

Nick,

I have just heard from Richard Shepherd, the awful news about Miranda.

I know I am writing on behalf of all of the officers in my team who have had dealings with Miranda when I say that we held her in the highest regard and thought of her with real affection. In all of our dealings with Miranda, whether by email, letter, telephone or face-to-face, she has been nothing other than committed to her task and always in the most helpful, pleasant and understanding way. She was clearly no "jobbing" clerk but had a real passion for the village, reflected in her enthusiasm for finding solutions to every issue that she raised with us. Always conducting her duties with a gentle thoroughness and a care for everyone involved.

I send my team's condolences to all of Wymeswold and particularly to Miranda's family.

Mike

Hi Dave,

I am so very shocked to hear of the death of Miranda as it doesn't seem long ago since I saw her last at the Loughborough Circle Dance group. Miranda always had a smile on her face and was eager to catch up on news etc, but my lasting memory of her was when we were once doing a dance that meant us pretending to be elephants...!! I had to hold her tail and she my trunk (I think..?) anyway we couldn't do this for hysterical laughter and couldn't look at each other for the rest of the night in case we burst into laughter again. From then onwards if a tricky step or imitation of something was required of us we would look at each other and give a look as if to say "don't laugh, please don't laugh!" Very happy memories of a very lovely lady.

My thoughts and love are with you all at this time.

Kind regards Joanne x

We will miss Miranda terribly in our circle. You've invited people to say a few words and here are mine which I feel express something of what we all in the dance circle feel, I am sure:

"Thank you Miranda for all you brought to our circle dance group at Loughborough - your gentle yet assured presence, your grace and thoughtfulness, and your infectious love of the dance and the music. We will all miss you greatly."

Yours in sadness, Nicky (Greenwood)

Dear Dave

I was shocked and saddened to learn of Miranda's sudden and tragic death, last Saturday. I did not know Miranda well and only met her on Tuesday evenings, when we danced together at the Spectrum Centre. I remember her as a careful, thoughtful person, with endless patience with my 2 left feet while dancing her beloved dances.

I will not be able to attend the memorial, but I will be thinking of you and your family during that time, and for some time to come.

With deepest sympathy to you and your family.

Angela Clark

Dear Nick

On behalf of Hoton Parish Council, may I say how shocked and saddened we were to hear of Miranda's death.

Those of us who knew her will remember a delightful personality with a lovely sense of humour; others will simply be aware that being a thoroughly conscientious and highly-efficient Clerk to the Council was just one of the ways in which she made a significant contribution to the life of the village. For these and many other reasons she will be greatly missed.

I hope you are able to pass on our sympathies to Dave, Sam, Hugh, Will and her wider family.

Very best wishes,
Bill Cassell

Not a lot that I can say really that I am sure that everyone else hasn't already said, we are thinking of you and the boys.

Miranda invested in her community as much as anyone, it was obviously very important to her, and I know that she is going to be greatly missed not only by her family and friends, but also by that community. Some of that community were probably unaware of her unstinting efforts to grease the wheels of the local machine, but they will feel the difference now she is not here.

Regards and hope to see you soon
Mark Dunton

I am really sorry that I can't be with you all on Friday at the church and the pub.

I met Miranda in the breast cancer ward at Glenfield five years ago. She was an inspiration to Tricia and I - so positive and determined to get better as soon as possible -and determined that we would get better too - she had us out of bed and doing all the arm exercises at least twice a day - and it worked - thank you Miranda. We went to the Royal for radiotherapy together and have met for lunch several times since. It has been wonderful to meet up with Miranda on circle dancing days too and good to hear from Nicky how much she enjoyed the dancing.

I feel privileged to have known her. My thoughts are with you, Hugh, Sam and Will
Love, light and peace
Elizabeth Worrall

You know I am as mad as those mad Doctors that you have seen....but late last Saturday night I went to the back of the house where it was pitch dark, I could detect a sweet smell of burning (no fires here in July and too far from a BBQ) and I felt absolutely sure that Miranda's spirit passed close by meshe was on her way to Crete....

That's where you will find her and hopefully next year we will go and see her and your plot of land.

A huge hug and much love Annamaria xx

Elliot asks me to say something, "he feels really sad and he is so sorry for you " .

Miranda Noble - Librarian and colleague extraordinaire
Andy Taylor's recollections

I joined the University of Nottingham in 1978 and was delighted to find several of my peers from Aberystwyth already working there, namely Julian Wiseman and Ian Taylor. However, in the first few days of my "induction" I was also introduced to one of the library staff who explained she had also studied at Aberystwyth at the College of Librarianship Wales. Along with my new colleague, Charles Wright, we got to know Miranda through the coffee and lunch time socials in the Senior Common Room and also got to know Dave, who I could vaguely remember from Aber days. Our friendship grew and we enjoyed a huge variety of activities ranging from Dave getting me windsurfing to helping rebuild the house at Shepshed through to my early attempts at child minding, when Hugh, Sam and Will appeared.

