

A celebration of life

Betty Alexandra Judd

27th July 1931 – 18th January 2021

2.30pm, 4th March 2021, Basildon Crematorium

a personal goodbye

Humanist
Ceremonies

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The Tribute

Betty was born on 27th July 1931 in West Ham, the eldest daughter of Ernest and Queenie Sims. The family was completed a few years later by another daughter Angela. As war raged in London, there was an occasion when a bomb was seen hanging from a lamppost outside the family home. Ernest, Betty's father, decided it was time for her and the family to be evacuated to South Wales. She had fond memories of Wales and met her first boyfriend there. After some time, there was another move this time to Essex, "Westcroft" in Burnt Mills Road. A further drama ensued when young Betty was walking home, and a German plane strafed them with bullets leading her to dive into a ditch for cover.

Betty was a very academic young woman and secured a place at the Brentwood Grammar school. This meant over an hour's journey from home, by bus, down country lanes each way. It was at school that her excellent skill in English Grammar started to show itself this was to be the focus of her work, and pleasure in adulthood. She obtained a job at the Daily Mirror, indeed even answering some of the letters sent to Marjorie Proops' problem page.

By 1953 Betty had met her husband Edward and they married at Nevendon Church in Basildon. Betty then started a new job as a doctor's receptionist. Edward ran a building contractors firm taking this over from his father. Betty gave birth to the first of her daughters Ingrid in 1958 and then four years later to her second daughter Lisa. They provided her with six cherished grandchildren; she revelled in them and her great grandchildren.

Betty took a job as a teaching assistant and, recognising her passion for teaching, decided to complete the full teacher training. Teaching was to be her career for the next 40 years in and around Basildon. She was an exceptional teacher much respected by pupils and parents alike. She was a great imparter of knowledge and, as such, got good results. She even worked as a relief teacher after she retired at 60. Her many ex pupils and parents remembered Betty and would stop her on the street, or in the shops, remembering her and thank her for her kindness and guidance when they were young.

After her husband died in 1991 Betty set up a singles club at the "Chichester". It was here that she met her partner Ian who shared her home for 12 years. They enjoyed a mutual love of Travel and Jazz.

She was cherished by her friends, an engaging personality, well-educated on many subjects, astute, perceptive, and intelligent. She would hold garden parties for family, friends and neighbours putting on lovely buffets, and Cooking breakfast for everyone in the morning. She was a smart dresser, loving brightly coloured, coordinated outfits and matching jewellery.

She was a prolific reader and writer and even wrote a history of Basildon. She attended Humanist conferences and if she were speaking about something, she would ensure she was well read on the subject. She loved to listen to current affair programmes, Radio 4, and especially Woman's hour.

She was a vegetarian from her late 30s at a time when this was less common. She remembered that when she visited China vegetarianism was not common and she was usually offered egg and rice dishes, a rather bland diet. She travelled widely to Russia, China, New Zealand, America at least five times and many trips in the Europe, UK, and Ireland too.

Communication was at her core, she loved to meet up with people. She enjoyed visits to the Towngate and Cliffs Pavilion with Angela and Den to see the Drifters, Temptations, and "That'll Be the Day" to name but a few. Betty enjoyed trips to London, also with Den to the theatre, seeing Les Miserable and they saw Tina Turner at the O2. She loved the cinema especially human-interest stories, and anything thought provoking. She also enjoyed visits to stately homes and gardens and drives in the country, later in life, with Den as company and chauffeur.

She was a great animal lover, her Alsatian dog Kaiser, and Cats Minka and Guinness, a great companion given to her by Laura. She was always Grateful for Jacqui her cousin, a great friend and confidant always. The last couple of years of her life were debilitating through Alzheimer's disease but she was supported by many friends including Chris, Joanne, And Bev.

She was proud of her family and very much enjoyed likeminded people. A life well lived.