

Memorial Ceremony for

Lynne Martin

28th June 1959 - 3rd September 2018

The Red Lion, Hythe, Kent
Friday 5th October 2018

Celebrant: Jane Lambert



Lynne was born on 28th June 1959 to Ray and Maureen Viney who were of proud Welsh origin and she had a brother, Wain, 7 years her senior and he wrote this account of her early years:

Lynne was born in Flat 1A, Pages Close, London Colney which was at the bottom of the Handley Page Aeroplane Manufacturer's main runway, and that probably accounted for her ability to sleep through any noisy situation. When she was 4 years old the family moved to number 1, Hopground Close, St. Albans where Lynne attended her first proper school, Cunningham Hill Infants, and she progressed into the Junior School the following year.

Then at six and a half it was all change due to a career change for Mum and Dad. They became landlords of the Waggon & Horses at Milton near Cambridge and Lynne went to another new school, Milton Primary, where she stayed until moving on to senior school. The next move was to the heart of Cambridge and another pub, The Cricketers, where conveniently her school, Parkside Grammar, was just across the road from the pub and so, of course, she was always late!

Her first job was at the TSB, and, full of ambition and drive, it wasn't long before the big city beckoned and off she went, still with the TSB, to London. The world of commerce appealed to her nature and soon she was moving onwards and upwards...

Lynne's story is continued a few years later by Les's account 'My Life with my wife Lynne Martin'.

I first met Lynne when we were both working as freelance computer operators. I was working for an Australian Bank in London. I was told that we had a new contractor starting on the mid night shift and that it was a female – it was unusual in that there weren't many female operators at that time, mainly due to the shift work that was involved. She duly turned up on time and I was assigned to show her the ropes.

For me all I can say is that it was love at first sight – something I didn't believe possible, but it happened. We worked together for a few months, shared the quiet moments together of our passion for cryptic crosswords. We got on very well but for me there was one problem – she was married! Her contract ended, and we said our goodbyes and I didn't expect to see her again. Well, a few months later she got a new contract and returned and this time she had left her husband!

We began to see each other outside work which was quite difficult as I lived in South London and she was staying with a friend in Cambridgeshire. Our romance blossomed, and we decided to rent a flat in Croydon and move in together. She told me that one of the reasons that her first marriage failed was because she was unable to have children. That was fine with me, and we agreed to live our lives accordingly.

We had our first holiday together in what was then Yugoslavia. We loved everything about it, the travelling, the country and we had a great time. We also spent a fair bit of time in pubs and clubs! That really sparked our love of holidays and city breaks. We tried to spend the weekend of our wedding anniversary away whether in the UK for a short break or in a European city.

Wherever we went we tried to see the sights by walking. We must have walked thousands of miles in our time together, but we saw everything we wanted to see and experienced towns and cities by foot. Lynne loved maps and wherever we went she got a city street map. We planned where to go and what to see and by and large she was an accomplished map reader... but don't mention Barcelona where the map was obviously printed wrongly and we saw parts of the city that tourists don't usually see!

In 1989 Lynne announced that she was pregnant and said not to worry as she has been told that she was unable to carry a baby. By now her divorce had come through and during her pregnancy we decided to marry, which we did in February 1990 at Croydon registry office. Lynne did carry the baby full term and our beautiful daughter Jennifer was born in July 1990.

Due to circumstances beyond our control, we moved around quite a bit until we decided to move down to the coast. Every weekend for several months we picked a place to visit, loaded the old Cavalier with baby and paraphernalia and set off for a sea side town. One weekend we visited Folkestone and didn't think much of it but got lost getting out of town and went through Hythe. It was so lovely we decided that was where we would move to and did!

As our financial position began to improve so did our holiday plans. We visited Florida twice and then Tobago which was Lynne's favourite place. Much to our daughter's disgust we still moved around quite a lot but within the area. One of the things Lynne really loved was going out for a meal. She liked trying new restaurants (and old) and trying new dishes. We both loved spicy food and loved to share cooking new dishes at home. Her weakness for cheese is legendary!

Lynne loved listening to music and always had the radio on in the car. When we were on holiday or attending 'do's' she loved to dance to mainly 80's disco music. The anthems of the time were such that the second the song started, you knew what it was, and it would make you get up and head for the dance floor. Unfortunately, I wasn't the best of dancers and needed alcohol to persuade me to do so! Lynne also liked the sing-along songs although strangely, as someone from Welsh parentage she couldn't sing a note – but that didn't matter as she would still enjoy herself.

During our time together Lynne developed several nicknames. My late father nicknamed her 'Lynford' not because she could run fast like the athlete but because he felt it suited her! And right up until her death she was still referred to as Lynford! And during the time Trivial Pursuit became all the rage and was played at family gatherings Lynne acquired the nickname of 'Brains' as she often plucked the most obscure correct answers from all categories much to the annoyance of family members!

Lynne loved puzzles such as Sudoku and crosswords. She religiously bought a Take a Break magazine every week and we would look at the prizes on offer and decide which would suit us but sadly in all the years she did it she never won a thing!

