

# A celebration of life

## Anne Hazard

23rd April 1952 - 19th April 2012

1.30 pm, 1st May 2012, Cambridge Crematorium, West Chapel

*a personal goodbye*

Humanists UK is a registered charity no. 285987 and limited company no. 228781 in England and Wales. Humanists UK, 39 Moreland Street, London, EC1V8BB, 020 7324 3060

**Humanist**  
*Ceremonies*

## The Tribute

Louise has written these words in tribute to her mother.

Anne was born 23<sup>rd</sup> April 1952 in Hayes Middlesex, the younger sister of John and Margaret and the daughter of Muriel who was a housewife and Reg Bodkin who worked as a station master on the London Underground.

The family moved to Sudbury when Anne was a baby. She had a happy childhood, often visiting her Auntie Thelma and Uncle Reg in Long Clawson, Melton Mowbray, playing with her cousins and running around in the fresh air, a change from London.

Anne met her lifelong friend Evelyn when they started at Alperton Secondary School together in year 8, from there, their friendship grew.

Anne did well at school and was well liked. She was in the school netball team and was also a prefect. She and Evelyn would have a laugh to see who came first in domestic science and needle work, Anne would succeed in Domestic Science and Evelyn needle work – which worked out well. This early grounding and what she learnt at home with her mum, sowed the seeds for Anne being a marvellous cook and housekeeper her whole life.

Anne worked at Wembley Bowling Alley part time. She was allowed to have go when it was quiet and this amount of practice meant that in recent years, if ever the family went bowling, everyone wanted to be on her team.

After leaving school, Anne got her training course with Revlon in London to be a manicurist.

Once completed she got a position in a Salon in Ealing Broadway as a manicurist and later took over the reception duties.

Evelyn and Anne would meet after work to go out. They would always go to the pictures at least once a week, twice on a bad week. They did try a few of the pubs in Ealing, especially ones where bands would play! Anne loved to dance and both her and Evelyn were into the Beach Boys, even seeing them at the Hammersmith Apollo.

The girls went to Gran Canaria in Aug 1968 with Evelyn's Auntie, where they proceeded to get very sunburnt. This didn't deter them from enjoying their holiday as from then on they chose to sunbathe under their towels.

The girls had their first unchaperoned holiday together in Italy, this is where Anne met her future husband David and his friends.

David and his friends were seated behind Anne & Evelyn on the plane, David's friend, Billy was petrified of flying and his friends were mercilessly teasing him. After chatting on the plane, the girls didn't meet up with them until the return journey

home, where David and his friends collected as many portions of cake as they could from the hostesses to give to the girls.

Several months later the girls went to the Ideal Home Exhibition where low and behold they spotted David. David noticed these two girls looking over but unfortunately didn't recognise them. He went over and through listening to their conversation was able to work out who was who and how they had originally met. From then on the friends all met up regularly in London and eventually David and Anne started their relationship.

David lived in Harlow at the time and when he casually mentioned to Anne that it was a long way for them both to travel and maybe she should move in with him, to which she replied that she wouldn't live with him but she would marry him!

Anne and David were married at Willesden Registry office 10<sup>th</sup> April 1971 amongst family and friends with their reception held in The Mortimer Arms, Tottenham Court Road, a pub run by Fred and Marie Rix. The day was so wonderful that on their first anniversary, Anne and David invited everyone who attended the wedding to a party to recreate the day.

Anne and David settled into married life with David's children from his first marriage, Janice and David, regulars at the house. David liked to surprise Anne with trips and holidays and they often went to Jersey as part of a large group of friends for holidays that were based around fun and laughter.

Anne and David were very sociable and Anne was an excellent hostess and liked to have friends round for dinner parties and barbecues. Many wonderful times were had with Alan & Pat, Ann and John, Les and Edna and the rest of the gang. When not meeting at each others houses everyone would head over to Hatfield Forest, loading up the cars with food and drink to enjoy a day outside in the sun.

