

Wendy's Monologue

I'll tell you a tale of a Sheffield lass
Who grew up in this fair steel city
How she went from Barwell to Nutbrown then Throssell
And back to brown nut again
Saying it were cos of the FCA, CII
Not to mention the two loves of her life
James & Stephen who were both Nutbrown's
Third love of her life were her two bonus daughters
Gabi and Grace – heaven knows where that left me

It all started when she was very young
Well, it would do, where else would you start
She's known for cooking up a storm
So, Dad took her to Baldwin who set her on at the Maynard Arms
Buttering bread for the sandwiches
Colourful language to learn
Leading to the Italian Job amongst other restaurants
Finally, off to Sheffield College an OND to get
Eyes firmly set on the Executive Chef at The Dorchester

To step aside, just for a moment
In the Barwell family you see
Clarity on who wa' wrong and who to blame wa' needed
So as to make sure that the women were always right
Her Dad was Robert, her Grandad, brother and dog
So if owt happened it wa' always Bob who got the blame

On she went to finish her degree in Coventry

No, she wasn't sent, she went of her own accord
A zimmermadchen in Bavaria wa' placement
Where she met the little dogs what bite
Along with a stint at Salisbury's Bernie Inn
She'd have been on a ship if
Val & Pete hadn't got hitched
She missed the boat to be chief bridesmaid
That was as close to cruising till 2018
Baldwin, hearing that she were back in Sheffield
Said 'What's tha' doin'? Get thee fat arse down here'
So back to the Omega she went
During the day she lent her fingers to Dad
To help him with his sums
She ended up running her own business
With clients both corporate and private
Simon & David have manfully taken on her mantle
To keep them looked after, thank you

Many a lad came a calling and knocking at her door
Wi' many a different mode of transport
No one asked her to ride tandem though
But eventually she settled An-thon-y
Adventures on the bike and trips to Italy followed
Eventually, as happens, James came along
A young Bellamy in the making
With a penchant for songs from South Pacific
Trips were made to many places
But quite regularly A&E
Later another little bundle arrived in Stephen
He loved the arcades, games

He wa' continually confused
All bends seemed to last for eternity
As there was never a fish & chip shop at end

Camping and campervan wa' holiday mode
Groups descended on St Agnes
Ruth & Lou and others in tow
There they met the mystical acrobatic mice
Tight rope walking over the lighting wires in the tent
And bridges that were falling down
St David's was another haunt
Jaynie joined wi' Rick
Tales of winds and gales, rain
And driving vans down some steps
Loving the Cornish lands
They took up some rooms in the School at St Agy
Getting a toe in the door to settle

Eventually, as happens, Tony and her parted
Much to the kids chagrin
They moved chavvy Woodseats
Wendy took James down to Newquay
To get him to college wi' fish
Lots of things happened at that time
If you know tha'll know

Wendy loved singing joining Sing Live
When that finished Mick took her under his wing

Joining the Barlow Singers and Carolarie
Singing in the prom, the Albert Hall
Rubbing shoulders with the famous performers
Many solos came her way
She wa' always relied on to deliver

Not having a plus one in Sheffield she went on Match.com
This is where we met up
Two months afore I'd been out of her search perimeter
I was the lad who brought eggs
From his rescued battery hen
Described to her mates as Andy
You know 'pink shirt and man bag'

Looking at our history in Sheffield
How the kids were similar ages
It was a miracle we never seemed to have bumped into each other
Then to find out that mi dad
Had given hers his first insurance agency
We were the perfect plus one and went to all kinds of events
Eventually I took away all the barriers for her to move in
This ended up in us looking for a house together
As Stephen was about to go to Uni

Travelling was a great passion getting away from it all
Apart from, wherever we went, there had to be a karaoke bar
Wendy loved to get up and sing,
As Den would testify to
From KT Tunstall to Shania Twain, Adele to Nina Simone
Always encouraging me to get up

Disappointed if she didn't sing at least 5 songs in a night

She blossomed from looking confident

To being confident to do what she wanted

'One of many' was a journey to find out how strong she was

With the support of the soft cell, coaches Wendy Harrington and more

She blossomed into who she had always meant to be

Those who met her drawn to her

Warmth, smile, concern and

Unerring ability to say the right thing

Robert Road was known for its food and hospitality

Boxing day for the whole family

21 at the largest count

Became a main stay of the family calendar

Holidays together for last 3 years

The children and grandchildren

Together in a large house, wi' much fun

Gaining our children's other halves

Full of love, cuddles and joy

Added to the joy of being a mum

House wa' remodelled on a number of occasions

New bathroom, Main suite,

Converting a drafty conservatory to an amazing living space

Then somewhere to go out to work to – Garden room

Wi' a constant decluttering

Life wa' about doing what she enjoyed

Raising money for charity

Singing with people she loves to be around
Caring for close friends from One of Many and more
Holiday, food and theatre with the Holidayers
Ticking off bucket list items
Travelling across the Atlantic
Seeing Whales, being beside the sea

Wendy is this and much more
To them what I haven't mentioned by name
Or by association – sorry there is that much time
But you all know how she felt about thee
What you meant in her life