

Nanny 23rd September 2022

Jamie & Simon

Our earliest memories of our Nan are Easter Holidays at 18 Shelmor Ave:

- Helping nan around the house
- Nan teaching us to make our beds and grandpa inspecting them
- Diving us down to Weston-Super-Mare
- Cooking her famous Chili con carne with a secret square of dark chocolate
- Serving us Breakfast & Lunch in the kitchen, cereal from Tupperware's and making Simon's favourite; Minestrone soup
- Watching her little tv in kitchen or sitting doing her crosswords on the sofa whilst grandpa was asleep in front of the tv in the living room.

As we got older our family stays would often involve:

- Catch ups in the kitchen whilst Nan prepared feasts for us.
- Watching nan arrange the flowers we'd brought her in the sink looking out the window to garden.
- & later card games like Oh Hell & Newmarket around the dinner table. Nan was unbelievably good at cards

This next section, we read at Grandpa's funeral;

Together, they were an inseparable team who made being a grandchild easy. It is hard to talk about one without the other. Throughout our life they were always so pleased to see/hear from us. They made you feel incredibly valued as a person. We can't imagine having had better grandparents in any way whatsoever. Their house was a sanctuary and we always looked forward to visiting. Time stood still, nothing else mattered, we were just happy. In my mind, the house exists in an old sepia toned photograph and that is the way it will always stay.

As Nan got older and moved to Milton Keynes, we enjoyed visiting her and piling her full of chocolate and biscuits as she did not want anything else. We enjoyed keeping up with her social media presence - through the Lakeview Lodge facebook page - baking, singing, Christmas shopping, eating ice cream, even dancing in her chair with pom poms.

As she got older and lost her memory, she never lost her kindness, her love, glamorousness, wit or her stubbornness. Tell her to do something she didn't want too many times and she would tell you off! She never lost her sharp tongue either as Simon found out. When presented with Simon's homemade Bolognese, her response was 'eurgh that looks disgusting', to which mum said 'your grandson made that', and she quickly replied 'Well I didn't say it tasted disgusting'.

She was a special & unique person who lived a quite remarkable life. We are all unique because of her & I hope we never forget our Basque & Spanish roots, in the same way that we will never forget her.

Alex and Kate

We wish that the whole family could be together in one country, in one room, to celebrate - and it is truly a celebration - Nan's life. We should celebrate because our Nan had a wonderful, love-filled life. She was a remarkable woman, who managed to make what very well could have been an incredibly hard life into one that radiated happiness. So much so that her happiness and love for life radiates from us, in all our different continents and countries - so even though we can't all be together, I'm sure that Nan would crack a joke and smile that wonderful smile to know we're all where we are and all thinking of her.

She always looked immaculate, and it seemed that she dressed up just for us, her grandchildren, when we came to visit. She would sit with us as we watched our silly cartoons that we couldn't get at home, she would take us for tours around the garden and even let us in the greenhouse to see the tomatoes. There doesn't seem to be a childhood memory where Nan isn't smiling. Even though she was sent alone as a child to a different land, even though she didn't speak the language or didn't know the customs, even being woman in the 1950s or raising three children with her husband often off on business - even despite of these things, she was a fundamentally good and happy person. Something we, as her grandchildren, have learnt from our remarkable Nan is that happiness doesn't come from externalities or experiences, it comes from within. We learnt that and, of course, „If you don't have anything nice to say, don't say it!“

Although the last lesson is a little more difficult to follow, especially in the last few years, Nan's countenance, elegance and happiness will be engrained in us forever.

Victoria

Our Nanny was a beautiful person, inside and out - smart, kind and also very funny, she had an infectious laugh and it would brighten the room. I have many fond memories of Nanny, too many to list but so many moments I will always treasure. Playing dominoes with her in the front room while grandpa was watching darts or golf. Making jam tarts from scratch in the kitchen. The smell of Nivea Sunscreen, that to this day makes me smile, remembering when she was in Australia and would sit with her legs in the pool, while I played around her for hours just enjoying her company.

I admired her so much and would follow her around while she would get ready, watching her put on her makeup and jewellery, and pretend to do the same. She was so elegant and ladylike, although she has such a childish side too which I loved. Like how she used to hide chocolates and give them to Scott and I before dinner and told us not to tell anyone, or sneak us some extra pocket money for sweets at the pound shop and told us not to tell grandpa.

I remember her being there when I got my ears pierced when I was 8 and as I was about to cry from the pain, she started dancing around the chemist making weird noises to make me laugh, in which she succeeded. Grandpa was utterly confused when we came out the shops in fits of laughter and not a tear on my face.

She was a one-of-a-kind Nanny, Mother and Wife and had such an inspiring, long life. I will be forever thankful that even though we lived far away from her for such a portion of our life, we still had such a strong bond. She never failed to call or Skype us every week to see how we were going. She sent me so many books throughout the years if she saw one she thought I would like (which I always loved). She always made me feel so loved and thought of, even from the other side of the world.

I could go on forever with stories of our wonderful Nanny, which I'm sure we all could with our own special memories. I'm so grateful for the love she gave me, and I will cherish our memories for ever and ever. Love you millions and trillions Nanny.