

When Caroline's path eventually led to a diagnosis of pancreatic cancer in 2008 it became apparent she had been hiding her pain for a long time from those around her, on the surface she wanted to be strong and be a powerful example to her children and friends but eventually the cancer overtook her life. She was always a caring and supportive mum first, above all. She wanted her children to achieve great things. "Even when we would drag our heels over an experience, if she could see how it would benefit our future she would push us until we went for it."

Whilst at University studying to be a radiographer for the NHS, Arthur received a phone call from his mum that she was unwell but she was adamant that he stay at university and finish his degree, rather than care for her. After all she had done a great job and she had other children to help her. He now works as a radiographer and has worked in different countries across the globe and knows that his mum was a massive contributing factor in all his achievements. Being one of six, Arthur has four sisters and one brother. Lauren is the oldest, then Eleanor (who used to work at Kettering General Hospital as a Nurse before emigrating to Australia where she also fundraises for Cransley), Vanessa, Angelica and Peter. His older sisters were his Mum's primary carers, his sister Vanessa was pregnant during this time too! After Vanessa moved back into the family home to help care for Caroline it became clear seeing her grandson Zane born was a reason to stay alive. They were all overjoyed that Caroline made this milestone.

Caroline spent a few weeks in the Cransley Hospice in-patient unit and Arthur and his family remember how amazing the team were, taking her under their wings and providing a much needed respite for the family during the hardest times of care. It wasn't until she went into the hospice, that they realised how hard it had been to care for her. "Cancer changed my mum. She regressed from the fierce lion we knew and loved to a shell of her former self that needed constant care at a time when we were all juggling busy lives with work or studying." "When mum went into Cransley, we knew she was in the best hands. It allowed us to be a family again and not just carers."

"We are so grateful for the support that Cransley gave my mum and the family. As a family we were unaware that such a necessary resource was available locally, they were so accommodating too, especially with us being such a big family."

In Caroline's last few days, she decided to be at home. She died peacefully, surrounded by her beautiful family. Arthur told us that she was SO loved, but she knew that. "We held her the most amazing last birthday party where she was surrounded by family and friends."

For the Cransley Hospice Trust 20th Anniversary Road Race this year, Arthur made it his mission to train for the 10k in memory of his beloved mum, to remember her and raise funds for Cransley Hospice Trust. "The stars really aligned for that race, it was perfect! My original goal was just to run the 10k but after lots of training and lots of injuries I became fitter, faster and stronger! I completed triathlons and ran sub 20 minute 5ks. It inspired me to change my 10k race to the half marathon, a distance I was yet to race and as this was the last charity road race for Cransley, I wanted to do it for mum.' Arthur ran his first ever half marathon and got a phenomenal time of 1 hour 30 minutes and came in second place!

"To come second in a race that is close to my heart, I felt really proud and know mum would be too."

Arthur told us that it was so worthwhile to fundraise for Cransley Hospice Trust, after the care and support his mum and family received at such a difficult time; he vows to not stop here and has entered the ballot for the London Marathon 2022!