

Sadly, after a long illness, Jim Noble, our founder and President, passed away at the end of November 2014. At his Humanist funeral at Worthing Crematorium on the 2 December 2014, two of his sons, Andrew and Richard, presented the following eulogy of their father and also agreed to it being published on this web site.

The First Epistle to the Corinthians, Letter from Paul, Chapter 1, Verse 1.....is not how our father would wish us to start.....Dad wasn't a believer.

Stop the Clocks, the famed poem by W.H Auden, would be equally unwelcome. Dad didn't like poetry ...and liked God fearing Poets even less!

The Pulitzer Prize winning author James A Michener once wrote "Scientists dream about doing great things. But Engineers do them!" So in four hundred seconds or less, here are some of the 'lessons of life' that our Engineer, Jim Noble - tried to teach us.

1. Always tell the truth, so you don't have to remember which lie you told to which person.
2. A round-turn and two half-hitches is the most useful knot you can ever learn.....the highwayman's hitch, the Russian roulette of knots.
3. Try not **to hold** a soldering iron from the wrong end.
4. If you're going to crash your car...make sure you hit the person that caused it.
5. Always use your brakes more than your clutch if you want to slow down the car, 'cos they're cheaper and easier to replace.
6. If you have to replace your clutch...try not to do it in my garage the week before Christmas.....again!
7. Always have the landlord give you a jug, not a straight — it's the only way to really drink beer.
8. Good manners cost nothing; ethics and morals do matter.
9. Do the right thing, especially if it's the hardest thing.
10. Never leave my best pliers at your school radio club again.
11. Always understand the fundamentals of how to hand-pull a petrol lawnmower.
12. "keeping your bare knuckles away from the sharp edges of a lawnmower engine, counts as a fundamental!"
13. Always wash my car before your mother's.
14. Learning your times tables is easy – just try doing it in Base-8!
15. No really, Neil Carpenter IS cool.
16. Wearing socks and open-toed sandals doesn't need to be such a bad thing.
17. **Never** get hot-chocolate from a vending machine.
18. A fun-size Mars bar is only fun if you eat five at one sitting.
19. The only paint brush you should ever need is 1¹/₂ inches wide - in old money.
20. Talking slowly and quietly while telling somebody off, is far more effective than shouting.
21. Always open the first bottle of a new batch of home-brew outside....or wear Kevlar!

22. It's probably best not to panic in any situation.
23. Stand up in the world and don't rely on a safety net.
24. Work things out for yourself and seek guidance from others....don't just expect somebody else to give you the solution.
25. Never blame one of your brothers for something you did, unless you know for sure you can get away with it.
26. Always hang a wet tent to dry in a garage before packing it away. Just stop using MY garage.
27. Appreciate history and one day, perhaps history will appreciate you.
28. Always be nice to hospital staff...they control the pain.

Dad wouldn't have wanted a fuss here today – he wasn't one for elaborate occasions. The nature of this ceremony perhaps reflects that and the choice of his music too, but if Dad had wanted to have been remembered for anything, it would have been for quiet, non-judgmental advice.