

## **Steve's Words**

Michael and James (Steve's sons) presented these on his behalf.

Words are wholly inadequate to express how I feel at the loss of my smart, funny and affectionate sister.

Hence some photographic memories. Some of the photographs are not of the best quality but they are meant to trigger memories rather than be the finest examples of the photographic art.

Thanks to those who contributed photographs, apologies for those not used and people not featured as you can see we would have been here all night. There will be more to see at the Crown.

## **Photos with music.**

For me the quote from Stephanie "Thanks for all the Champagne and Taxis" sums her up. The thanks because we all had something to be grateful to Eileen for, the taxi's because it felt like a real treat being with her and the champagne because Eileen certainly sparkled in every aspect of her life.

Eileen was my younger sister and Jim the youngest of the three of us, however as a result of the counting system employed by Eileen in recent years Jim, has in fact become older than Eileen, I suppose you could call it creative accounting.

Whatever number she used, I know it's about 30 years too soon for us to be stood here. And, whilst I am sincerely grateful for the time we had with Eileen, I cannot help but feel prematurely robbed of her company.

Karen and I are deeply touched by the thanks expressed by Joseph and Lewis, we can only say from our point of view it never seemed enough and like this presentation it was a labour of love. Then again we do now have our own groove in the M4.

Once diagnosed I used to call her every day, this was met initially with some wry amusement because that is what she had done when Dad was ill. I like to think she grew to look forward to these daily chats – I certainly did - and it was a desperately sad day when we made the unspoken, but mutual decision, that they were no longer possible.

I do want to acknowledge the care Eileen received, Dr Griffiths the brain surgeon who not only prolonged her life but saved it on Christmas Eve 2008, Dr Charlton her oncologist and his dedicated team at Royal Berks, The McMillan and District nurses, Dr Boyle her GP and in her final days all the staff at the Duchess of Kent House. Our profound thanks to all the professionals who gave us very precious extra months with Eileen.

There are many other people to thank, but thanks was their least motivation - they simply cared about Eileen so I can only add my appreciation to everyone, friends and family alike, who supported Eileen not just recently but throughout her life.

Lastly I have a couple of things to say to some particular family members

To Joseph and Lewis, Jim and I are only too painfully aware we can't begin to replace your Mum so I guess you can look forward to a future with more beer and mushroom pizza but possibly fewer hugs. Although I suspect Karen, Dawn, Lynda, Lesley, Katherine et al may have their own ideas on that topic.

[Spontaneous addition from Michael – I think what my dad is trying to say lads, is that You'll Never Walk Alone...]

We also know there may be more difficult times and conversations ahead but are equally confident because of the family bonds we have, we will get through them.

To Jim and Sue, thanks for being there, being a true brother and friend and providing support in the darkest moments.

To Karen. Thank you. Thank you. Thank you.

Finally to Eileen, goodbye darling. We will never forget.