Anne and David welcomed their daughter Louise in September 1976. Both Anne and Louise were very ill after the birth but both were able to come home a couple of weeks later. Then at 11pm on New Year's Eve 1978, they welcomed son Sam, after being asked by the nurses if she wanted to hold on for another hour to get her name in the paper as the first birth of 1979, Anne politely declined.

Anne stayed at home with the children whilst David worked as a Sales Manager. Family was very important to both Anne and David. Anne's parents stayed for long weekends every other week and David's Aunt Ada often came to stay for a break.

The family were also regular visitors at David's Aunt Lylie (*pronounced lie-lee*) in Pitsea, near Southend. Everyone would gather in the large garden and the children would go off and play in the summerhouse.

The family also shared many special days with David's two sisters, Joan and Margaret (who each also married a Dave) and Margaret's two sons Kevin and Brian. Anne became very close to Joan and Margaret, thinking of them as sisters.

When Louise and Sam were at school Anne got involved with the local meals on wheels service, delivering meals to the elderly.

Anne went back to work in the kitchens at Sawston Village College. There she was able to keep an eye on Louise and Sam but also, the fact that the job gave her the school holidays off was the main attraction. Since David often worked away, Anne took responsibility for the school holiday activities and would often make a picnic and set off with the children in the old Volvo driving for miles. Trips would be to parks, museums, swimming, the list was endless.

Sam and Louise like most teenagers liked to play their music loudly in their bedrooms and often Anne would call up the stairs for them to turn it up as she loved most music, in particular 90s dance, which they used to tease her about as she played it loudly in the car too.

Anne left the college and went to work as an administrator at Champak tannery in Sawston where she met her good friend Olivia. It became a pattern for Anne to make good friends where she worked, many of her friends from Sawston Health Centre, where she worked as a receptionist are here today. After the Health Centre, Anne worked at Spicers as a Product Specialist where she met Debbie. They took advantage of the option to go on a trip to Amsterdam through the social club and had a fabulous time there. They stayed firm friends regularly lunching together, with Debbie visiting on a Friday or meeting at Scotsdales for lunch and a wander.

Anne enjoyed holidays with both friends and family. Fond memories included stays at their friend's Ann and John's villa in Portugal and also at the Hotel Riu in Nerja, Spain. As well as this, Anne liked to visit London to see West End shows and also performances of Cirque du Soleil at the Royal Albert Hall with friends Mick and Glynnis. Anne particularly loved the music from Cirque du Soleil and often played that at home when Mick and Glynnis came round for the evening.

Anne and David are lucky enough to have wonderful neighbours too, even though sadly some of those have now moved away, Anne and David enjoyed days out with Lesley and Dave on their boat, and seeing Linda and Adrian when they visited from Wrexham. Anne and Eric moved to Cornwall several years ago but Anne and David would visit them there, often with close friends Sue and Roger where they would have a tremendous time, enjoying cream teas and all the other lovely food Cornwall has to offer. The one thing Anne didn't enjoy was heights though and so any walks that were remotely near a cliff edge she would place herself on the inside as much as possible.

Anne was very close to her brother John, wife Barbara and his family and there were many visits between the two families. When visiting John and Barbara, there was always lots of food, drink and most importantly laughter. When John and Barbara lived in Wembley, David and Anne referred to their house as "Hotel Bodkin" as they always ended up hosting everyone.

Anne would often be keen to play games with her great-niece and nephews and the tradition of Wink Murder soon started, with everyone vying to collapse in the loudest

and most over the top way. In Christmas 2002 the two families went away to Dorset, sharing between them two chalets. A good time was had by all and again many games were played including Jenga, which Anne would spend ages over analysing the impact of each brick being removed. When the tower fell she would always jump as if not expecting it to happen. When the children were in bed, it was time for fun for the adults and Louise, Lorraine and Karen decided to show Anne and Barbara how to do tequila slammers. Anne got confused with the order of salt, tequila and lime and ended up just chucking the tequila over herself in a panic. This was a hilarious sight as tequila dripped from her, she said, "Well I don't much see the point of that".

