

A Celebration of Life
Judith 'Judy' Mary Jones



19 December 1950 - 9 January 2020

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York Crematorium, Doncaster

a personal goodbye

Humanist
Ceremonies

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Judy was born in the family home on Kingsway North. Her older brother John remembers going up the stairs to see his new baby sister clutching a shiny shilling. John, Judy and their younger sister Gill attended Shipton Street primary school. Their parents, Dorothy and Reg Clitheroe, were a loving couple, who taught them right from wrong and encouraged them to work hard and always do their best. Judy went on to Queen Anne Grammar School, which is where she met Heather. Judy travelled through her life making long term friendships. Heather was the first and now lives in Morecambe. However, they still met several times a year, often in Manchester and Judy would travel with June, another old friend. Made this time, through Rowntree connections.

Judy followed in her father's footsteps, going to work at Rowntrees. Her first job in 1968 was in the Main Office. This is where she met Howard Lewis, one of many friends made during a career lasting until 1979. Judy moved to Central Accounts to work in the Budget Office, for Alex Rough and eventually became 'Assistant Budget Officer'. Mick went to work in the Budget Office in 1973 on Judy's team. Their romance bloomed following an office party. Shortly after they got together Mick asked for a transfer to computers which as it turned out was a fortuitous move.

In 1976 they bought their first house together in Haxby. They enjoyed socializing with friends and family and shared a love of varied genres of music, often attending gigs and concerts and going to the theatre. Although working hard, their life was very much one of shared experiences, shared friends and fun. Some neighbours became long term friends, like Pam, who still met up with Judy for coffee regularly. Judy became firm friends with Mick's sisters Hilary and Sue and from then on, they enjoyed many different outings and later occasional holidays with their extended families.

Katy was born in 1979 and Caroline in '81. A source of great joy for Judy and Mick. Judy encouraged her children to do well and was very proud of the good things they achieved. She was a keen Girl Guide when young and enjoyed seeing the girls follow in her footsteps and later Katy became a Guide Leader. Life was different with Rowntrees left behind and Judy taking part time work. By this time the family was living in Wigginton and Judy made new friends with other young mothers. She met Sue Seal at this time, and they became firm friends. Her husband Jim became a good friend of Mick. Much later friends in common, Howard and Liz Lewis renewed their acquaintance and they enjoyed dinner parties together. The three men, along with brother John often go to watch Barnsley's triumphs on the football pitch. Judy would do a weekly walk with Sue and would occasionally enjoy taking in an opera with Liz.

After Dorothy died relatively young in 1982, Judy made sure that her father, Reg, was always part of the family's life. He visited every week and Judy took him shopping and he was included in quite a number of family holidays in this country and abroad. He really enjoyed seeing the girls growing up,

When Katy and Caroline started school, Judy began a long association with Wigginton Primary School, becoming secretary of the PTA. At the school, one of the children's teachers was Janet Wardell, another great friend and when Janet had her first child, William, Judy became his carer during the day so that Janet could return to work. After retiring, years later, Judy would return to do voluntary work in the school.

Judy, Mick, Katy and Caroline had some fantastic holidays in Greece, Spain, Ibiza and the Canaries. Caroline spoke to me of happy memories with lots of fun and laughter and also a time when she dodged the sun cream to go and play in the sea with her new holiday friends and got awfully sun burnt. Her mum lovingly sat up with her as she cried and couldn't sleep that night. Caroline says she feels so lucky, to have the, "Best mum ever". She could always turn to her mum for comfort, advice and help.

Katy has written a tribute to her mum which her father-in-law Michael is now going to read on her behalf.

Michael on behalf of Judy's daughter Katy

Good morning, I'm Michael, Katy's Father-in-Law. Katy, who as you know, is Judy's eldest daughter, is joining this service today via the live streaming facility, so she has asked me to read this on her behalf.

These are Katy's Words,

My mum Judy was a wonderful woman and I think everyone here today would agree that she was one of the kindest people we have had the pleasure to know. I have been touched by the messages I have received from people saying how lucky they were to have known her and how they will miss her wise advice and caring nature.

