

Our memories of the wonderful Richard Lumley!

One of the first times I saw Richard was when he was pushing Lumi around in the pram as a baby and I was pushing James! We smiled at each other with that look shared between parents of our children are precious, but oh my goodness I wish they'd go to sleep! :)

I remember one of the few times Lumi and James went to Little Kickers together, Richard and I were looking at the boys (and laughing at how they were running around and not actually doing a lot of football) and Richard said to me Lumi is just magic. It was so heartfelt and beautiful that it stayed with me.

I would really look forward to seeing Richard on the school run and really enjoyed chatting to him. Inevitably, we'd both be a little on the late side :), usually doing a fast walk and telling the boys to hurry up! We would laugh on the walk back about how Lumi and James weren't the quickest in the morning and also not the easiest to get to bed early.... Richard made me laugh when he told me one time Lumi did a kind of limbo manoeuvre to make it through the school gate whilst Mrs Hills was distracted! We'd also talk about Donjeta and how she was getting on and it was so obvious how proud he was of his beloved daughter. I remember him talking to me about Diell and his beautiful smile and saying he could get away with things because he was so damn cute! We'd also talk a little about work and Richard would say his job was very busy. I'd sometimes have to rush back for 9am calls and Richard would always offer me a lift. David remembers that despite being busy at work, Richard would always find time to take Lumi to the playground. I remember chatting to Richard whilst we were watching the boys swinging around in the playground and Richard said proudly, Lumi was very sporty.

I was always so impressed by Richard's DIY skills and if I'm honest just a little bit jealous that David didn't build and fix things like Richard! :)

When James had his first sleepover with Lumi, I remember dropping him off and staying for a cup of tea and having a lovely chat with Richard and Merita. I always knew it, but it struck me how they were and are such a beautiful, loving family. I remember Lumi climbing on his mum's knee giving her a hug and then doing the same with Richard. James also told me that Richard was brilliant at chess and he was showing him how to play it that night.

I was lucky enough to see Richard at a children's party just before the family left for Devon. I was so pleased to see Richard and Donjeta and I remember sitting next to them and along with the other parents, having such a nice chat. I remember Richard and Donjeta were laughing about one time when they had so much stuff before going on holiday, that Donjeta had to get in the car and Richard had to pack around her. I also remember talking about how we all first met our partners and Richard said I believe, it was thanks to a dear friend of the family. Like many times when I'd seen Donjeta and Richard together, I remember thinking what a beautiful bond they had.

I feel very lucky that I had the chance to get to know Richard, such a lovely, gentle, calm, humble, caring, intelligent man with a good sense of humour. He was so proud

of his family and would do anything for them and I can see him in all his amazing children.

Lesley Pemberton