

Memories of Mum from Alex

I fondly remember holidaying every year in Devon when we were kids, staying in the campsite and playing on the beach at Bigbury, North Devon, watching the big wheeled tractor heading over to Bigbury Island with tourists and supplies. I also recall many birthdays as a child spent up in Lancashire, where Mum would take us to Blackpool to see the illuminations, was always an exciting time as a young child.

I also recall summer holidays travelling to France where Mum would impress us with her considerable grasp of the French language and try and teach us basic language skills so we could invite two French girls in a neighbouring caravan to come with us to the beach!

Holidays were good memories when we were all at our happiest and most relaxed as a family, doing activities and having days out (often in the rain!), where Mum would provide us with everything and ensure we were all entertained and well looked after.

Memories of Mum from Anna

I very much agree with Alex that we had many good times on our holidays. I especially remember our huge family tent and the meals mum would bring. I remember her once having a big Tupperware container of something (no doubt including beans, chickpeas or lentils...she put me off these for life!) which she had frozen the night before and which was still frozen solid when we came to eat it for our tea!

We always thought of her as a huge advocate for healthy eating, to the point I once tried to make her a cake as a surprise and used wholemeal flour 'to make it healthier' - you can imagine how well that turned out! It turns out it was more 'do as I say, not as I do' when later in life she confessed to me that she used to buy packs of 3 chocolate bars for Rob, Alex and I, only to eat them all herself and have to later replace them! And we all know how much she loved her ice creams!

She was very much the sun worshipper. I remember her buying a big wicker chair which she placed besides the patio doors so she could sit and soak in the sun. She always liked to be outside and active as well...often we'd have the announcement that we were going on a 'lovely family walk', much to my disgust. Yet, here I am now doing exactly the same thing to Nova!

She was always the one to ferry us kids around in the car to various activities. I use to remember thinking how popular she must be as she was often waving at and being waved to by other drivers. It was only later in life that I learnt this was simply how drivers thanked each other! And there was obviously the one time she had to drive across Bristol to pick me up a little worse for wear from my friend Rachael's house, because in that state all I wanted was my mum!

I especially remember how passionate she was about her job (the children, not the bureaucracy). She used to absolutely love being around children, and hated it whenever parents would threaten their children with her as she never wanted them to be scared of her. Whenever I went into her school, she always seemed to take pride in introducing 'her little girl' 😊

And who can forget her favourite drink...hot water (when it wasn't appropriate to drink wine anyway!) - nobody could ever understand that that was all she wanted!

She was also someone who took great pride in her home. I can't ever remember it being untidy.