

Eric Fisk – My Story

“Helping Marilyn be, Marilyn again”

“Things had become difficult for me to manage by myself. Marilyn’s condition had deteriorated quite a lot in recent months and I was very aware that as I was lifting her I might be actually causing her more pain or injury. We found out about HospiceCare from Marilyn’s District Nurse who said three words **“you need help.”** Marilyn was so cautious about having help because she feared that having carers come in was just actually one step away from going into a hospice or into hospital. So Marilyn and I reacted immediately from the District Nurse’s suggestion of help, but in quite different ways. I breathed a huge sigh of relief because I knew I’d nursed Marilyn for the best part of two years. Marilyn on the other hand said **“No we are managing fine.”** because that came from a conversation that we had previously had in which I had promised Marilyn that she would be able to stay at home. It was so important for Marilyn to be at home because if she could have chosen where and when she was going to die, it would have been that she died in her own bedroom, with the family nearby.

Marilyn and I discussed together having HospiceCare and after a phonecall from Marilyn’s District Nurse to the hospice, we had a home visit from one of HospiceCare’s nurses who spoke with Marilyn and I about the support available to us from the hospice. They then commenced care the following morning with two HospiceCare Healthcare Assistants and it was only after having chatted to the Healthcare Assistants that Marilyn felt more relaxed about accepting the care at home and quite quickly said she felt she had met a new group of friends who she could talk to - and who probably understand her and what she was going through better than I did, actually.

It was over the first weekend of having HospiceCare’s care and support, that I went out into the garden to cut some roses to bring them back into the house for Marilyn, the bedroom window was open and I could hear Marilyn chatting with them - they were all laughing and exchanging stories. By the time I got round to the bedroom Marilyn was sitting up in bed looking absolutely amazing because not only had they given her a wash and changed her clothes, they had put her hair up the way she liked it, they’d put some make up on applied her lipstick and sprayed some perfume and she looked wonderful. I could tell that she felt so much better because she knew that she looked good – **I felt that HospiceCare were helping her to be Marilyn again.**

When Marilyn’s condition deteriorated the Healthcare Assistants were able to tell me **“I don’t think Marilyn is going to see this evening through”** that was helpful as I was able to get Marilyn’s three children up and they were beside her bed when she did die. In those last few days there was never any sign of any pain at all and she continued to smile right through those final hours and at the end, HospiceCare were able to fulfil her wish to be at home in her own bedroom surrounded by her family.” Eric

