

Trying to put pen to paper and write about how Mum's passing has affected us has probably been the hardest thing we have ever had to do.

Our Mum was more than your average Mum. When we were little she devoted all of her waking time to us, taking us to playschool, play groups, the park, around our friend's houses and although we didn't have much money, the occasional trip to the beach. My parents decided that the best schools in the area were the Catholic ones and although her faith was in the Church of England and her brother was a Vicar in the Church of England, she immediately took up taking us to the local Catholic Church every Sunday, just to ensure we received the best free education we could.

When our parents divorced Mum took us to live at our Nan and Granddad's house for a while. Even when our world was turned upside down, she did the best she could to reassure us that everything would be alright. She continued to tuck us in at night, say bedtime prayers and reassure us that we were loved and safe just as she always had. We knew that as long as we had her and each other we would be all right.

When we moved back home again life continued virtually as before, she continued putting our needs before her own, she even took up childminding for a job so that she wouldn't have to leave us with strangers. Although she didn't have much money she always ensured that we got everything we needed. I remember going round Tesco with a calculator adding everything up for her as we went so that she didn't go over budget, she always got the essentials such as fruit and veg first and if there was enough left over she let us pick a treat.

Our mum taught us so much from a very young age, how to take care of ourselves and be independent just like her is what we will value the most for the rest of our lives.

As time went on she met who was to become one of her many long standing close friends Mel. Mum had lots of friends whom we had a lot to do with growing up but Mel was to transform the single parent Mum we knew and give her a life outside of her children.

Mum started to go to the Three Mariners pub for Karaoke and eventually onto The White Horse where many of you met Mum. Although ordinarily quite shy Mel often managed to get her up and sing comedy versions of well known songs. This time was particularly enjoyable for me (Denise) as I share a love for singing and loved the time spent with mum and Mel at the pub.

As we grew up Mum continued an active social life and went on to meet her friends Tracy and Claire with whom she decided that Gillingham was not lively enough and took themselves to London every Friday night in search of better entertainment.

As we got older and left school, mum went back to work full time through necessity and had various different office jobs, meeting more friends along the way, with a lot of whom she kept in touch. She finished up at EDF Energy as a customer services advisor where she was to meet yet more good friends who kept in touch and often visited when she retired due to ill health.

In spite of Mums busy social calendar she always made us girls her number one priority, being there through thick and thin, the ups and the downs, moulding us into the strong individuals we are today. Everything we are we owe to her.

One of Mum's best qualities was that she was a good listener and always knew the right thing to say. She was excellent at giving practical advice and she often acted as an agony aunt to both of us and her friends alike. Unfortunately due to the nature of her disease we lost the main medium through which she conveyed her advice, as she lost her speech. However, due to Mum's strength and courage we were still able to take full advantage of this quality right up until the end as she learned to use all sorts of devices in order to continue to communicate.

Our Mum was the most courageous selfless person we have, and will probably ever know. Even when first told of the disease she was more concerned about leaving us, and becoming a burden on us than what was going to happen to her. She used every tool at her disposal to stay as independent as she could, for as long as she could so that she didn't have to rely on us. Even though the disease she had was so aggressive she rarely complained.

Mum told us of the heartache she felt in not being able to see Liam and Alyssa grow up, and in not getting to see a family of Graves in the making.

We think it is absolutely tragic that Liam, Alyssa and any future grandchildren will not get to experience the joy that could have been received by growing up with Nanny Roz's influence on their lives. Before she got the disease she had sorted out her two spare bedrooms in order to accommodate sleep overs, and had prepared for all the fun they were to have by spoiling them with excesses of toys which filled the spare room downstairs. Unfortunately Liam and Alyssa especially are probably too young to carry Mum's memory with them. However, we will do our best with your help to share

with them all of the stories and values which she told and taught us, and keep her, and the amazing person she was, alive.

Mum was a wonderful, much loved person, who will be deeply missed by all who knew her. Gone, but not forgotten her spirit will live on in us, she didn't want us to mourn her, and wouldn't have wanted to see anyone upset, so much so, that she had stated that she did not want anybody wearing black today. So may we try not to be sad and think about what we have lost, but remember her, and celebrate the time we had with her? A loved mother, mother in law, grandmother, sister and friend.