Anne was an amazing cook and baker and her nephew Andy would always ask for a Belgian Loaf (a type of fruit cake) when he visited. On the odd occasion where she didn't make one he would tease her mercilessly as he would be so disappointed to be missing out.

Anne supported her children in everything they did and when Sam announced he was going back-packing around the world in 2002, both Anne and David encouraged the experience, despite knowing they would miss him terribly. Louise then announced that she would be doing the same thing in 2003 and the two crossed over in Bangkok for a few days to catch up. Sam then returned home with a new discovery, Thai whiskey. Both Anne and David were interested to try this and the unique way in which it is drunk – poured into an ice bucket, topped up with coke and ice and then everyone sips through a straw from the bucket. Anne, David and Sam sat cross-legged around the coffee table trying this out and David and Sam noticed the level of the liquid rapidly reducing as Anne was enjoying the drink so much. When the bucket was empty Anne announced that she could no longer feel her legs and had to be helped up and then promptly headed to bed.

After Spicers, Anne worked for Bayer as a receptionist but when the company relocated she took a reception role at Rociale medical supplies, where she became firm friends with Homa. It was whilst working here that Anne first became ill and in July 2006 was diagnosed with Stage III Ovarian Cancer.

Anne was soon in the care of Dr Helena Earl at Addenbrookes and endured gruelling chemotherapy, radiotherapy and operations throughout her illness. Remarkably Anne took on whatever treatment was offered to her and at every visit would always ask "what's new out there for me to try".

She proudly met and chatted with Olivia Newton-John when she visited the Oncology unit but it also wasn't unusual for Anne to sit and chat reassuringly with other patients waiting for treatment as she remembered how nervous she had been when she first started.

She always had a positive outlook and carried her diary with her at all times. She was then able to calculate her "ill days" after treatments and then filled the "good days" with socialising and family activities. During this time, Anne regularly had lunch with friends Mavis and Sally – they were referred to as the "Ladies wot lunch". David would wave them off and Anne would return several hours later, not always having

eaten much but certainly having put the worlds to rights and up to date with any gossip.

The family decided to go on Anne's dream holiday to Las Vegas and Miami in December 2009. They spent a week in Las Vegas taking in the sites and attempting a little gambling – Anne leapt up and down when she won \$5 on roulette and was disappointed when she realised she needed to give some of it to the croupier as a tip. The family took a helicopter ride to the Grand Canyon and then circled back along the strip to the sounds of Elvis "Viva Las Vegas". All were moved by the dancing fountains at the Bellagio and enjoyed the laser shows at Freemont Street. The second week was spent in Miami Beach with trips to the Everglades to see the alligators and cocktails at the Fontainebleau hotel summed up their time there. Anne and Louise even paddled in the sea at South Beach on Christmas day morning.

Anne was passionate about supporting charities that were important to her and regularly donated to the Arthur Rank hospice shop in Mill Road. In July 2008 Anne and Louise took part in Race for Life in Cambridge, raising over £1250 for Cancer Research. Then in March 2010, Anne held a charity tea party in aid of the Eve Appeal (a charity that supports research into gynaecological cancers). The tea party took place in the John Falkner Infants school hall, where both Louise and Sam had attended as children. Anne contacted local businesses, originally for prizes for a raffle, but due to everyone's generosity the value of the prizes increased to the point where Sam ran an auction on the day to maximise donations. Friends made cakes and served tea and not only did everyone have a fabulous time but Anne raised over £2500.

In recent months, Anne attended Arthur Rank Hospice for day therapy. Everyone she met there was kind and warm and Anne always felt safe and secure there. The care Anne received was magnificent from the wonderful staff and this helped her decision to be nursed there at the end of her life rather than at home. The staff were all so kind and caring to Anne and her family and so it is important to them that Arthur Rank is supported wherever possible.