The Tribute

We are now going to spend a little while remembering Lynn.

Lynn was born on 3rd July 1949 in Lincoln. The day fell on a Sunday and according to the poem ‘The child that is born on the Sabbath day is bonny and blithe and good and gay’. The Prime Minister of the time was Clement Attlee and ‘The Third Man’ was playing at the cinema.

Lynn was brought up in a loving family in Lincoln by her grandparents. She has two younger brothers, Andy and Matt. She attended the Lincoln High School then went on to the Lincoln Grammar School. Both of the schools were situated way up Steep Hill in Lincoln and Lynn used to bike to get there each day.

She left school at the age of fifteen and went into hairdressing, however she was soon finding the work and chemicals were not good for her hands, so she decided not to pursue this as a career.

She married at 19 years of age and she gave birth to her 1st daughter, Sam, in February 1969. However, the marriage didn’t work out and she left Lincoln in 1971 to start a new life in Leicester. Her only son, Paul, was born shortly afterwards, in February 1972.

Lynn brought her children up single handedly in very difficult circumstances, not only was money very tight, but it was also during the time of the 3 day week, when the electricity cuts were on. She had to mix up all the formula for the two babies and get all the meals ready before the black out came. They were difficult times for a single mum.

In 1975, the family moved to a new town house in Winchendon Close, Humberstone, where life started to get a little easier. Her children both attended Bridge County junior school, where she was a governor, and then Mundella Secondary school.

By 1982, Lynn was working in advertising sales for the Leicester Mercury, this is where she met her husband, Asgoo, who became drawn to this mysterious colleague driving around in her yellow Spitfire. Unfortunately, by the time he’d made his feelings known, the Spitfire had been traded in for a Renault 4!

They married on 9th March 1984 at the Leicester Registry office. It was the cheapest wedding in history with Lynn doing the food and Asgoo even making the wine. The day didn’t start that smoothly - Asgoo had gone off to park the car whilst everyone rushed into the registrars. When Asgoo eventually got there he couldn’t find anyone, they were all waiting in the department for registering deaths. They’ve laughed about it ever since.

Lynn and Asgoo celebrated their 25th Wedding anniversary in March this year.
Around 1985, Lynn got a job working for an advertising agency in Birmingham. Because of the commute each day the family moved to Edward Avenue, near the M69 junction. They actually considered 65 different houses before finding this one - quite by chance driving by.

Lynn changed her job a couple more times, before taking a post with Leicester City Council in the Leisure Services department, where she flourished and grew.

She found she had a knack of influencing people and was also a great campaign planner. She became the events manager for the Council and she ran various events like the Leicester City Show and the Bonfire Night celebration. Lynn’s main aim was she wanted people to enjoy the events. She was creative, pragmatic and practical and was very successful at her job.

Lynn and Asgoo then decided that they would like a child and so they planned for Georgia. I say planned because this is exactly what they did, right down to giving birth by cesarean on a day that suited Lynn, as she wanted to make sure it didn’t interfere with her watching an England v West Indies test match. Georgia duly arrived on St Patrick’s Day, 1994.

In 1999 the family then moved to their present address at Conaglen Road, Aylestone. Lynn was so driven to get the house with its beautiful big garden. Many a game of croquet has been played on the lawn after a glass or two of wine over the years.

In the summer of 2005, Sam married Andy and Paul married Vanessa. Lynn was so proud and excited to attend both weddings, it was a very special year for her.

Lynn became a grandmother to Sam’s first daughter, Alanah, in 2008 and celebrated her 60th birthday in July of this year.

Let us take a moment for quiet reflection whilst we listen to the following piece of music

‘Ruby Tuesday’ – Melanie

Some words which have been used to describe Lynn are spirited, vivacious, admirable, committed, caring, individual, daring, understanding and loyal.

As you can tell from those words, Lynn was an outgoing person, yet she never felt happier than when she was at home with her family and friends. She was very sociable, she loved holding parties in her garden and always made family events special, particularly Christmas, which was always a big event in her house. She was an accomplished cook, although she described herself as more cordonned-off than Cordon Bleu. Paul enjoyed her steak pie which she only ever cooked when he came for tea. I understand she always cooked far too much though.

She also enjoyed her daily dog walks at Aylestone Meadows with her friends, especially Hilary.
Lynn was certainly not afraid to do things differently. She held very traditional values and was fiercely proud of them. She liked to speak her mind, never suffering fools and not worried about ruffling a feather or two if she had to. She could associate with people who had come through some adversity as she had in her early life.

Lynn was fiercely protective of her environment. She was passionate about politics and she cared about her community and about local issues, taking on the council and getting to know many councillors along the way. She enjoyed debate and didn’t back down easily. Many people say she was a formidable person.

