

David's Story

25th October 1946 - 17th January 2005



David, a beloved Husband, Dad and Grandad was admitted to Cransley Hospice in December 2004. What is special about this story, is that David kept journal entries during his time in the Hospice to note down his thoughts and feelings, and key events and memories throughout his life.

When David passed, his daughter Yvette collected all the pieces of paper he had written on and spent time typing them up on a computer, so that she and her family could keep them forever.

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“Dad wrote over 106 pages during his time in the Hospice and left it in my hands to look after and edit.” – Yvette. ”

Journal entries by David



2002

“Going back to summer of 2002, something was wrong. I put the severe tummy pains down to the start of a hernia which the Doctor said I had. How wrong we all were.

“After our visit to Bali, it was straight to surgery, where I had an examination and was soon confronted with the news of prostate cancer.

“The rest of the family were told of the diagnosis straight away, there was no way that it could be hidden from them and in any case under the circumstances would it be fair not to tell them.”

“The worst hurdle at home was to tell Yvette. I hadn't told her because I wanted to protect her. It is so difficult to protect the ones you love from what you are carrying yourself, mentally I mean.”

December 2004

“Christmas 2004, the front of our house is illuminated and proceeds of which to be dropped into the letterbox for Cransley Hospice, the most touching of which a £1 from one of the little girls next door to start the collection off.

Initially I was told by the liason nurse at Kettering General that it would be 2 years before they knew which way thing would go.

How true those words were. I was losing my lower body strength and walking a distance was an effort.”

Yvette's Wedding Rehearsal in the Hospice



17th December

After recently receiving heart-breaking news that David would not be able to attend Yvette's wedding, they wanted to do something special under the circumstances. David's family had asked the Hospice if it was possible to host their wedding rehearsal there, where David would have the opportunity to see Yvette in her wedding dress and walk her 'down the aisle'. The Hospice were really warm to the idea and supported the family where they could to make this occasion special



David and Yvette



'Walking down the aisle'

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“Family and friends pulled together and in less than 48 hours we had flowers, cake, balloons, banners, pianist, soloists, our bridesmaids Kimberley and not forgetting Wayne taken into the laundry room at the hospice to get a blanket to match our colour scheme. Dad was very proud to be wearing his attire not forgetting his father of the bride socks. Dad even had his haircut by the nurses.”

– Yvette.

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"December 23rd was strange with the Doctors informing me of medicines and my main cancer injection which was no longer required, they were really just making me comfortable at this time. Dr John says to rest and sleep at this time, they know best."

"December 24th, another milestone reached. Thank you Jesus. Santa has been. There was a stocking at the foot of my bed and some parcels on my chair. My daughter Yvette and her partner Wayne had played Santa late on Christmas Eve. What lovely presents were opened by all during the day in my bedroom and the day room, where a pool table and other facilities for visitors gave a lovely atmosphere for visitors."

"December 27th, just returned from a lovely wheelchair push around the grounds of St Mary's Hospital on a lovely frosty morning. Good to see the frost covered grass and the occasional spring bulb peeping through."

"December 30th I had a good nights sleep. I found my glasses halfway up my sleeve, fortunately no damage. I had my vocal airing with one of the night nurses, it was good to talk, completely about the family."

"December 31st, New Years Eve. A toast to the new year with Shloer! Yvette, Wayne and myself were talking about the stars and that it was a very clear sky. It turned out we were all looking at the same constellation. Before leaving, posters were revealed on my room window..."

“I dropped a tear in the ocean for you today, when someone finds it I will stop loving you.”



“Thank you for being our special dad and our best friend.”

Written by Yvette – Sunday 16th January

“Dad went down hill very quickly. We were reassured that he would be able to hear us. Needless to say we sat around his bed talking to him and yes, there were the silent times too, as we reflected on personal times with Dad. We stood around and held his hand, reassuring him that we loved him. “

**David passed away peacefully
in his sleep.**

Cransley
Hospice Trust 