

Gordon Cooper
33c Whiteley Road
Upper Norwood
SE19 1JU

5th May 2017

Dear Olga,

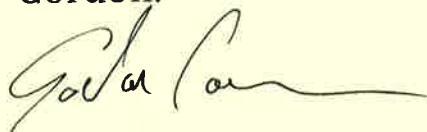
Please find enclosed a copy of the full ceremony from
Russell's funeral on Wednesday.

It was a privilege to be a part of this. It is quite clear that
Russell was a remarkable person and will be so greatly
missed. The numbers in attendance alone are testament to
that.

Take care of yourself.

My very best wishes,

Gordon.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Gordon Cooper', written in a cursive style.

Gordon Cooper

BHA Funeral celebrant.

CEREMONY OF
FAREWELL & THANKSGIVING

for the life of

Russell Grant Binions

21st of November 1978 - 13th April 2017

Beckenham Crematorium

Wednesday 3rd May 12pm

Ceremony conducted by:

Gordon Cooper (British Humanist Association Officiant)

Email: gordoncooper74@yahoo.com Telephone: 07795071818

Funeral Director
Co-Op Funeral Care
426 Downham Way
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Tel: 020 8692 2535

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Music for Entry

Never be the Sun
By
Dolores Keane

You'll never be the sun turning in the sky
And you won't be the moon above us on the moonlit night
And you won't be the stars in heaven although they burn so
bright

But even on the deepest ocean you will be the light

You may not always shine as you go barefoot over stones
You might be so long together or you might walk alone
And you'll find that love comes easy
Or that love is always right

So even when the storm clouds gather you will be the light

And if you lose a parting side when love turns round on you
Leaving the past behind is knowing you'll do like you always
Holding you blind
keeping you true

You'll never be the sun turning in the sky
and you won't be the moon above us on the moonlit night
and you won't be the stars in heaven although they burn so bright
but even on the deepest ocean you will be the light
you will be the light
you will be the light

WORDS OF WELCOME

Good afternoon Ladies and Gentlemen. I would like to welcome you all here to Beckenham crematorium. We meet together today to pay our respects to and celebrate the life of Russell Grant Binions, who died on 13th of April, following a short struggle with cancer. We are here to remember Russell and to say our farewells. This funeral also allows us the opportunity to come together to offer each other comfort and support in this difficult time.

My name is Gordon Cooper and it will be my great privilege to lead today's service. I am here as a representative of the British Humanist Association and this will be a humanist ceremony.

In humanism people are what are important and in a Humanist ceremony we put people and only people at the heart of the service. Those who are gone, and those who are still here.

I am aware that there may be those here today who do have a religious faith so there will be a moment in the service for you to remember Russell in whichever way you feel appropriate.

THOUGHTS ON LIFE AND LOSS

Today is a sad day and our thoughts and condolences are in particular with Russell's wife Olga and his Parents Norman and Janice. Losing a loved one is never an easy thing. And it is made all the harder because Russell was so young, with so much life ahead of him.

It really is difficult to find anything positive to take away from this situation but I believe it's important when grieving to try.

Michel de Montaigne the 16th C French writer wrote,

"The value of life lies not in its length but in the use we make of it. This or that person may have lived many years, yet lived little. Pay good heed to that in your own life. Whether you have lived long enough depends upon yourself, not on the number of your years."

Russell, although young when he died, truly lived his life. He filled it with things he loved. Science, music, travel, sport, friends and family. None of us

know how long we may have so it is important that like Russell we fill our lives with living, with love and share that life with those who make us happy.

TRIBUTE

Russell had many special people in his life and it is testament to the man he was, that several of them want to share their thoughts and memories of Russell with us today

The first of these people is the most special in Russell's life, his wife Olga. I would like to invite Olga to come up and share her Tribute with us.

Olga's Words

Russell was an extraordinary man. So strong, so kind, so caring. He never did anything halfway. If anything sparked his interest, he would pursue it with all his might. Our home is a reflection of this. The guitars, the ice hockey jerseys, the camouflage jackets, the CDs... Some people called it compulsive hoarding. He thought of himself as a collector and a connoisseur.

He certainly had eclectic tastes. Sometimes his interests seemed to me to conflict with each other. For example, he wasn't religious. Yet he collected icons and other religious artefacts. He enjoyed visiting churches and cathedrals. We must have visited every cathedral in Venice. In Toulouse, he took me to 10 cathedrals in the space of 4 hours. He was fascinated with religion. Not many people know this, but he was ordained by the Universal Life Church Ministries on 26 August 2015. When I asked why he decided to get ordained, I think he answered "why not?"

