

Brian Harvey



It is with great sadness that we must report the passing of GPM founder Brian Harvey on Friday December 11th. Brian passed peacefully in the early hours of the morning after a long period of illness. He was 87.

Motorsport enthusiast and amateur racer, Brian (with wife Rachael) founded Grand Prix Models back in 1972, having identified a distinct shortage of quality motorsport models available to them and their fellow competitors. Putting his background in journalism to good use, Four Small Wheels magazine soon followed to keep model collectors around the world up to date in the pre-digital age.

30 odd years later and having passed the business to the next generation, Brian and Rachael took a well deserved retirement in 2003, moving to Pembrokeshire in Wales and became founder members of the Narberth U3A (University of the 3rd Age), serving on the committee and writing the newsletters. Brian's other great passion was jazz music and for a time he had an online radio show and ran a monthly jazz appreciation group from home until the Covid outbreak.

The following message received from one of our oldest friends and customers in New York typifies the messages we have received over the past few days.

"Dear Justina and Andre:

Mark was kind enough to phone me with word of the passing of a pioneer. The gap left by Master Harvey is indeed a large loss to all of us whose lives he and Rachael - and the enriching (and enpooring!) hobby they enabled -touched.

I reread the excellent bio in your home page to refresh my remembrance. I had in fact visited the Radlett shop in the very early '80's when in England on business, and reveled in their knowledge and high standards. Brian shepherded this awestruck Yank through aisles containing gloriously, lovingly fashioned Mick'n'Sues, John Days, Andre Marie Rufs, Solidos, Tin Wizards, Rekords, Playtoys, etcs not yet known in the colonies. Clearly GPM and Four Small Wheels were instrumental in creating and nurturing 1/43 mania worldwide. And you continue in that leadership role. Great thanks to you. You are both fortunate to have known Brian in a much more personal and familial way than I. But I share your loss and wish you fond recollections that make you smile. Thank you Brian & Rachael. Warm memories to you, Tom."