One year, when she was organising the Bonfire night celebration at Abbey Park, vandals had burned down the bonfire the day before. Lynn phoned Radio Leicester and persuaded them to put her on the radio, where she encouraged everyone living in the area to take any bits of wood and go down to the park to rebuild the bonfire. Her words were – “we’ll not let them beat us” – it summed her up perfectly. The next night, they had the biggest bonfire since the show began.

Lynn was an old fashioned mum in a modern world; she believed that children should have routine in their lives. She believed that being a good person made for being a successful person, it was more important to her than being academic or rich. Georgia tells me that Lynn was a fantastic mum and Asgoo said that because of this Georgia has turned into a fantastic person herself.

She had style. She wore bright clothes and loved to decorate in vivid colours, always waiting for Asgoo to be away before she got the paint brushes out. She was very practical and could turn her hand to anything.

She was a massive animal lover; she always had dogs and cats, always from the rescue centre and always the ones which she worried that nobody else would take. She hated any kind of cruelty and wanted to look after animals who may have suffered in the past. Her first dog, Charlie Brown, was her absolute favourite, he was with the family for many, many years. Bow is the current family dog.

Lynn was not a person who really enjoyed television, although she was an avid viewer of Morse, Taggart, Agatha Christie and various other murder mystery programmes. Instead, she far preferred to listen to the radio, enjoying it far more than the TV. Maybe surprisingly, she loved listening to sport on the radio.

One of her lifelong passions was cricket, she loved the West Indies side of the early 80’s, with Viv Richards, Clive Lloyd and the rest of the team carrying all before them with such style. She loved listening to the test matches on her radio, enjoying the conversation and banter of the presenters and old players. She also liked listening to football on Radio 5. She supported Chelsea and Frank Lampard was her favourite!

Lynn had quite an eclectic taste in music, seeing the Beatles in concert in 1963 and then Eminem in 2003. She liked Eminem and his lyrics; likening him to a modern day Bob
Dylan. His film, 8 Mile, was one of her favourites. She has also been to see Bowie, REM and Roger Chapman with Asgoo over the years. During the early 80's, she and Asgoo would be dancing to Shakatak while others would be dancing to more mainstream bands.

She enjoyed many other films, often throwing ‘Lost Boys Evenings’ when the men would be banned and all her girlfriends would come round and watch the film – again!

She enjoyed amateur dramatics and recently became involved with the Blaby Players where she met some good friends and took part in some of their most recent productions. She wasn’t an especially gifted actress but that certainly wasn’t going to stop her!

Lynn always believed in giving people a chance, she hated injustice of any kind. In her latest role, working as an administrator at the Shortcourse Project for disadvantaged children, she built up wonderful relationships with her colleagues and the children. They could all see she was doing more than was ever asked of her, taking a genuine interest in their wellbeing. This relationship can be summed up when as part of a rooftop protest by the children; they called to Lynn to move her car so it wouldn’t be damaged by the roof tiles they were hurling down! She will be very sadly missed by everyone at the project.

When Lynn was diagnosed with cancer earlier this year, she took it on the chin for the sake of her family. Although she was scared, she set about making sure they were all prepared for the future. She does regret that she’s not seen Georgia go off to university or get married, yet she’s left us safe in the knowledge that these things will happen in the future.

Lynn died on 23rd September and will be greatly missed by her family and many friends.

The following words were written by her good friend and work colleague, Margaret Frith, the family feel these are a fitting tribute to Lynn

Trying to put Lynn into words feels like trying to put a genie in a bottle. My prevailing word for Lynn is SPIRIT – she had bucket loads. Some people might see her as opinionated but to me she cared and she challenged.

She was a real individual, a strong character that I admired and loved. She cared about injustice, about cruelty to children and animals, about Darfur and the suffering there.

She cared about the young people that she worked with in the last few years, not afraid to hug them and offer that helping hand and advice. She got involved because they needed love and care.

She cared about her family and friends. She encouraged and supported. Yes she told us all what to do at times - but it was because she cared.
She was memorable, she had a knack of saying something to surprise or shock people when she first met them, they might not warm to her but they certainly remembered her.

She had style, I remember a hat she wore, black cord with the brim folded back on one side and flowers as a decoration, a woman approached her in a wine bar and said “I like your style”. It delighted her and it was true, she did have style.

She was bold enough to paint her walls yellow and skirting boards red, it did work – it looked good, warm and welcoming.

She was funny; she would text a joke that had made her laugh to share it with me.

At work, she was meticulous in her planning and carried things off. Although she was independent and strong-minded, she was never afraid to ask me and her colleagues for advice when she wasn’t sure - and she would follow it. She often had a different perspective that no-one else had thought about.

We have been friends for 17 years; she’s helped me through bad times and celebrated the good times. She did things for me that made me feel so special. I hope I’ve done the same for her in a small way; it could never be as much as she did for me.

The family would like to extend a special thank you to her good friend Carolyn, who did a wonderful job of looking after her over the last few months, spending hours and days at her house and at the hospital, making sure she was comfortable and not alone.