Miranda was a great asset to Sutton Bonington as she brought to the library a friendly approach, backed up by a deep knowledge of library systems. In the days when scientists had to read through large tomes to discover what had already been done in their area of research, clear guidance was needed to get the best result. She was ably assisted in this role when Mike Smith joined the library and the team provided a fabulous level of service to academics and students.

Outside her library duties, Miranda had a wicked sense of fun and joined in various wheezes to make the interminable Faculty Board meetings (which we were forced to attend) more enjoyable. She volunteered to organise a sweepstake, the basis of which was to guess how many times during the meeting the Dean would say "splendid" and when the first utterance of the word occurred. Most academics sitting round the table, had stakes in this, and Miranda managed to retain an air of professional detachment during the meeting and faithfully record the utterances and then announce the winners and pay them out in the tea break. Miranda and some of the new academics also formed an informal committee which ran Staff Children's parties at Christmas and Oompah nights in the summer when the committee organised food, beer, wine and music for the rest of the campus. These were times when we really felt the whole campus was working as one and it didn't matter whether you were a Professor, a cleaner or a fitter – a cause for equality that Miranda was very keen on.

Most of all, Miranda was a great support to me when I was Warden of the Hall of Residence. At times, the Warden's job involved extremely difficult decisions with no clear black or white outcome and no-one to give advice or act as a sounding board. Miranda was always willing to listen to my dilemmas and quandaries at work (Dave taught me the difference between these two words!) and I spent many evenings in the tranquillity of Dave and Miranda's company in Shepshed, drinking wine, eating "glob" pie and relaxing in the homely environment they created.

Miranda was a great colleague, a great friend, an exemplary partner and mother, and will be sadly missed by us all.

Hi Dave

How about this little memory - Miranda seemed to love scarves - and wore them "with style"

Miranda loved having people round for meals - lots of people, several people, or just a couple of people - it's what seemed to give her pleasure.

Pottering in the garden... lots of lovely flowers.. the lavender hedge at the front.

Love

Lorraine

Dave

I'm bloody useless: it just took me 20 minutes to paste a single sentence against a donation to Practical Action and it doesn't even get close to doing the job. But then how could it.

I hope you, Sam, Hugh and Will are getting by OK, and your folks too, and the many friends that must feel as deeply saddened as we do.

I remember with such happiness getting to know you both in Brighton: such an immediate and overwhelming sense of warmth and friendship. Strange really that such a profound and enduring relationship can be rooted in days and nights the precise content of which, for many reasons, I can't always recall in fine detail. Of Miranda though I do have visions of: masterful control of that ferocious Honda 50 (or could it have been a 90?); the most show-stopping style of dart throwing ever seen in Sussex; a healthy, brave and very welcome disregard for student bullshit (a product highly characteristic of Sussex University at the time); a passion for collecting bargains from Brighton market (and breakfasts afterwards at the Rumbling Tum); sharing gigs, new music and dreadful jokes; and generally walking through that age of innocence together with nothing to get in the way of our friendship.

When we last visited, before Christmas, it was no different, except that we were probably a little bit better behaved. The walk across the fields, chatting as though we had never been interrupted by the years, and stopping for lunch at the pub with no food, was the perfect reminder of how things and situations really don't matter but special people do. And walking back home, stopping every five minutes to talk to someone in the village (or, for light relief, to wait for Miranda to sort out a renegade foul water drain) gave us just another series of reminders that Miranda was a hugely energetic, connected, committed and loved person. What a privilege to have been her friend across the years!

Ginny puts it like this:

A smile's lease has tenure beyond mere time
In mind's gallery, you are fixed
Forever kind and warm.
Like a scent, faint upon a breeze
Just beyond sense's reach, you are a smile away.

Take care; we'll see you on Friday.
Cheers
Nick and Ginny

From Geoff and Stephanie
we have been thinking about our memories of Miranda.....

Geoff first met Miranda at university in Aberystwyth, in her first term when we were 18 and 19. I have many happy memories of times there - boating on the lake at Nanteos, sitting on the Prom and evenings in the old student union and the Angel... They also immediately welcomed Stephanie who had not been part of the university group of friends and later as we made our first homes and became parents we kept in touch and our children enjoyed each other's company both in Sussex, Shepshed and Wymeswold. Although between us we

numbered 4 adults 6 children and on occasions up to 3 dogs our times together seemed easy and relaxing - and much of that was due to Miranda's calming influence and kind nature - when we stayed we were all generously catered for in a seemingly effortless way.

