

Gerry certainly suited a T- shirt , Shorts and Flip Flops, Martin always remarked that he had “ a great pair of pins ( legs) on him “ The Fishing Rod was also a much loved accessory, that was apart from Anne who he worshipped.

It has been a great privelege to know and call Gerry our friend , we will miss him dearly

Kathy & Martin

Kathryn Starosta - April 09 at 09:27 AM

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“ Very sadly we only knew Gerry for a short while but we enjoyed his company, took his advice about whether to buy a kayak to use at the condo in Englewood and enjoyed a few good nights with him and Ann. He was a very kind and generous man, a loving husband and grandfather and we enjoyed his company and his wealth of knowledge very much. Ann and Gerry have made us and our girls very welcome at their home and we will miss seeing him in Florida. Our thoughts are with Ann and his family today and will be with Ann always.

God bless you Gerry.

Ann and Peter

ann boulton - April 08 at 01:47 PM

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“ Gerry was one of the kindest, gentlest man you will ever meet. We will miss him terribly. We always talk and think fondly of him in our house and we will continue to do so! Thank you Gerry for opening your arms and heart to us, you were brave!

Ellie - April 08 at 01:38 PM

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“ Gerry was a great friend with a wicked sense of humour. Nothing phased him and he saw a funny side of any situation. Barnet Police Station was nicer place with Gerry in residence. There was always a cup of tea at his man cave in the flat above the shop in Potters Bar. It was great seeing him and Anne when our family came to Florida for a wedding 3 years ago. He was truly happy and glad he missed Brexit!!  
Our love goes to Anne and family for this sad loss. Chris and Gina Truran xxx

**Chris Truran** - April 08 at 05:10 AM

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“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



**Keith Millar** - April 08 at 01:08 AM

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“ There is an old adage that states “You can count your true friends on one hand”, Gerry was one of mine. We first met in the very early nineties as I was posted to Barnet CID office. Sat in the corner was a quiet unassuming Detective who looked every inch at home amongst some of the most grisly, hard bitten investigators, I ever had the pleasure to work with. My initial observation, was a man who saw and took in much, but said very little. We quickly hit it off and did not look back. He was a hard ex military man, highly respected amongst his colleagues and peers for being a first class Detective. An aptly deserved accolade as he was tenacious in bringing the nefarious to justice. Extremely well read, very intelligent, if you could get him talking, you found him erudite, efficacious in most subjects. I lost count of the many times after a hard day we would set the world to right whilst enjoying a libation in public houses or at office lunches to numerous to mention. He worked hard and he played hard. It’s fair to say that Gerry was a beer monster! Whereas by the end of the evening I would be using the bar to prop myself up being the worse for wear, he would just be holding court and ordering another round. The following morning, utterly professional, front and centre at some ungodly hour for parade, him with a knowing raised eyebrow and me with the mother of all hangovers! At the end of a shift I would ask “Anyone seen Gerry?” and receive the reply “He’s at the annexe?” Where would the annexe to the Barnet CID office be you ask? ‘The Queen Adelaide pub in Shenley! It was here I first met Ann, once met never forgotten. Worldly wise and so attuned to our need to exorcise and distance our work lives with good conversation, good food and beer. She was undoubtedly the best licensee a pub has ever seen. And this pub and Ann were a natural beacon for Gerry. It was here that his life and priorities changed for the better. Fair to say, I have many fond memories of this place and the both of them, they just seemed to fit hand in glove. I lost touch with them as Gerry approached the end of his career as a Detective and Ann had a career change from licensee to nurse. A few years later in the arrivals lounge in Tampa airport, someone shouted my name....it was Ann. No surprise to me to find she and Gerry were married and living in the sun. So off to Rotunda Sam and I went, for a happy reunion with my old mates. The lifestyle and company was addictive and so, Sam and I bought a condo nearby. Now here is another yardstick to measure the man, this condo needed a refurb and without asking I find Gerry right next to me with a paintbrush and roller in hand and on his hands and knees helping me grout the tiles. I never asked once, Gerry just turned up. Inordinately generous and I have to say very much valued and appreciated. Gone was the beer monster, metamorphosis saw him transform into a coffee monster, swapping pub for Dunkin Donuts. So there were plenty of breaks for coffee and we would sit outside overlooking the McCall Road putting the world to rights consuming coffee and morning coffee rolls. Another sensible later life decision had seen Gerry take up fishing, he came to it late but seemed to get the time it gave you for contemplation and relaxation. A life long passion of mine we spent a lot of time on the blue waters of the Gulf. If I hired a boat, Gerry would turn up with a box of joe and donuts and off we would go fishing creating happy memories interspersed with so many funny moments. Gerry loved to fish from a kayak, so I got one. We spent many happy days paddling around the gulf, one in particular springs to mind where I turn around and see Gerry getting dragged all over the place by a huge jack, with no control over his kayak, I would of helped but was too busy laughing! A great man and irreplaceable character. So often eulogies are full of platitudes and not richly deserved, not in this case.

## In his own words “Bye people be happy”

**Keith Millar** - April 08 at 12:42 AM

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“ One of my favorite memories of Gerry was our many New Years Eve parties. We went to the O’Shaughnessy house with plans to spend the night. About 20 people. Traditionally They had a first foot. I would be the first to enter using the front door. I would bring a piece of coal and a bottle of scotch. This represented health and warmth for the year. During the night we would finish the bottle. Around 3:00 AM we found our all alone on the Lanai. Gerry looked at me and said I am just going to run to the bathroom. I waited outside for a half an hour till I realized he was not coming back. His wife Ann found him in the morning on the bathroom floor. What times we had.

**Rick Westman** - April 07 at 09:45 PM