

HUMANIST
Ceremonies

In Loving Memory of



Sue Adams

28th December 1948 – 15th July 2021

On Friday 6th August 2021 at 9:45am
Bushbury Crematorium, West Chapel

Ceremony conducted by Helen van Rijs, Humanists UK

Life Story - Family

So, let's start at the beginning. In a Bilston Nursing Home on the 28th December 1948, Jack and Nell Brown had daughter, Susan Mary. Well actually they intended to call her Susanne, but Jack made a mistake when he went to register her. The family initially lived at her grandmother's house in Ettingshall, moving to their own home, a maisonette in Finchfield when Sue was 6 years old. An only child she was close to her cousin, Jacky who went onto marry Dave.

She went to Westacre Infants School where her Mom was a cook before moving onto Regis Secondary School. Sue was ill when her GCE exams were taking place and she was unable to sit them. She left school at age 16 and went onto gain RSA Secretarial qualifications at Wulfrun college. This led her to work for various companies where she used her fluid shorthand and speed touch-typing skills.

She and Chris met when they were part of the social set who attended The Milano coffee bar and The Crypt Youth Club opposite. Chris's first words when he spoke to her was 'those glasses don't suit you'. Despite this they started dating, meeting outside Joans the Dress Shop before going onto various venues, local as well as in Birmingham and Stoke. Once at the Lafayette the couple got on the front row to see the band The Peddlers; but they missed the show as Sue fainted and Chris had to carry her out. It was 3 shillings to get into The Civic, so Chris was particularly unhappy when Sue once lost the tickets, well 3 bob was a lot of money back then! They'd share a Frothy Coffee at the Milano as that was all they could afford and at the clubs they'd stretch to a coke for Chris and Sue a bitter lemon.

They married after 6 years, Chris joking that 'he had to make sure she was the right one'. But actually, knowing they wanted to get married they started saving for a house. After two years though it was the start of gazumping, and the new build house they agreed on kept increasing in price, meaning any savings they made were wiped out.

They married on the 10th June 1972, Sue made her own Wedding Dress as well as the Bridesmaids dresses; Chris remembers it was raining that day. He was working at a printers who made continuous stationery so there was a large supply of confetti. Literally boxes of punched out holes were tipped over their heads, and because of the rain stuck to the groom's shoes making him look like a Pearly King. After their reception at The Mount Hotel as Chris drove away, the boot of his estate car was overflowing with the confetti as well as in the heating system so continued to blast out throughout the journey. As they had pooled all their savings to buy a house, their honeymoon was at her parents caravan in Porthmadog. On route they were waved through the Cob toll road for free as it was so obvious that they were just married. At the caravan park in the window was a sign, 'arriving shortly the newlyweds starring Sue and Chris' and in the caravan itself a mountain of confetti on the bed. Sue's long hair was piled up and when she let it down, another mound was formed.

The build of their house was delayed due to the terrible weather that year, so they had to live with Sue's Parents for three months. Sue inherited and embraced being part of Chris's large family. Sister Pat and her husband Harry had a child, Andrew and his other sister Judy had Shaun, Sharon and Samantha with her husband John. These nieces and nephews went onto have their own children, extending the family further.

Sue and Chris waited to have their own family until they could afford them, but like buying a house wondered if they ever could. Mark arrived first followed two and a half years later by David. Sue stopped work to become full time Mom and it was a role she embraced. She simply loved being a Mom and supported and gave 'her boys' as many opportunities as she could. Without a car she would escort them by foot, walking miles to make sure they could take part in their different interests; Mark the Library and David, Leisure Centres.

Mark says his Mom was a perceptive woman who was so full of love, support and comfortable to accept his choices, she was always someone he could turn to. She always went out of her way to welcome their friends and she was genuinely interested in what they had to say. She referred to one of David's best friends, Ben Webb as her 3rd son. One of Mark's friends recently said 'she always remembered what I liked and always asked questions'.

When they were the first kids on the block to have a Super Nintendo she broke the 'one friend each at a time' rule as she enjoyed seeing her sons so popular and the coolest kids in school.

