

## Ladies and Gentlemen

Thank you all for coming today, to celebrate Ken's life, and I'm sorry it was a little cozy at Woking. Ken did actually specify a stand up finger buffet, so I guess as you are all seated, I'm probably in trouble .. again ...

I must say a thank you to Richard and Lynda and Amanda and the staff here at Great Fosters, who have as always put on a wonderful spread. Ken bought the house next door over 55 years ago and as far as I know he hasn't had to complain about the hotel yet.

I must say a Thank you to everyone who has helped Ken (and Nikki and me) over the past few years, especially Ron and Marian, Margo, Hugh, Alan, Andy and Denise, and the other neighbours in the close, and of course Mary and Morris. It's been a tough time recently, and everyone's support is most appreciated, even if Ken was insistent that he didn't need any help!

I would also like to say that for the last three months, Ken was looked after wonderfully by the staff at the Manor home in Windsor, they were all just brilliant.

It is wonderful to see so many family and friends and Barclays colleagues, especially those who have travelled long distances, as well as many familiar faces who came to Ken's 80<sup>th</sup> and 90<sup>th</sup> birthday parties, also held here of course. Thank you to you all for being here.

But it is time to say thank you to Ken, for all he did for every one of us. I think I can say for all of us that without exception he was the mentor and strong moral compass of the family. In my teens one half term, Dad and Mum were in Australia and I was at home with my girlfriend. Ken wasn't sure this was the right thing, so he took me aside and said "you must make your own choices in life, but never do anything that would embarrass your parents". Mind you he always bought me a pair of sandals at Christmas, and I suspect my wearing them all the time embarrassed Dad and Mum anyway!

Ken was a very generous man, and at the same time a very modest man. He didn't like anything flashy or ostentatious, but did like things of quality. He never forgot Christmas and birthdays, and would send a card at every possible opportunity.

He was always there to bail us out if we needed help, but when he did it was always carefully documented with a proper repayment schedule – he was meticulous about record keeping and documentation. Nikki and I have been sorting out his affairs over the past few months and he still has the itemised list of the contents of Timberly Cottage which he bought for his mum in 1961. I can tell you that he paid 1 shilling for a salad shaker and 12 and 6 for a pedal bin and we still have the paperwork to prove it! I will explain 12 and 6 to the youff later !

Ken also paid for my Dad's car in 1997, and he was furious when Dad passed away and left him the money in his will!

Ken was a true gentleman in every sense of the word – everything was done properly and correctly. And, as such, it is my proper and correct duty to ask you all to be upstanding and raise a glass for Uncle Ken - the toast is "Absent Friends"

Now, dinner is served.....