

June Ellen Elsegood 8th February 2017 at 3.15pm

In Jim Reeves Distant Drums
Hymn Morning Has Broken
Exit You're always on my mind Elvis & the Philharmonic Orchestra

Good afternoon and welcome my name is Hazel Warken and I thank you for your presence here today. As you know June was not one for too much fuss or formality so with reverence to her memory our ceremony will be short, and sincere.

So we gather together as a small group of family *and close friends* to bid a sad but fond farewell to June, we are here also so that in our own way we can celebrate, honour and pay tribute to her life.

June is remembered as having a strong personality - she was not afraid of voicing her opinion. June called a spade a spade - very black and white in her thinking never a shade of grey. A very proud and unforgiving person at times tenacious in spirit, even if June knew she was wrong she would never admit it. June was also caring and friendly she got on with most people. June lived life her way and on her terms. A true character whose presence I know will be deeply missed.

I feel sure the following quote from Joyce Grenfell (1910-1979) 'If I Should Go' speaks June's words to you all...

If I should go before the rest of you,
Break not a flower nor inscribe a stone,
Nor, when I am gone, speak in a Sunday voice,
But be the usual selves that I have known.
Weep, if you must, parting is hell,
But life goes on, so sing as well.

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So with those words forefront of our minds let us stand sing our chosen hymn Morning Has Broken, which is on page.....in the blue book in front of you.

June was born in Bethnal Green on March 19th 1937. The sister of Sheila, Ronnie, and Sandy who now lives in Hertfordshire, they kept in touch and visited when they were able.

After leaving school June had various jobs in London.

Once married and the children came along to help make ends meet June made blouses for Burberrys at home. June was not only a skilled seamstress but knitted as well, her needles were always clicking away and was a pretty good cook too.

The mother of Phillip, Julie, Alan. Susan and John, whose home was in Swindon.

When it came to family holidays, it was Butlin's every time.

When Alan was about 9/10 years old, he moved with his mum to Littleport to live near June's dad who ran 100 Acre Farm, in Burwell.

Granby St, Littleport, was where they lived, until June rented a caravan on Kings caravan site, they had some real happy times in that caravan .

Alan said “wherever mum lived she was very house-proud and would follow you around with the Hoover”.

It was when June was in her early 40’s that she started to learn to drive, after many attempts at her driving test she finally passed but was not the most ‘skilled’ of drivers! Quite often giving her passengers the fright of their lives!

Once settled in Littleport June got a job at the local garage as a petrol attendant, she enjoyed the diversity of work and interacted well with customers and staff, staying there until retiring at the age of 60.

As time moved on June had lots of grandchildren and great grandchildren. A lot more than she probably knew about , in the later years.

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June remarried twice; something she did with her second and third husbands was to rent a caravan in Hunstanton during the summer for a week, where she enjoyed having a game of Bingo. Other holidays taken were mainly in this country but June did go long haul a couple of times to visit Sheila, and her family in Australia.

A social pastime for June was going to the Littleport ex-servicemen’s club or the dances held at the Hyam’s sports and social Club.

June was a keen dancer and liked listening to music her preference was yesteryear singers such as Elvis, Jim Reeves, Dean Martin, Vera Lynn and Doris Day. All the ‘oldies’ and she had a vast collection of their CDs. Not really one for TV until her later years, but watched films, her favourite being James Bond, June had seen them all apart from Spectre.

June had been poorly for some time, and with a combination of her age and some of the ailments she suffered from, she started to neglect her health. Living closer Alan popped into to see mum every week and did all he could to help.

Last April, after a long spell in Hospital, it was advised that June needed to have full-time care, so a place was found for her in the King’s Lynn Residential Home where she seemed to settle. Her family gained comfort from knowing that she was in good hands and being well looked after.

all the staff thought a lot of June. and some are here with us today

On 19th January it was June’s time to leave this world behind. There is always sadness in parting, but we take comfort in the belief that June will suffer no more she is at peace and rests where no shadows fall. Gone but never forgotten.

I close with an old Native American saying... which conveys the grief of parting but also urges the bereaved to carry on...

When I’m dead, cry for me a little.

Think of me sometimes, but not too much.

Think of me now and again, as I was in life

at some moments it is pleasant to recall, but not for too long.

Leave me in peace, and I will leave you in peace

And while you live let your thoughts be, with the living.

As a thanksgiving for June's life, let us bow our heads and say the Lord's Prayer together.

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name.
Thy Kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory.
For ever and ever.
Amen.

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We have now come to the committal words... if you are able to would you please stand.

To everything there is a season and a time to every purpose on earth, a time to be born and sadly a time to die. Here in this last act, in sorrow but without fear, in love and appreciation, we commit the body of June Ellen Elsegood. Wishing it were not so but remembering all the good times shared.

As we now listen to 'Elvis singing Always on my Mind' let it be a time of reflection for us all, during our thoughts the curtains will gently close.