When the boys went to Scout camp she and Chris would go to help. Sue always in the background, happy to assist with the cooking and seeing the boys, including Chris, enjoy the various activities available during camp.

The family always had a two-week summer holiday which were spent in various foreign destinations including a trip to Los Angeles to visit their best man and bridesmaid. David explains that she would always prepare so carefully for holidays 'she would take us into town to get a holiday outfit, and make a day of it. We always had a great time during holidays abroad, always doing activities and not just sit by the pool. Holidays were also a time where Mom wouldn't have to look after the family as much, because we would be staying in hotels or apartments and eat out at cafes and restaurants'.

She was furiously proud of everything both her sons achieved and that they gained their independence and moved away. She was unconditional and supportive of their life choices though of course she missed them and worried about them. A petite lady when she was out with her 'boys' they'd joke that she was in the land of the giants, when they gave her a hug they could rest their chins on her head.

It was a great joy when Grandchildren, Ernest and Marigold came along and she treasured the time spent with them. David said 'she was always so encouraging of me as a Father, telling me I was a great Dad even when I doubted myself. I could always talk to Mom about my worries and I never felt judged, and she would always try and help me work through things'.

Daughter-in-law Laura says 'Since we had kids, Sue has been a huge part of their lives - knowing everything about their interests, their likes and dislikes, got to know their friends and their friends parents. We would send them photographs of the kids and we would always hear back how much they had enjoyed them, often spotting details that we had missed.

During lockdown, Sue and Chris always made an effort to entertain the kids over Skype calls, showing them toys, props and sometimes wearing fancy dress and jazzy hats. We will all miss going on day trips with Grandma, going to restaurants, her amazing cards, her enormous heart and her never ending time to chat and listen. We're so glad that we got to spend time with her, especially our last family outing to Paradise Park - the kids will remember this day forever.'

David said, 'in short, my Mom was my best friend and I always tell my children the same of their Mom; a Mother's unwavering support and love is something you can't get from anyone else'.

Eternally Mother Hen, looking after 'Mommy's two boys' - regardless of how old they were. Father and sons would have a regular outing to Speedway in Cardiff and for their last trip she prepared a packed lunch. The sandwiches labelled with their names and on Chris's 'Dad'. Mark was 40, David 38 and Chris, 72.

She loved the whole family get togethers for Christmas. Once the Grandchildren had gone to bed, they would all sit in the dining room with drinks and nibbles, play games and laugh a lot. Mark saying that there was nothing quite like when his Mom got giddy over something, she was infectious, she just had a real love of life and love of seeing other people's love of life.

One festive tradition was to play 'Rocky Mountain High' by John Denver during Christmas Dinner; we'll therefore pause at this moment to listen to her Christmas song.



Life Story - Friends

As newlyweds Sue and Chris established their life together and enjoyed various social functions with the Chartered Institute of Marketing which Chris was closely involved in, and they made long term friends Pam and Graham and Jan and Mike.

After 11 years as a full time Mom she retrained in her Secretarial skills to update herself, from the days of manual typewriters to computers. She got a part time job as Administrator with the NHS in the Speech and Language Therapy department which she loved and stayed until her retirement. Always a true team player and generous with sharing her extensive knowledge of the department with her colleagues. She made firm friends such as Annette and Mary and her old boss Pauline who she still met up with for lunch.

As well as work she made many friends through her various voluntary activities including PTA and she became a very good friend of another Sue. When both of their children were young, they would take them to school and go onto the Rag Man at the market where they bought yards of material for hardly any money and once home share it between them. Sue would make outfits for herself and the boys and both Sue's had so much fun doing it. Her friend also said what an absolute rock she was when her husband Robert was poorly. This was when the 'Monday Girls' was born. The two Sues then joined by another friend Vicki and her neighbour Elaine, the four ladies made sure they always met for a lunch every Monday. Even during covid times taking their deck chairs and a packed lunch to a mutual green so they could still catch up. Sue saying that she'll remember their escapades forever and she will miss Sue dearly.

