



In Loving Memory of

Gavin Peter Ferries

9th February 1983 - 23rd June 2020

Monday 3rd August 2020 at 3.30 pm

Beckenham Crematorium



ENTRANCE MUSIC

Albatross
Fleetwood Mac

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION

by Debbie Devito

GATHERING OF THOUGHTS

HYMN

Morning has broken, like the first morning;
Blackbird has spoken, like the first bird.
Praise for the singing, praise for the morning,
Praise for them, springing fresh from the Word.

Sweet the rain's new fall, sunlit from heaven,
Like the first dewfall on the first grass.
Praise for the sweetness of the wet garden,
Sprung in completeness where His feet pass.

Mine is the sunlight! Mine is the morning
Born of the one light Eden saw play!
Praise with elation, praise every morning,
God's re-creation of the new day!

GAVIN FERRIES, A LIFE WELL LIVED!

Gavin arrived in this world on 9th February 1983 at Cuckfield Hospital, Haywards Heath. The second child for his father, Neil, and mother, Anne, Gavin joined his older sister, Karen, to complete the Ferries family.

In 1988 the family moved to Redhill where Gavin attended Wray Common, the Warwick and Reigate college schools. He showed an aptitude for Maths and secured a place at Southampton University to read Mathematics. Here he was able to live the student life and establish life-long friendships. At university Gavin also demonstrated his expertise in the kitchen - if you cook for your housemates you don't have to do the washing up, which is a good deal for any aspiring home chef!

Having successfully completed his Maths degree, Gavin joined Anne and Neil in Cirencester. Despite the distance, Gavin kept in touch with many of his friends from university, regularly making the trip back to Southampton (amongst other places). He also travelled further afield with the close friends he made, from Egypt to the somewhat damper Giant's Causeway.

Whilst living in Cirencester Gavin briefly considered a career as a Maths teacher, but the opportunity to join Cotswold District Council led him into the world of Urban Planning and his career in planning began. Two people who were especially pleased Gavin chose this path were his close friends, Stuart and Gemma. Gavin and Stu were at Southampton Uni together, while Gavin and Gemma met during their post-graduate studies. Stuart and Gemma met through Gavin and without him they wouldn't have married and had their two gorgeous children, Lachlan and Isla.

With his professional Royal Town Planning Institute qualifications under his belt, Gavin moved to Corby Borough Council in 2009 as a Planner. He also took the opportunity to climb on to the property ladder by buying his own home in Corby. Unsurprisingly, he quickly made new friends in Corby, some of whom Anne and Neil met at the London Olympics in 2012 - and many of whom enjoyed a real ale (or three) with Gavin at various beer and other festivals.

In 2016 Gavin moved to Kettering Borough Council as a Senior Development Officer. Here Gavin built his reputation with council colleagues and developers alike. He was a diligent local government officer with an impressive amount of expertise. He was always willing to help. He was passionate about planning and the environment. As his Director at Kettering Borough Council told Neil in his letter of condolence, Gavin never lost sight of what was important - making a better place in which to live. But he also always had time for the people he worked with, whether taking a moment to chat or making amazing Star Wars bakes for the charity cake sale. The Customer Services Team sent a tribute saying he always had time for everyone and regularly caught up with his friends on reception as he left for home. A further tribute came from the Mayor of Kettering, Councillor Keli Watts, who was fulsome in her praise for his work and enthusiasm. There is an overwhelming appreciation of not only his work but also his kind-hearted nature which extended to his many friends in Corby, Southampton and further afield.

Tragically in 2016, the year that Gavin gained promotion, Anne died suddenly and unexpectedly. Neil, Karen and Gavin were all devastated by the loss of their much-loved wife and mother. Despite their own grief, Karen and Gavin continued to provide huge support to Neil following Anne's death. He could not have asked for a better son and daughter.

Alongside academic and career success, Gavin also liked to keep fit. In his earlier years he played rugby for Dorking under 16s, and when he moved to Corby he became a keen follower of Leicester Tigers (where he had a season ticket), attending matches with friends and occasionally his father.

Gavin also played hockey for Kettering. He will be sorely missed by everyone at the club. Having seen the hockey with his family at London 2012, Gavin joined Kettering Hockey Club through the Back 2 Hockey scheme, and quickly embraced both the sport and its social side. One memorable match was when, having scored a goal at one end of the pitch, he ended up in goal after his team's keeper had been sent off and saved the penalty stroke. Gavin enjoyed being on the Men's 5th team and had particular respect for one of his teammates who, having played at a very high level in his youth (we believe at Olympic level), was still playing regularly at 80.

Gavin enjoyed the gym and decided to engage a personal trainer to help him keep match-fit. This enthusiasm for all things gym-related perhaps went back to Christmas 1998 when a 15 year old Gavin received a 'home gym' from Neil and Anne. In 2018 he did a 100km walk from London to Brighton, raising funds for Mind, which was a charity close to his heart. One of the pictures shows him at the finish with his medal - Karen cheered Gavin across the line, and her husband Simon and his family cheered him on en route.

Gavin loved to travel - he was always on holiday or planning his next adventure. He travelled extensively. Highlights included Cambodia, the Rockies, Peru, Belize, Sri Lanka and South Africa. He was a skilled wildlife photographer and his pictures of animals in their natural habitats rivalled those taken by professionals.

One of his favourite travel stories was the Sri Lankan elephants who had worked out a toll system whereby they would block the road until the ‘toll’ of a water melon had been paid. He encountered elephants up close again on safari earlier this year, and previously conquered his vertigo to scale Rainbow Mountain in Peru.

Gavin was a dog-lover, something that runs in the family. Golden retrievers were always a feature of the Ferries household - Jasper the first, who was Gavin’s first furry companion, and then the very large Jasper the second who liked to take people for a walk.

Gavin loved playing Scrabble, inevitably (and repeatedly) beating his friends and family. He enjoyed crosswords and loved science fiction. He was a particular fan of the late, great Terry Pratchett and had read all of his books. Discworld and its inhabitants, including Sam Vimes of the City Watch, clearly resonated with his own experience of working in local government.

Gavin has left us far too soon. He has left his family, friends and colleagues grieving for their loss and in shock at his passing. He has been a wonderful son, brother and friend, and would have been a wonderful uncle too.

But Gavin lived his life to the full. He didn’t sit on the side lines and watch. He got stuck in. He saw the world. He built lasting friendships. He made a difference.

To quote Terry Pratchett. “No-one is actually dead until the ripples that they cause in the world die away.”

Gavin will go on making ripples for years to come.



POEM
He Is Gone
David Harkins

You can shed tears that Gavin is gone,
Or you can smile because he has lived.
You can close your eyes and pray that he'll come back,
Or you can open your eyes and see all he has left.

Your heart can be empty because you can't see Gavin,
Or you can be full of the love that you shared.
You can turn your back on tomorrow and live in yesterday,
Or you can be happy for tomorrow because of yesterday.

You can remember Gavin and only that he's gone,
Or you can cherish his memory and let it live on.
You can cry and close your mind, be empty and turn your back,
Or you can do what Gavin would want:
Smile, open your eyes, love and go on.

REFLECTIVE MUSIC AND SLIDESHOW

Hallelujah
Rufus Wainwright

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

THE LORD'S PRAYER

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.

FAREWELL AND COMMITTAL

BLESSING

EXIT MUSIC

Pomp And Circumstance March No. 1
Edward Elgar
performed by the CSSR Symphony Orchestra
conducted by Adrian Leaper





Should you wish to make a donation
in memory of Gavin, please go to:
www.mind.org.uk

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