

Robert Grady Transcript

My mum had quite a quite difficult life I would say at times, she fought for everything that she had mum was quite strong willed, a lot of people say I was very much like my mom.

We were always quite an open family, so unlike a lot of other families that don't talk about death and dying, we've always been quite open about it. Mom was quite adamant about what she didn't want, and she didn't want a traditional funeral, she didn't want as she would say, men in black coats coming to cart her off - her words! Um and she didn't want brass handles on a coffin, she said you can do anything but I don't want brass handles.

So we knew from the start that we weren't going to go to down like a traditional route, and I think that what i found, what we all found very enlightening was that we could do what we wanted, we didn't have to have a package.

I'd never been to Redditch crematorium we didn't really consider it to begin with, like many people you think that you have to go to your local crem, and our local one that we thought is quite dark, and quite victorian style which mom wouldn't have wanted. So when we found out about Redditch it's just you know, beautiful, bright, airy, it had the views over the countryside, so we knew it was the right place,

with funerals I think it's so important that the whole family get involved, that's what we found quite refreshing, we all had little jobs to do which kept us all involved everybody had a role which really helped us all as a family come together and all, and made that few weeks bearable and really helped my dad a lot that he had some control and he could chose what he wanted. So with the funeral mom said she didn't want brass handles on a wooden coffin, so we had a cardboard one, and we had it covered in like a bluebell wood and so we had a photograph like superimposed onto the coffin of her turning and waving in the woods, and some people might think that was quite weird, but i've never seen a reaction to a coffin before the way we did, but when we brought mom back to the house all the neighbours came out, and the neighbours were taking photographs , the coffin was so beautiful and they all just wanted to see it, and I don't think, I think it felt so natural and right that we do that, I think we're brought up with these old fashioned views from , probably way back to the victorian times about funerals and how they should be and how we should you know treat people once they've passed, but for us it was the most natural thing in the world,

I thought that one thing that was really good for my dad, was that he could spend his last moments with mom, so he sat with the coffin in the hearse, and I think that's just wonderful, it might not be ok for everyone, but for my dad, that was his special time and it helped him a lot. and then during the service, dad was always adamant that people are on budgets, people can't afford huge floral displays so what we did was we asked everybody to bring one flower, one like stem, it could be you know out of the garden, or anywhere, just bring one flower and we had about 120 people at mom's funeral and I think everyone brought one stem, and at the end of the

funeral, the flowers were, it just looked beautiful. So many different types and colours, it would have been, mom would have been overjoyed by it all.

I think the information that mom gave us was very useful about what she didn't want in the funeral and then I think finding yourselves was just really was a match made in heaven as they say, but it really was because um we know mom would get the care and and the send off that she would have loved, and she would have loved to have been there and seen it all. and now a long time has passed, but people still talk about my mom's funeral, even now friends say your mom's funeral was so beautiful it was such a happy occasion, even though it obviously is one of the worst days of your life.