As well as her Monday Girls lunches she would attend NSPCC lunches and later through Elaine and Vicki joined the Bilston branch of Women's Organisation, the Soroptimists. Pat Cross writing that she worked so hard with the rest of the social committee to make functions memorable and special.

Always happy to support events she was a team player who worked quietly and tirelessly but happy to be behind the scenes, not wanting the limelight. Everyone in the organisations she was involved in will miss her greatly.

As well as their own holidays all over the world the couple participated in Jim's Trips for over 20 years, joining his organised worldwide excursions. Back in the UK Jim organised theatre trips to London as well as to places you didn't think you wanted to go to. There was a great crowd of regulars who joined these trips, Jim saying how both Chris and Sue were the mainstays who encouraged him with warmth, guidance and appreciation. Chris and Sue also had another set of friends in Kidderminster, Jean and Tony and Issy and Tony and enjoyed going to The Rose Theatre together.

Healthy and active right up to the end, all her friends have expressed how shocked and saddened they are that her friendship has been so cruelly taken away.

Tribute from Chris

'I have known Sue for 55 years, 49 years as my wife. Having met at the Milano coffee bar our relationship grew and we started to go out together. Eventually after 4 years we got engaged, then married and had two boys and now have two wonderful grandchildren.

How to describe Sue, she was the love of my life, my soul mate and best friend. She was a loyal, selfless and happy person, always laughing, sometimes at me and sometimes at herself. She rarely complained and if we had a disagreement, she would not let me leave the house without saying 'can we be friends'.

Sue was always supportive in all I did with work and socially, including sacrificing our 25th Wedding Anniversary to accompany me as National Chairman of the Chartered Institute of Marketing, to events and graduations, in Hong Kong, Singapore and Sri Lanka.

She also gave two speeches at ladies nights when I was the chair of my lodge and institute.

I would like to outline the three important things that mattered most in Sue's life.

Family

She was delighted, as an only one to join our big family and loved social events with them, particularly the Christmas Day event when we all got together at one house.

With our two sons, she nurtured them, supported them in all they wanted to do, worked for the PTA's at Warstones and Highfields, with the cubs and scouts including cooking at camps. She saw them grow up, go to university, get married, gain a daughter in law and have grandchildren, Ernest and Marigold, who Sue loved so much.

Friends

Sue always made friends wherever she went and loved the social events that friendship brings. From the Milano, she gained a bridesmaid, Chris who lives in Plymouth and is here today. From James Wilkes, we made lifelong friends and a bridesmaid and my best man, Frank and Elaine who are married and are watching in Phoenix Arizona.

From Freemasonry and the Brewery, friends Jean and Tony who live in Kidderminster, from Jim Godsell's group with wonderful holidays. Many PTA friends including Jenny and Rick, which eventually led to some of them forming the 'Monday Girls' group, here I must say that Sue took the recent death of Vicki, one of the 'Monday Girls' very hard to take.

Card class friends, she looked forward to Tuesdays with them and had a great time there until it closed.

Holidays and card making

Sue loved our holidays with the boys when they were young, particularly Disneyland in Los Angeles.

After they grew up we decided to make the best of the freedom by looking to see some of the world, this included South Africa, Vietnam, Thailand, Burma, India three times and South America. I will never forget Sue laughing all the time on a rubber dinghy as we went under the Igazu falls in Brazil.

Holidays with Jim Godsell's group will never be forgotten, we have seen so many places through him, where we would never have been, and who will ever forget the river cruises on the 'Lady Anne' and that will be remembered as we leave. So many wonderful memories.

Sue always enjoyed the card class at Wombourne and she liked to send individually tailored cards to friends for Birthdays and Anniversaries, she loved to make people happy.

And finally

I consider myself very fortunate to have met Sue at an early age and to have shared a happy and wonderful life together. I will miss her so much but know that she would wish me to live the rest of my life as happy and contented as I can.

Rest in peace Sue, the love of my life, my soulmate and best friend.'





a personal goodbye