In the forty years we have been friends she didn't really change - she was always lovely.

Miranda was a very caring lady, always thinking of Dave, Sam, Hugh and Wil - her Mum and Dave's parents and her friends as well as the wider community.

She was a brilliant Mum and the boys are a credit to her and Dave. They have created a beautiful home together that is always welcoming to anyone that calls or visits.

Over the years we all enjoyed looking for bargains in Brighton, Rye and Melton Mowbray market as well as cuttings, produce and plans for our gardens. In recent years we have met up in Crete several times and both keenly followed progress or lack of it in each other's projects. This June Dave and Miranda came to our house in Crete and showed us their plans over lunch and we shared their excitement about this and we always thought we would carry on sharing these good days.

We valued her kindness and friendship enormously, will miss reminiscing with her with her fantastic memory for details, her infectious laugh, sense of fun, her generosity, level-headedness and so much more. We will never forget her and miss her so much. Both Miranda and Dave have been great friends to us through good and bad times always quietly there for us and Simon and Emily when we needed them and we hope Dave and the boys know we will be there for them.

Hi Dave,

Devastated at the news .We worked together for some 10 years in the Library after Mike Smith moved to the main campus. Miranda was wonderful as a "boss" never put out even when I got a Midland Agricultural College 1900 poster framed at some £45 for display in the Library - she just gulped! Always cheerful and a very good colleague to work with. I'll be at the Memorial Service at St.Mary's on Friday at 4.00. Probably having a lift from Mike Smith coming from Leicester. He and Susan have been on holiday and have only just got back.
Stan.

my memories of miranda are of someone with sense of humour and fun, of always knowing the 'right' thing to do and how to go about things, in bigger issues and day to day life, and of her steering a steady route through the potential minefield of the hedonism of those student days!!

i remember big steaming pressure cooker pots of mixed bean stew - (beans from infinity foods and bargain veg from the market). i remember getting up at

7 on saturday mornings - and we were students, dont forget, - to get to the saturday morning flea market, not to miss out on the bargains - 7.30 was way too late - and then bacon sandwiches, bread pudding and coffee at the rumbling tum. i'm still eating off the plates we bought and have only just put away some of the velvet curtains.

i remember the games, always games - darts, cards, bar billiards, word games, getting up and out for walks - and somehow miranda as a central stable core and driver of all that - and always the bargains, more bargains to be found. definitely no van morrison though! - did that ever change? not forgetting of course the wild new years eves - at least until the kids came along.

i am very sad that we had not kept in touch more, but was always pleased to hear from her each christmas. Of course I am so shocked and stunned by the news of her illness and death - it is unbelievable and so unreal - she didn't seem a likely person for this to happen to. I am sure it will feel like this for you all for some while to come yet. i remember reaching a stage in my own grieving (at another time) where i thought 'ok perhaps getting used to it is as good as its meant to get' - that was after well over a year and felt like progress. any talk of 'normal' was and is not very meaningful . but then of course the grief did continue slowly to change further.

do take care of yourselves in the coming time ahead.
i've dug up a few photos from brighton days - attached i hope
see you on friday
with love to you all
ros
x

You asked for memories and it was seeing those photos that made it so obvious - it was her smile. We only met up occasionally since Aber (I think the last time was at Sutton Bonnington) but whenever we did that smile just made the years slip away.

take care of yourselves
Guy

Dave,

I was so sad to hear that Miranda had died. Miranda was a kind and genuine lovely lady and it was my pleasure to have worked with her at the University.

I do hope you and your sons can find comfort in the many great memories you have of her.

Regretfully I will be unable to attend on Friday but you will all be in my thoughts.

Yours sincerely,

John Miller.

Dave

Very deepest sympathy to you and your sons. Thank you for providing the website, with beautiful pictures and with the chance to put down some memories.

I worked with Miranda for >20 years - for a while very closely on library automation stuff, and other things. Two aspects of her come immediately to mind - such a strong person, always very forthright and firmly grounded; and also warm and very funny: we laughed a lot.

Third of my two aspects - honesty (she instantly detected spin and management-speak, which she hated and thought pointless).

So in her working life she was held in high respect and affection - we went to her for straight and expert advice, or to be cheered up, and often just because we liked her so much, and talking to her was such a good way to spend time.

I'm very sorry that I can't come to the service tomorrow. My thoughts will be there.

Dick Chamberlain

Hi Dave and boys , I heard this years ago and remembered enough of it to think it was worth finding again , because I thought it might well have relevance to Miranda. Which I think it does ,but that may well be a personal thing , but I hope it may be of some comfort to you too . It is by Ralph Waldo Emerson 1803-1882. To laugh often and much.

To win the respect of intelligent people
and the affection of children.

