

## Sid Western Remembered In Style

Sid Western, known to a great many naturists, died unexpectedly of a heart problem on 29 October 2013 having led a full and colourful life. Arriving in a wicker coffin on a motorcycle hearse Sid was then sent off in a humanist service. 'No black' was the order of the day as 140 family and friends were present at West Huntspill, Somerset, on 8 November 2013.

Sid died aged 75 having been born in Coventry, one of a family of three. He married Norma in 1959 and they had two children, Helen and Colin. Sid almost emigrated to Australia with his young family, but Sid had a skin complaint, which put paid to their plans. Instead Sid and family moved to Bridgwater in Somerset, where they settled.

Sid's engineering work included many interesting things. He invented a hand-held distress flare for pilots, still used around the world. In the 1990's Sid learnt tunnelling technology, and worked on London's Jubilee Line Extension. As well as dancing, everything from Big Bands to Ceroc, trips in their camper van 'Brian' and naturism, Sid was into motorbikes. The latter interest involved many visits to the Isle of Man, including this past summer.

Sid was remembered with great affection on 8 November. A fascinating and humorous poem of Sid's life had been written by family friend Sue Wand, who read it at the service. The family, led by Norma, Helen and Colin, were joined by neighbours, biker mates, friends from the dancing world, and a great many naturists. The latter included from BN, NAG, Motorcycle Nudes, SW Outdoor Club, Somerset Running Bares.

Sid was a really nice and gentle man. He will be fondly missed by hundreds of his friends. Donations in memory of Sid, total £1,000 by 20 November, were given to *Help for Heroes*, through the family or at <http://www.justgiving.com/SidWestern>

**John Paine**