Some years back Lynne developed an interest in yoga and joined a local class. She loved it so much that she often went two or three times a week. She also went on a few retreats with the class where they would spend a weekend away practicing yoga. The early morning meditation class on Thursdays was her favourite. Sadly, she had to give that up due to leg injuries.

The happiest time for Lynne was when our first grandson Jack was born in 2010 and she became Nanny! This was followed by our second grandson George in 2013 and she doted on them both, and was always there for them.

In Lynne's working life, she took on many challenges. She was a recruitment consultant, worked in Croydon magistrates Court, and at the William Harvey Hospital. She became a financial advisor for a couple of well-known companies, worked for Shepway Council in the elections department and finally at Hawkinge Town Council and Lyminge Parish Council. She excelled at everything she did work-wise, putting heart and soul into her jobs, and was well respected by everyone she worked with.

Lynne was ever the optimist, the greatest of organisers, fun to be with, kind and caring to friends and particularly family, an adventurous chef and all-round good woman. Our time together was always a joy. We shared common interests, supported each other through good and bad times and referred to 'us' as 'Team Martin'. Give us a problem and we would find a solution. It was an honour to have known and loved her.

Les mentioned that Lynne had become interested in yoga some years ago and I'll now read some words from Hatty and Karen her Yoga teachers.

Lynne joined our yoga class in March 2010 and very quickly became an enthusiastic and vocal student, which we both loved. She regularly shared insights with the class, which helped students and teachers alike.

On retreat she always contributed and was good fun. Within the meditation class Lynne very often showed wisdom which helped us all. On a personal note she was very supportive to Karen during a difficult time. Lynne spoke fondly of her family and was very proud on Jen and her achievements. We miss her.

Lynne was close to Les's sister, Carol and her family, and Carol paid tribute to her, saying:

Lynne was an attractive woman and always full of energy. Whenever we went out to a party; Lynne was always up dancing and the last one to go to bed. Lynne and I once did a weekend massage course together. During the practical Lynne forgot to do 'back of legs' so I whispered to her and we both dissolved in laughter which led to tears! We laughed so much I thought we would be asked to leave.

Carol has asked that the following poem be read on behalf of herself, her husband Graham and their family.

*We are here to celebrate your life
And the measure of its worth
And every single life you touched
While you were on this earth.
We wish to pay our last respects.
That's why we all are here,
To thank you for your friendship
And all the memories we hold dear.
It's been a privilege to have known you.
We were family, not just friends,
And we will carry you in spirit
Until we meet up once again.*

Our final tribute today has been written by Lynne's daughter Jennifer and I'll read it on her behalf.

I am positive that everybody here will understand that losing my lovely Mum has been extremely painful & a traumatic event. So at this time, I am unable to allow myself to think about any specific fond memories. However, all I have done at this time is allow myself to think a little bit into the future; which doesn't seem such a happy place without my Mum.

I will continue to adore my Dad, as I always have done, and will continue to support him as best I can. My Dad is not only adored by myself, but also by our boys, and by Barney who has nothing but respect and a close bond with Dad- which will long continue.

Barney and I will continue to bring our boys up; regularly talking about their Nanny and ensuring they never forget the lady who had nothing but true love and devotion for her Grandchildren.

Jack will continue being the academic genius that he is and will not forget that Nanny taught him the skills to do quick maths. He will remember the importance of his education and that Nanny showed him the magical world of a good book. Jack inherited his Nanny's hunger for always learning something new and the determination to finish a project.

George inherited his Nanny's love of cheese, and his love for outdoor adventures. George's reaction when we told him that Nanny had sadly passed away was nothing but comforting to Barney and I. When we told him, he immediately said 'Well Nanny's gone to heaven now and heaven is beautiful and she can do whatever she likes; she will be happy there' He was so matter of fact and so convinced that Nanny is happy, wherever she is, that we too have chosen to believe this. Over the past few weeks, this has given me much comfort. I imagine my Mum reunited with her family and friends that have also sadly passed away, enjoying a cheese board and a glass of wine, looking down on us all.

For myself, I have lost my Mum and the person who knew me best in the world. I have lost a comfort blanket, a reassuring voice, someone to tell me off and the person who could give me the best advice. When I had my boys and became a Mother myself, I was suddenly a person that was needed all of the time. I was very fearful that when they went to nursery or school, they wouldn't need me anymore. But then I realised, that that would never happen because I'd always needed my Mum. Even when I didn't think I did. Now the devastating reality is that she has left us in a physical form, but her words live on, her voice lives on, her morals and values live on, and most importantly her love lives on.

Mum and Dad were always 'Team Martin' but for the foreseeable future, 'Team Martin' has merged with 'Team Stephens' and although 'Team Martin-Stephens' will always have a part in our heart that is broken and aching, we will also always have a part that is dedicated to Mum and beats nothing but true love.

We are coming to the end of this part of your celebration of Lynne's life and Les has penned a few words about how Lynne might want you to feel today:

*Don't cry, don't cry, don't be sad
You're here for me and I'm glad
As I look down from up above
Here are the people that I loved*

*As you gather to celebrate my life,
Whether I was friend, sister, mum or wife,
In life I loved you and though, unexpectedly, died,
Please think of me always by your side.*