

## Tributes to Barry expressed in letters received

I have had the great privilege of reading the many cards and letters that Frances has received following Barry's death.

It has been humbling to share such beautiful letters, containing some of the most moving words and tributes I have ever read.

Frances would like to share some of these tributes with you today, as they speak so clearly not only of who Barry was, but also of how he touched the lives of so many people from all walks of life.

The following are direct quotes from some of the letters received..... (don't panic, they are all anonymous!)

“What an extraordinary man he was, not just for his achievements in business, but most importantly for the time and passion he gave to others from all walks of life. He was clearly a very rare and remarkable man, and I know that his loss will be keenly felt by thousands of others whose lives he touched in a very positive way.”

“He was an absolute ‘Gentleman’ in every sense of the word and what he has achieved in his life and so generously given back to society is truly remarkable.”

“Barry was such a good man in the best sense of the word, devoted to his life in its many aspects and able to inspire those he touched. He had that rare gift of making people feel good about themselves and what they were doing and to feel listened to and encouraged by him.”

“He was truly one of the very best, but also brought out the best in those around him with his genuine and warm enthusiasm for all he got involved with. We saw him travel the whole county with seemingly endless energy, creating time and working so effectively to reach out to as many people and organisations as he could, to help and to pass on his knowledge and vision.”

“His leadership was as much about listening to and supporting others rather than telling them what to do.”

“His practical advice and inspirational leadership motivated the whole room. Everyone there wanted to be like him, or work for him and went away an inch taller and with greater self-belief thanks to his thoughtful tips and the ability and desire to pass on his experience to help others. He had a special talent for bringing people together to achieve and for making everyone feel they were the most important person the room.”

“He showed us the right way, the best way to live and do business.”

“He was an exceptional Yorkshireman who understood what community was all about.”

“He made everyone in his orbit feel they were in some small way important and that was a special gift few possess.”

“He was an engaging, energetic, positive and delightful man, whose opinion was certainly worth listening to and who gave it with a light touch.”

“He was a powerful force for good.”

“What a loss to his company, county and country and to those to whom he gave wise counsel and inspiration.”

“He was a marvellous Lord Lieutenant doing a wonderful job for North Yorkshire and he had the admiration and respect of us all for the work he was doing. He had a great commitment to public life and duty in addition to his personal success in business.”

“Barry was an inspirational leader and an outstandingly dedicated public servant. North Yorkshire was blessed indeed to have him as Lord Lieutenant. We shall miss him as I know North Yorkshire will miss him.”

“What stands out to us is that in all that he achieved as Lord Lieutenant was his ability to combine the dignity of the role with an easy approachable manner.”

“Barry had the ability to grasp opportunities, identifying them early and pursuing them with a vigour which was legendary. He had a keen eye for detail and - a phone book of contacts to envy! He became a powerful force in advocating all that is good..... about our region. Passionate and articulate, Barry had that special ability to take people along with him.”

“I will miss his guiding hand.”

“Barry was a man who possessed both gravitas and humility in equal measure – a rare and special mix.”

“I loved the opening gambit of his talk....to be a leader you have to have followers. He was a leader of the absolute best sort and like so many others I became a firm follower of Barry, appreciating his interest, his wisdom, his humility and his respect for others.”

“Met once, inspired for life.”

“We remember his delight in reporting your achievements Frances as a sheep farmer – even when it meant having new born lambs warming up in the kitchen.”

“My children know well Barry’s thoughts on swearing.....that it doesn’t go hand in hand with maximum performance – so he advocated teaching yourself to stop!”

“He was Lord Lieutenant, but equally happy on a tractor or helping with the sheep and on the land.”

“He made a big impact on our small charity and leaves a big hole.”

“There is no point in regretting he was flying – he loved it. With all the wonderful things he did for so many, he deserved the pleasure from flight and wheels.”

“We had some shared experiences as a couple of blokes of a certain age with an appreciation of cars of a certain age.”

“The region is all the poorer for his passing. Barry leaves a unique legacy and I am personally hugely grateful that he showed me how we can all give more and do more for those around us.”

“We shall remember him ‘eyeing up ‘ the spare cakes left at the Harvest Supper!”

“Most successful businessmen in this country spend their time and money in leisure - but Barry used his business success as a springboard to help others.”

“If it is any consolation the outpouring of love and respect for Barry from across the region is a wonderful tribute to a life lived well and in pursuit of his values.”

“Barry has generated a loyalty that cannot be broken. His legacy is all around us. He will be impossible not to remember and in the best terms.”

“Barry’s legacy will live on through those he inspired to volunteer and to give their time as generously as he did. Also through all the businesses of North Yorkshire which aspire to grow and develop thanks to his encouragement, and through all of us, who he motivated and helped so very kindly, both personally and professionally.”

“So what can we learn from all this? I learnt from him that if you are remotely successful there should be a time of ‘pay back’. Putting something back in public service terms was so important to Barry.”

“Barry - leader, visionary, mentor, public servant and dear friend – never to be forgotten the debt we owe.”

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Many letters also recognized the part that you played in Barry’s life Frances. For example, and I quote again:

“The underpinning strength that you gave him over so many years will truly be recognized...he did not do it alone.”

“We recognize your major contribution through the unfailing support that you gave him.”

“Barry was such a strong and vital presence and to so many of us a model of integrity and work ethic. Your public service and humility as a couple was an inspiration to us.”

“I hope that you are comforted in some way by the knowledge that Barry left a lasting mark upon those whose lives he enriched.”

“His kindness, dedication to public service, generosity of spirit and passionate motivation will remain at large, even though he will be very much missed. We were honoured to know him and work with him. We hope that you can take comfort in the wonderful memories people have of Barry, and know that he made a very real and lasting difference during his lifetime. A remarkable gentleman in every way, we will think of him in all we do, and continue to apply his vision for North Yorkshire for many years to come.”

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It may surprise you that these are just a small selection of quotations from the large number of letters Frances received.

In most of the letters there was also the sentiment of devastating loss that was felt – but so many people

reiterated how their loss was nothing compared to that of yours Frances.

Barry was indeed very proud of you, and of all that you achieved as an individual and together.

The love and affection shown in all the flowers, cards and letters that you have received shows the encircling bond of love and support in which you are held. I know that this has given you, and will continue to give you strength and comfort.

The offers of help too have been many and genuine, we are all here for you, so please do ask.

As we have heard from these tributes, Barry made a lifelong impression on many people, but probably the youngest of these was a six year old boy.

I would like to end with the quote he wrote on the beautiful handmade card he sent to Frances as I think it reiterates how we all feel.

“Frances, I hope you are OK without Barry, if you need anything just ask.....I can help with the sheep!”