

## Kelly-Anne McNally Transcript

My mum was crazy, in a good way, err she was the life and soul of the party, as a parent she was always there, always supportive, um guided me through my teenage years, supported every decision that I made and I couldn't have asked for a better mum, so yeah it was a massive loss when she wasn't there, And i think that when you ask other people about her, everyone says that she was always positive, always looked on the bright side and was very family focussed.

She'd always said that, when something happens to me I want a party for my funeral and then for her sixtieth birthday we did a surprise party for her - it was fancy dress and it was one of the best parties ever, and after that she wanted another one for her 70th and er she didn't quite make it to 70 so she died um 6 months before she turned 70 and it was one of those milestones that she really wanted to hit, so when she started to plan for her funeral - it was " i want that fancy dress party, I want that 70th birthday party, and I want everyone in fancy dress, and, and that;s what we planned,

Previously um we'd planned a funeral for my husband's nan, and so when my mum saw how his nan's funeral went off, she was like - I want my funeral to be like this, and she knew then that she wanted A Natural Undertaking doing her funeral , she knew that there were forms and plans that she could fill in from your website, and that's where we started really, it was a hard experience but i would always tell people, especially because mum knew she was dying I would always tell people that if you've got the opportunity to make those plans together um it's worth it, it's worth the little bit of pain that it takes to do it, it's kind of like with your mum, she's been with us since the very start, she brought us into the world and we were helping her to plan to go out.

The day itself was, it was just crazy, because I was leaving my house dressed as Dorothy from the Wizard of Oz, and I had Father Christmas with me as well

so when we got to my mum's she arrived in the car that she'd chosen, which was lovely with ABBA music blaring, um i'll never forget that so yeah, full on Dancing Queen announcing her arrival to the whole street,

Once we'd had a date for mum's funeral, for her party, and we'd told people about how the day was going to go, everyone was told it was compulsory fancy dress um a lot of people were sending pictures of outfits, is this ok? Am I allowed to wear this? .... And i'm like um the more shocking the better - if it would have made my mum laugh um wear it please

it was crazy to arrive and see a lot more people than were expected all in fancy dress, so you just couldn't take it all in everybody dressed up, everybody looking absolutely crazy, um not what you expect to see when you get to the crematorium, but everyone had really sort of delivered for her, just really really really vibrant and yeah she wanted a party and we were

gonna start it right there so she went into Doris Day, one of her favourite films, Calamity Jane, Whip Crack Away she didn't want someone talking about her that didn't really know her so we did it all ourselves erm and we were supported to do that which was really nice because I don't think a lot of people realise they can do that And we kind of had an idea how we wanted everything to run, we knew what mum wanted included and yeah I just wanted to talk about her and how funny she was and some funny stories, we showed a lot of pictures and videos that were really funny and it was emotional but there was more laughs than tears, but we wanted it to be just like her.

I loved all of it, I loved the whole day i was proud of, every single person made that day, from the people that turned up, all of her friends, the people at the crematorium letting us do it , Fran and Carrie, all their support, all of their yes, yes , yes we can make that happen.

From the point my mum got collected from home I knew she was being looked after, and we were allowed to go and visit her as much as we wanted the place where she was anyway is light, airy, friendly relaxed, modern and you feel relaxed as soon as you go in. Everything's explained to you, so you don't feel anxious, and there was a little room set aside, somewhere to sit, it smells lovely, it smells like you're going into a spa um and there's a little plaque on the door with my mum's name on it when we went in it was like 'Sue's Room' so it was super personal, and it was just, it was a lovely experience it, was, you feel, you feel held, I don't know a better way to put it, you just feel um supported, um we couldn't have asked for a better experience from beginning to end really it was just the control was given back to us, but we were supported at the same time.

From like when Carrie turned up to collect mum, she said, ' oh I was a bit longer because I had to find my red lipstick, I wasn't coming to your mom without my red lipstick on,' and that's what she actually said she was going ' I know that your mom , would like, you know that she was a party girl so I wasn't turning up without my red lipstick on, you and everybody getting involved on the day - didn't even ask for that ABBA music but even that just made it even more special that day. Erm those things just stay with you and make tough stuff feel a lot better