Russell was an avid supporter of Streatham Ice Hockey club. In addition to sponsoring the club and going to every home game, he contributed to the program. In the last few months he struggled to get to sleep. He would stay up late and read biographies of famous ice hockey players. He would then write reviews of the books and these were printed in the game programs under the name Hockey Hound, always with a picture of our greyhound, Sadie.

Sometimes Russell felt out of place, perhaps alien to the environment he found himself in. But he was always at the very centre of any social group. A strong leader, mentor, a reliable friend. If you needed help or support, you could guarantee that he would be there by your side and give you all he could.

Russell was my husband, my best friend, my life. He walked into my life and changed it for the better. I am honoured to call Russell my husband and I am grateful for the wonderful years we had together. I only wish we could have had more time.

Thank you Olga

Olga told me that they met in a science lab. It seems to me that of all the discoveries Russell made in a lab this was the most important.

Next I would like to invite one of Russell's oldest and dearest friends, Graham, to come and share his personal Tribute with us.

Graham's Words

I along with some others here today have been friends with Russell for about 27 years. We met when we were 11 years old.

It is difficult to shrink 27 years of time with someone into a short tribute, even more so with a man who's personality was so complicated, diverse and often unpredictable.

I met Russ, along with Keith and John, when we became librarians at Kelsey Park School for Boys.

Becoming a librarian was basically something you did when you didn't quite fit in anywhere else and needed to go somewhere where other people might actually talk to you.

And let's not forget that this was Kelsey Park School so there were few other places you could go to 'Dodge the Bullets'

Friendship with Russell did not come easily. He was a strongly opinionated character often found arguing with the teachers during lessons about the inaccurate content. And was often right. He was very intelligent and as a young boy I often felt inadequate in his presence.

A friendship did grow and very soon I would sit next to him in most classes – although it was mainly so I could copy his work and get him to explain the things that I didn't understand – it's thanks to him that I got the grades I did at GCSE – of course I also blame him for failing my A-levels

There were many sides to Russ but there are two I want to pay tribute to in particular:

The first I will name 'Russ is a Twat'

Russell possessed the natural ability, like no one else I have ever met, to piss people off.

He enjoyed it.

If you had a different opinion to Russell then you were automatically wrong, he would tell you this and even explain exactly why you were wrong and why he wasn't interested in your opinion.

The second I will name 'Russ is a kind and caring man '

Russ had a big heart and would do what ever he could to help those he could.

As an example: A few years ago I gave up my job to go travelling for as long add I could afford. I wanted to spend every penny I had, but of course what would I do when I came home?

Well Russell not only picked me up from the airport at the early hours of a Saturday morning, he and Olga gave me a room to stay and offered to pay for my food for as long it took to get back on my feet. I stayed for two months and when I got a job and could pay rent Russ was keen to make sure I only took the job if it was right for me as the money wasn't as important as my making the right choice.

If I had a problem Russ would listen and even show empathy and understanding

Lastly, quite recently, when I decided to pull away from certain members of my family Russ told me that he wanted me to think of him as my family So it is with great sadness and difficulty that today I have to say goodbye to my friend Russ. You have made a huge impact on my life over the last 27 years and I can't even begin to imagine what the future will be like without you in it.

Thank You Graham

MOMENT OF REFLECTION

As we have already heard, Russell was not someone who it would be easy to forget and each of you here today will have your own special memories of him. I would now like to take a pause from these tributes and invite you all to spend a few moments of stillness with your own thoughts and memories of Russell. Any of you with a religious faith may like to use this time for your own private prayer.

Perhaps you could have a quiet word to Russell's favourite deity "The Flying Spaghetti Monster".

Music for Reflection

Halo By Mono

As you are all no doubt aware, Russell's work was a tremendously important part of who he was. I watched a video Russell made about his work and understood about 5% of what he was talking about so I am absolutely unqualified to discuss it. Instead I would now like to invite Russell's colleague, mentor and friend Ivan Parkin, to come and speak about this part of Russell's life.

