

## **COLUMN FROM MAYOR TIM SHADBOLT**

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With all the tragedies happening of late, the passing away of my Mum seems of minor significance. However, I feel a deep sense of loss and would like to thank all the people who sent flowers, cards and emails. Many friends comforted me with phrases like “well, she had a great innings” and at 93 there’s no denying she had a fabulous life, but when your Mum lives so long you think they’ll be around forever.

Then another cliché struck, “it doesn’t rain but it pours”. On the day of my Mother’s funeral my brother, Peter, a fireman in Nelson for over 30 years, was rushed into hospital with a heart attack. He’s still alive but it’s been a struggle for his wife and four teenage children. I’m trying to attend Council meetings and focus on local government, but I have to be honest, my heart’s just not in it. I’m afraid your usually entertaining Mayor is feeling a wee bit sad at present. Still, one final cliché, I promise you: “Life goes on”.

This weekend I’m doing a charity celebrity roast on Paul Holmes so if you know anything embarrassing about his life, please let me know. At least it will be a distraction. Usually I’d resort to comfort food, but two of my guardian angels entered me into a weight loss competition called “Off the Scales”. I’m finding that low carb carob bars and a ban on bread and potatoes are deeply disturbing. Still at least I’m not a Somali pirate’s prized hostage; a Tamil Tiger, or an Afghan farmer in the Swat Valley so I’ve nothing to moan about.