



# Joyce Ann Walker

18th April 1952 - 24th January 2022

---

Saturday, 19th February 2022

Poole Crematorium

11:00 am

Service led by Eleanor Lomas

# Order of Service

## **Music on Entry:**

*Perfect by Ed Sheeran*

## **Welcome**

## **Tributes**

## **Visual Tribute**

*Besame Mucho by Andrea Bocelli*

## **The Farewell**

## **Closing words**

## **Music on Exit:**

*Another Day of Sun by La La Land Cast*

*Robin and family thank you all for attending today's service  
and warmly invite you back for refreshment and to share more  
memories of Joyce at:*

***The Allendale Community Centre  
Hanham Road, Wimborne BH21 1AS***



**Donations in memory of Joyce are in aid of:**  
Southampton Hospital Charity

**Donate online via**  
[www.funeraldirector.co.uk/joyce-walker](http://www.funeraldirector.co.uk/joyce-walker)



**Alternatively cheques can be sent to:**  
*Douch & Small, 7 Leigh Road  
Wimborne BH21 1AB*



## Welcome

Welcome everyone to our ceremony for Joyce. My name is Ellie Lomas and Robin has asked me to lead our service today as we pay tribute to his beloved wife.

As well as you all here, we are also joined by family and friends via webcast and we extend a very warm welcome to you all. We hope you feel you are here with us.

To have lost Joyce so unexpectedly and in such tragic circumstances has already been so difficult to bear for her loved ones.

She was a light in the life of many people and will be so deeply missed. Robin wanted to thank the amazing staff at Southampton General Hospital who gave their all to Joyce's care. Any kind donations in her memory today will benefit them.

Today we honour Joyce, a lady who was beautiful inside and out. You will all know how important dancing was to her and to open, I would like to share a reading.

We danced amongst the stars that night  
When joy had fallen far from sight  
We danced under the sun so bright  
And when all seemed lost, we held on tight

We danced to the music of hummingbirds  
And we danced in the silence when there were no words.  
We danced in the shadows of fear and doubt  
And we danced when we questioned what life's about.

We danced amongst the evergreens  
That posed for painters winter scenes.  
We danced in the winters bitter chill  
And when we danced our world stood still.

For that's what love was meant to be  
To find the dance when we cannot see.  
To write a new song when the music stops  
With lyrics that caress every tear that drops.

For life is hard, there is no doubt  
But Dancing through it, is what life's about.

(Bernard Colasurdo)

## **Tributes**

Now, a little about Joyce's life.

The only child born to Arthur and Margaret; Joyce entered our world in Macclesfield on the 18th of April 1952. Joyce was clever and did well at Macclesfield High School.

On leaving, she did a bit of shop work for a while before she got a job at Imperial Chemical Industries, working as a hematologist in their research lab in Cheshire. It was there that Joyce met Robin, who at the time was a building contractor on the site. They started their relationship and then Joyce told him there was a job going in the lab so he applied, got the job, and they then worked together for a while.

Joyce could turn her hand to many things, which was helpful when she and Robin decided to move to the Isles of Scilly to live near the sea. Joyce was Head of Reception in the Atlantic Hotel before having to give that up to help with Robin's fast growing fish and chip business on the island. It was a gorgeous place and community and it was a fun 18 months they spent there.



Joyce and Robin married, very happily, on the 2nd of December 1978 and lived in Macclesfield and later in Poynton. They both loved working on houses and Joyce was amazing at the interior design element, creating beautiful homes for them to enjoy. They had some great times in those days, travelling around the UK, following Robin's hobby of diving. Joyce would happily sunbathe on the beach and they enjoyed the nightlife. There were also brilliant evenings spent with Robin's twin sister, Rose and her husband, Rod, playing canasta and having drinks.

Then it was a new home in Poynton to work on and a new job for Joyce as assistant manager in Mothercare. She then decided to get a job which was within a National company so they could transfer somewhere new in the future, and Joyce settled on Unigate Dairies.

The sea was calling for Joyce once more and she managed to get a job transfer to Totnes in Devon. She came home and said to Robin, 'I've got a job in Totnes, what will you do?' Luckily, he had no problem securing a job in less than 48 hours and the deal was set.