Ivan's Words

I first met Russell in 2001 when he attended for a Ph.D. interview, with me and Claire Carmalt at UCL. He was actually very nervous at the interview. Russell graduated from Durham University with a 2ii MChem degree, normally UCL required a 2i degree for entry, indeed I had to make a special case to UCL for Russell. Both Claire and I saw something special in him - he had this infectious enthusiasm and a propensity to argue a point - which is a good trait for a scientist. Russell graduated with his Ph.D in 2005, his first 18 months of his Ph.D. were actually quite difficult - Russell would argue every point and needed to be convinced of why something was important. He did have a "lightbulb" moment at the mid point - with his 'sodium fluoride paper' he seemed to realise that there was a bigger purpose especially doing work of functional importance and from then on was a fantastic student.

After graduation Russell worked for Norville lens using chemical vapour deposition to make hydrophobic surfaces. I introduced Russell to the company and he did well for 11 months before both his health and his yearning for a more science led career meant that he came back and worked with me at UCL as a post doctorate. Russell excelled as a post doc - he was innovative and extremely helpful to my students. He would always take time to explain things to others and argue points with anyone on anything. He managed this despite going through treatment for non-Hodgkins lymphoma including many rounds of chemotherapy. At the end of his post doc he was awarded a very prestigious Royal Society Dorothy Hodgkin Fellowship. This award enabled him to get scientific independence from me and also facilitated him getting appointed as a lecturer and through his outstanding all around

performance to senior lecturer. I am certain a professor position was just around the corner for him.

Russell had research interests in thermochromic thin films for use in energy conservation in windows, in developing gas sensors for detecting trace chemicals and in developing chemical vapour deposition routes to make new materials. He was particularly well known for using CVD in electric fields and he came up with a new term ELFI-CVD, which I think was better than the term I came up with Continuous Reactive Atmospheric Pressure CVD or CRAP CVD. Russell showed that using an electric field during film formation could change the structure of the films and improve the physical properties.

Russell published well over 100 international publications in scientific journals, with over 18 citations per paper. He was also very proud of his H-index, which was 24. This number expresses how well regarded his work is within the community- with the higher number the better. To put this into context professors in the US normally have an H-index of 18 or above- so Russell surpassed many well-known staff. His group published 16 papers in both 2013 and 2015, which is an extraordinary output for any scientist.

Russell had a number of international collaborations- with Russia, China, Portugal and Italy. He traveled very extensively to conferences and at one point I really found it difficult to track him down. He gave a number of invited talks at conferences and we often met up at these events; this included a memorial conference in Singapore to which Olga also came. Russell challenged the gas sensor community at that meeting and left earning their respect.

I acted as Russell's scientific mentor. I will miss most his enthusiasm and sheer love for life. He had a way of engaging people- whoever they are. He also had an engaging mind and the ability to gently tease people without them finding it annoying. He was also self-deprecating and had this cheeky grin and little boy look. Russell was also my friend, he organised a 50th birthday reunion for my group that was really well attended. we played football and cricket together on the same teams- never the most mobile but he had an astute tactical brain.

I believe that we have lost someone who was very special, not just as an outstanding scientist, but someone who really cared about those around him, the world feels darker for his passing.

Russell rest in peace.

Thank You Ivan.

Russell had many passions in life, music being a particularly important one, the louder the better, apparently. The music for today's service comes from some of Russell's favourite artists. The friend with whom he shared this, as well as other passions was Darran. I would now like to invite Darran to come up and give his personal tribute to his dear friend.

Darran's Words

*Russ and I bonded the most over 2 passions – Music and sport
Being in a band with Russ was very much like it was to be his friend. Yes there were ups and downs but ultimately it was rewarding.
Before playing music with Russ, I didn't fully appreciate the music he performed but that changed quickly. He had his own unique style. His friend and drummer Ian has aptly referred to Russ's guitar sound to a '747 taking off
In rehearsals you could brace yourself as much as possible but when he began it certainly woke you up! If the guys in the band hadn't prepared themselves for him roaring into action it would always make me laugh as they dived into their bags desperately scrambling to find ear plugs! But once you strip back the loudness I began to fully appreciate how great a guitarist Russ was – incredibly creative, an epic sound and an extremely accomplished songwriter. He was proud of every venture he had been associated with and was full of zest for the future of his current band.
Yes, sometimes we 'banged heads' regarding song arrangements.
For instance, I recall one of the last songs he had written. When the band first played the song in its entirety I recorded it for guidance on my phone. We took a break afterwards and had a chat with Russ –
'Love the new song mate. Only slight issue is that its 8 minutes long'
'Well that's quite short!'
'Maybe, but we could try to take a few minutes off by maybe shortening the intro?...'
'No'
'How about the guitar solo?' Maybe make that 1 minute less?...'
'No'
'Ok, well how about the ending? Maybe we could all finish together rather than have 30 seconds of feedback from your amp?..''
'No'
So as we were walking back into the studio I sarcastically and jokingly mumbled 'Well why don't we just take out all the singing parts?!?'
'Yeah that would be great Darran!!'
Let's just say I didn't ask whether he was winding me up!!*