To earn the appreciation of honest critics
and endure the betrayal of false friends.

To appreciate beauty.

To find the best in others.

To leave the world a bit better whether
by a healthy child, a garden patch ,or
by a redeemed social condition.

To know even one life has breathed easier
because you have lived.

This is to have succeeded .

We spoke of Miranda's love of cooking and recipe books on Monday and it led me on to think about one of the times we met up. Given that we were two women meeting up it could have been assumed we would make for the clothes , shoes or jewellery shops etc but No ! it was Melton market direction we headed . Within a few minutes we both had the heaviest bags known to man having made a bee line for the "Just out of date food stall " , yes we liked food and we liked a bargain ! What funwe had a long walk back to the car by which time our arms were nearly dropping off . Then we hit the second hand shops ! I think we did decide at some stage we were'nt good for each other in the shopping department . Happy memoriesand that one always make me giggle .
Nicky

Dear Dave,

You mentioned you would be happy to hear if people wanted to write to you of their feelings / memories of Miranda. I remember her eating the last potato at our house, it must have been decades ago. Actually, I don't remember her eating it, but whoever had the last potato from, then on, would elicit the exclamation 'Oh Miranda!', so I remember that more, and I know it was based on fact! And I remember her always cooking great healthy meals, her home made bread, and the hospitality at your house. And it may have been Miranda who introduced the concept of hunting for a bargain, and indeed searching out 'ethnic' things. When we stayed with you, we would go out to a market or shopping somewhere, and I would ask 'what are we doing?' - a good question... we were always bargain hunting. It is hard to unpick in a way what was you, what was Miranda, what was Hilary and what was Roland from all the sayings and exclamations. Although I am sure neither Hilary nor Miranda were responsible for 'Doris'.

Miranda was always, from my childhood, til now, so kind and understanding and calm. I suppose those are the qualities I think of most when I think of Miranda. As well as tolerant. By that I mean how good she was when Hilary died, and how happy she was for the three of us to go away cycling in Portugal, and how she listened to our stories of the trip afterwards without seeming at all envious! In fact as I write this, I realise she probably didn't envy us one little bit. I don't think these are really things for the service, but these are the things I think of.

I am sorry not to be there tomorrow Dave, but shall be thinking of you all. I think it is a very difficult time - waiting for the funeral to start and worrying if it will be OK and satisfy everyones expectations. I am sure it will be a good celebration of her life, and I hope you will be able to tell me about it. Anyway, see you on Saturday evening. I am glad you are thinking of another memorial later on too.

Take care, Lucy x

Dear Dave, Will, Hugh and Sam

I was so sorry to hear the sad news. Miranda interviewed me in 1993 for a job at this Library here at Sutton Bonington and I have been here ever since. She took a gamble on me as I was a 'returner' after 14 years out of the workplace bringing up children, and so I am very grateful to her. She was a wonderful lady, always practical, always professional, and with a sense of humour too. It was a privilege to have worked for her.

I hope to make it to the Memorial Service but in case I do not, I extend here my condolences to you all. The days and weeks ahead will be difficult – I will keep you all in my thoughts.

With best wishes

Mary Fuller

Dear Dave

I was one of Miranda's more awkward customers when she was at the SB library. When I was first on the staff and she had also very recently joined we had some trivial dispute over a book and I remember getting a formal memo of complaint typed (this was well before the days of E mail). It was addressed Dear Miss Neil so obviously would have been before you got married. Subsequently regretted sending this when I got to know her better and realised what a lovely helpful person she was.

With happy memories of Miranda and deepest sympathy.

John Mitchell

Music - Playing before the service was
"la Lhorona" by Lhasa de Sella

The first song was called "Prosechi" by a Cretan lady called Haris Alexiou
Here is a translation

Give me a line so that I can walk
Give me a name so I won't get lost
Give me a dream, a dream to hold on to
Give me a vision to help me resist

Give me a child to make my confessions to
Give me a kiss to wash away the evil
Wake me in the morning with a song
Which would bless my life.

The last song was
"Flyin' Shoes" by Townes Van Zandt
Here are the lyrics

Days full of rain
skys comin' down again
I get so tired
of these same old blues
same old song
Baby, it won't be long
'fore I be tyin' on
my flyin' shoes
flyin' shoes
till I be tyin' on
my flyin' shoes

Spring only sighed
summer had to be satisfied
fall is a feelin' that I just can't lose.
I'd like to stay
maybe watch a winter day
turn the green water
to white and blue
flyin' shoes
flyin' shoes
till I be tyin' on
my flyin' shoes

The mountain moon
forever sets too soon
bein' alone is all the hills can do
alone and then
her silver sails again
and they will follow
in their flyin' shoes
flyin' shoes
they will follow in their
flyin' shoes