

What Madge's family appreciate about her

Her unconditional love, her cuddles, she is always there for me, she goes the extra mile every day, I just love her – everything about her, her kindness.



What is important to Madge

- Sally, my daughter who comes to see me at my house after work each day, our coffee and chats together, hearing how the children are doing at school.
- Ian, my son who comes for his tea Saturday and Sunday with my grandchildren whom I adore; Mark and Kim.
- Staying healthy and out of hospital.
- Sally and her husband Stephen taking me out to the seaside on a Sunday morning with Jess and Jon my beautiful grandchildren. Having our Sunday lunch out – the Blue Anchor is a favourite.
- Speaking on Skype with Sam every Saturday.
- That you share with me the great things that are happening in your life – I want to hear it, it cheers me.
- My sister Ann popping in each day and having a walk into the village together – we sometimes go in Betty's cafe for coffee which is lovely.
- Meeting up with Jane and Jim at the luncheon club Wednesdays.
- Barbara, Stan and Ron coming round for an evening in and a game of cards – gin rummy is a favourite.
- That I always take my yellow bed socks Sam bought me if I have to go in hospital for a stay – they are my comfort blanket.
- I love grapes with the skin peeled off.

How best to support Madge

Ask me how I am if I say I am ok, respect I do not want an in depth conversation, I will talk about my health when I need or want to, please do not push me on it.

Know that when I have examinations or treatment it is so irritating if you don't tell me what you are going to do with me before you try and do it.

Don't tell me it will all come out in the wash, we know it won't. I want no elephants in the room, lets just make the most of the time we have, and be as 'normal' as we can.

Give me clear and simple information. Do not talk over me as though I am not there; I am an intelligent woman. Give any detail to Sally she will remember better than me. It works best for me if any correspondence about my condition comes to me through Sally.

Know that I am aware of the need to eat and will do so when I can, do not make mealtimes a nightmare by watching my every mouthful or commenting if I don't eat much.

Do not make a fuss and cheer me on if I clear my plate. I want this focus on what I eat to stop – the medics will monitor this not family and friends.

Know that I cannot work Skype to speak with Sam on my own. I need Sally or Ian to set it up for me.

Know that I detest the hospital appointments and will be very quiet on the days they are due, leave me be I will talk if I want to.

Know that I use a wheelchair to get around if I am not up to walking but it embarrasses me terribly.

Work out between you who is coming with me to each appointment, then just let me know who is calling for me.

Know that I detest being late and get anxious – the earlier the better for me I must never be late!