We also shared a passion for sport, in particular American sports. Russ not only watched the games but would delve into the stats for players, teams and performances. When Russ enjoyed something he went in whole heartedly! He was an ardent fan of the San Francisco Giants for baseball, New York Rangers for ice hockey (and let's not forget the Streatham Redhawks!!) and The New York Jets for American football.

It was with them specifically that a few years ago before the season began that I asked him how far he thought the Jets would get this season?

'Well, I think we might have a shot to win the Superbowl this year!'

'Really? I think you will need a whole lot of luck!'

'Luck!? Luck!? Luck doesn't come into it Darran! We have a great coach and coaching staff. Our regular season schedule doesn't seem too harsh and if we win our home games we should comfortably get into the playoffs. Then with our defence we can battle thru those games, get into the Superbowl and win!!' Sometimes you could sense that it wasn't worth arguing with Russ so I quickly changed the subject!

Well that year, with the Jets 'great team' they failed to even qualify for the playoffs! But it just so happened that my team, the Baltimore Ravens sneaked into the playoffs, won those games to get into the Superbowl and were eventual Champions! So there I was on a euphoric high and decided to text him the next day...

'So how about those Ravens Russ!!'

He took his time to reply and when he did it was one word.... 'Lucky'

Russ made an impression with everyone that he met and that is reflected in the messages of condolences that have been posted and also in the turnout here today.

To all those afore mentioned Facebook friends I would just like to say something out loud to you all 'DERPY DERP DERP DERP'

I hope he knew just how much we all cared for him and how much his passing has left a void in our lives.

Now if Russ were beside me with a guitar in hand he would have almost definitely cut me short and crashed into a new song, with his massive guitar sound leaving a ringing in everyone's ears! Yet since the morning of Wednesday 13th April it's the silence that's been deafening...

You were one of a kind mate and though you are no longer with us you will never be forgotten and always in our hearts.

We miss you so much.

Love you

Thank you Darran.

Russell died on the 13th of April after a short struggle with cancer. Throughout his illness he remained positive and felt sure that he would be able to manage it. Sadly this was not to be the case but throughout this time Russell's principle concern was for the wellbeing of Olga. He wanted to make sure she would be ok.

This echoes what we have heard about him today. Russell's principle concern was not Russell. It was others. He made a difference in the world by giving of himself, his time, his knowledge and his friendship. He will be so greatly missed by all who loved him.

THE FAREWELL

Ladies and Gentlemen the time has come to say our final farewell to Russell. I would like to ask, as a mark of respect, if you are able, to please stand.

Russell

Those who are gathered together today
Rejoice that you lived
Took delight in your friendship
Treasure that they walked life with you
Cherish the memory of your words
Your achievements, Your character, Your qualities
With Love we leave you in peace
With respect bid you farewell.

Celtic Blessing

The peace of the running water to you,
The peace of the flowing air to you,
The peace of the shining stars to you,
The peace of the quiet earth to you,
And the love and care of us all, to you.

Music for Committal

Pure as Snow
By
Mono

Please sit down.

CLOSING WORDS

Olga has asked me to thank on her behalf all the staff at St Christophers hospice where Russell spent a week before he died. She also wanted to make sure I thank the Paige family for all their help with the organization of today and all they are support. They are the very definition of the team Binions Motto "Team Binions getting it done"

Following todays ceremony Olga and Russell's friends and family would like to invite any one who would like, to join them at the Elm Tree pub to continue celebrating Russell's life. Who knows, perhaps there may be a memorial Binions Pentathlon too.

While you are there I would like to urge each and every one of you to take your stories and memories of Russell and share them with one another. We have heard so many tributes to and memories of Russell today, but I know each of you will have your own personal, special ones. You must share them with one another. This is how someone truly lives on after death. In the sharing of stories and remembrances. As long as he is remembered, and spoken of, Russell will always be with us.

Music for Exit

Threads

By

This Will Destroy You