As Joyce was starting her job in technical training on the Senior Management Team for Unigate, they were making plans to buy their home in Stoke Fleming, a dream location with amazing potential. Many of you will know that, after renovating it themselves and putting in such a lot of hard work, that dream became a reality and 'Seacliffe' was their home for many years.



Filling their home with family members were the times Joyce loved the most. She just adored her son, Lee, and grandchildren Shannon, Summer, Samuel and Thomas and also spent some happy times with Collette. Lee and the children loved their Mum and 'Ganny' to bits and 'great ganny' when Oscar, Finley, Mia and Maisy were born. The grandchildren had the most amazing times at Seacliffe and Joyce was always at the centre of things, having great fun.

There would always be activities for the grandchildren, including baking and making exhibits for the local annual shows. The family would all get involved with the challenges like 'make a bird house out of disgarded timber' or 'make an artifact out coconuts'. They would go totally OTT and the bird house they made had a jacuzzi and everything...the epic James Bond exhibit one year took many hours with everyone involved.

They were perfect happy summer days, surfing, playing in the swimming pool and garden. Joyce loved her garden and kept it beautifully, growing veg and many daffodils, which reminded her of their time in the Scilly Isles. There was also the unforgettable 'Pirate Life' for children and adults alike, which Robin has detailed for us in the following tribute;

## **A Pirates Life for Me**

“Joyce Walker—aka – Splitbone  
(named from injuries caused by a highly polished dance floor in Devon)

Split, loved her Pirate life where she found fun and laughter on every adventure. Annually the grandchildren would arrive in Devon for their Pirate training at Seacliffe. As soon as they arrived the guards were put up by the gates and signs were posted.

They said “ Keep Owt- Pirate’s in training ”

And it were serious stuff, as our one eyed, one legged and mute postman would confirm (should have read the signs) savvy.

At the pirate school, Split would teach her crew how to make Parrot Pie, make the bunks, sparkle yer teeth as well as a great white shark does, raise a pirate flag and BBQ anything that passes.

They were taught and named for their future adventures on the high seas of life.

They were

Robin – Captain Black Skeleton or Skelly for short

Lee – Black Scar

Shannon – Grey Sabre Tooth

Summer- Yellow Wolf

Sam – Green Dog

Tom – Black Pig

The theme continued and was carried over to a team of Jiggin' marauders who would sail off for weekends of "Grog drinking" and "fancy jigging".

This crew were:

Robin --- Captain Skelly

Joyce ---- Splitbone

Sally ----- One Lens

(named cus she wore only one lens so she could keep her eye on other pirates be they near or far)

Tony --- Quick Lunge

(named for his prowess in the tango)

Marilyn --- Two text

(named for her uncanny ability to use two mobile phones at once)

Stan – Shoe Shot

(named cus of his hopeless photography skills)

Mel – Bilge blaster

(named for nothing more sinister than he owns a boat)

Jan – Bonecrusher

(named cus of another highly polished dance floor)

Be it time with the little Pirates or the big ones, Split would add laughter and sparkle to any party.

I am sure she will have some plans for the Angels.

Savvy."



Joyce and Robin both worked so hard and at times didn't see a lot of each other when Robin was working away. Joyce wanted to do something together and decided they should learn to dance.

Robin came home one weekend and she informed him that she wanted to go out dancing. The next week she booked lessons and dragged an initially reluctant Robin along. Once a dancing holiday was booked, there was no turning back!

Joyce and Robin loved their dancing and soon all their spare time was taken up with it. They went on many river dance cruises, which were lovely and also started going to local dances and on the Strictly weekends both ran by Paul Donahey. He liked their quickstep so much and when they got chatting, he invited them both to come and work for him.

This was the beginning of a great adventure and Joyce was in her element. She danced with Anton, helped with competitions and in the quick change for all the professionals. It was an incredible experience and with Joyce's glittering personality, she quickly made many friends. They went all over the place; Alton Towers, Celtic Manor and the list goes on. Robin has said;

“We spent many years dancing with Paul Donahey and his team at Kingsbridge in Devon and Manchester and again making many seriously good friends. We were also honoured to work with Paul at his 5 star dancing with the stars weekends. These weekends were glamorous, star studded, sparkling, well managed breaks. They would often have over 400 guests. They would have the stars of Strictly, World Champion dancers and smouldering Argentine tango dancers. There was only one objective in mind and that was to make guests smile and enjoy an experience not to forget. Joyce was a girl that helped with those smiles, as hers would light up any ballroom.”

Later, they decided to move to Wimborne, and again, Robin speaks of this in his tribute entitled 'The Big Hug';

After over 40 Yrs living in Devon we reached a decision to move further east and be closer to our ever growing family, nearer to shops, supermarkets, doctors etc. So, we chose Wimborne.

Little did we know that our choice of property would introduce us to such wonderful friends and neighbours. They are magnificent and have been a tower of strength, just one glance from any of them is like a big warm hug.

We also decided to step into new adventures and one decision last year saw us become members of the local Bowling club where we received Big Hug number two. Such warmth and guidance and an introduction to a new circle of marvellous friends. The standard of tuition and support saw both of us lift trophies in our first season. Think there might have been a tad of luck too.

We were not new to dance, but we needed to get back to dancing so we could see that big beaming smile on Joyce's face again and boy o boy did we find the right place when we joined Carol Rodulfo, her team and her pupils at Dance Away. They have been remarkable, and we have slowly regained our confidence and steps which helped to bring the smiles back.

There are so many wonderful memories to reflect on of time spent with Joyce, and we now have some time for reflection as we listen to the song 'Besame Mucho – lots of kisses – and see photos on the screen from Joyce's life.

## **Visual Tribute**

Besame Mucho

Andrea Bocelli



Robin has written a poem, which he has asked me to share;

To my Darling Wife;  
Across the sky in a billow of white  
The dancing “Hen” will light the night  
You will dance around in sparkling dresses  
And keep my love with fond caresses  
So, dance in the stars no matter the weather  
And I will keep you close until we're together  
Rx

### **The Farewell**

As we now near the close of our ceremony could I please  
ask you to stand as we give our thanks to Joyce.

Joyce, thank you for your immense kindness and for your  
unwavering love and care for your family and friends.  
Your grace, light and love will never be forgotten.

The positive influence you had on so many lives and the  
happiness and joy you gave will be cherished.

We honour your life on Earth, and we wish for your peace  
ever after.

Into the freedom of wind and sunshine,  
Into the dance of the stars and the planets,  
We let you go.

Go safely, go dancing, go dancing home.

May you rest in peace.



## Closing Words

In these most difficult times, what moves through us is a silence, a quiet sadness, a longing for one more day, one more word, one more touch. You may not understand why Joyce left this earth so soon, or why she left before you were ready to say good-bye, but little by little, you will begin to remember not just that she died, but that she lived, and that her life gave you memories too beautiful to ever forget.

In a moment, we will close our ceremony by listening to 'Another Day of Sun' and then you are all warmly invited to join Robin and the family at The Allendale Centre in Wimborne to continue to share your memories together. As a further tribute to Joyce, Robin has organised for her beautiful dance dresses to be on display there as you celebrate her life.

Just before we close, I would like to leave you with a reading.

If you love me  
Then know that our love is eternal,  
That the bond we share together  
Will go on forever.

Imagine that I am staying with you  
For a while in time.  
Imagine that it is the end of my day,  
And I leave you to go into the next room.  
Imagine that the room I've entered  
Is filled with joy and peace and love  
Of old friends who are delighted to see me,  
Of beautiful flowers, of healing warmth,  
And magic rainbow colours.

Imagine how happy I will be  
In that magnificent room.

One day you will come into my room  
And see me more beautiful and happier  
Than you have ever seen me before.  
You will feel the same peace and joy  
That I am feeling.

If you can imagine this  
Then you will understand  
That death is not an ending  
But merely a passing from one room to another  
In the mansions of time.

Life goes on forever  
And love will never end.

(Yvonne Goddard)

**Closing Music**  
Another Day of Sun  
La La Land Cast