As far back as I can remember, mum was always involved in helping other people in some way. During my primary school days, she would help in my class every week and was an important member of the PTA for the whole time Caroline and I were at primary school. All the children, parents and teachers knew who she was. She couldn't walk into the village without someone shouting out "Hello Mrs Jones"! I think everyone knew that when the summer fayre came around, Mrs Jones would be manning the hotdog stall. I'm pretty sure we were the first to arrive to help set up and one of the last to leave once everything had been packed away. She was there for every disco, school trip and fundraiser going. I don't think she ever liked being in charge but her fantastic organizational skills and willingness to help made her a valued member of any team.

Some of you may know that I worked at Great North Eastern Railway – GNER, where I was lucky enough to be in an office straight across the corridor from my mum for 3 years. She was well known and well liked by everyone she came across. It amazed me how many people from different departments knew who she was and always had time for a chat with her. Everywhere she went in life she made long-lasting friendships with many people here today being long-term friends.

I think mum will be most remembered for being the backbone of our family gatherings. The annual summer BBQ and Christmas gatherings were her specialty. She planned these events for days, always worrying and stressing about things each time but always making it a special day for all those involved and always offering to host the next one. We always knew when mum came to the end of her organizing for an event at home as she'd finish by plumping the cushions and then shout 'Don't sit there!! I've just plumped the cushions'! A lot of my childhood was spent standing up or sitting on the carpet.

When mum wasn't looking after us or helping other people, she loved reading and going to the theatre. Mum took me to see every musical I've ever seen. She also took me to see Bon Jovi in concert at least 7 times. It could be 9 times, but I've never had to remember because every time I've wondered about that fact, I would ask mum and she would know!

Mum was an avid reader, she could easily read a book in just a few days. Once, when Caroline and I were younger and we went on a family holiday, we took 13 books between the 3 of us (dad might have packed a book too). Mum read all 13 books over our 14-day holiday! How we got 13 books plus clothes and toiletries in our cases I'll never know!

There are so many things I'll miss about mum. Not being able to ask her advice is a big one, she always knew exactly what to say or what to do in any situation. She knew so much and was great to have on your team on quiz night. My favourite question to ask her as a child was "how do you know that"? She would always reply, "Mum's know everything". To which I would reply "OK, so what time is it in Ethiopia"? and she always knew! It is 7 O'clock a lot in Ethiopia!

My mum beat cancer twice but this third time was just in the wrong place and couldn't be beaten. Through it all she never complained, never let on how scared she must have felt and still felt a compassion to others most people would not have felt. She told me not to come back over Christmas as I needed to be there for my children. She always was very practical and knew what to do in any given situation. I know she was very sorry for the time she misses out on seeing her Grandchildren Meg, Chloe and Lorna grow up, but she knew they would each of them make her very proud.

Judy Jones, wife to Mick, sister to John and Gill, mother to Katy and Caroline, Mother in Law to John, Grandma to Meg, Chloe and Lorna, Auntie and friend to so many, you will be truly missed. A piece of our hearts will forever be missing but your memory will live on in us all forever.

Thank you all for coming to remember Judy today. She would hate all the fuss but would be truly grateful to know how much she was loved.

In the early 90s Judy began as a temp at the Railway offices, then secured a permanent role, eventually becoming the Assistant Treasury Manager in a 15-year career. This led to very many new friendships. Her friend Susan Hawley organized annual trips on the ferries to places like Calais and Amsterdam. Susan named Judy, "The Bag Lady", because she was always the sensible one looking after everyone's handbags. After they both left the Railway offices Susan and Judy still enjoyed short holiday breaks together visiting Jersey and enjoying travelling by train up the west coast of Scotland.

When their girls grew up, Judy and Mick had some great holidays on their own. They went on a music themed tour of the southern states of America and on another occasion travelled up the west coast and then across to spend a few days in Las Vegas. For their 25th Wedding Anniversary they went on a wonderful tour of Italy. Social life continued to be great fun with their many friends, including the Totties and the Fishers and the rest of the Friday night gang and Barrie and Maggo and the rest of Mick's football friends and wives. Judy was the perfect hostess for the many family and friends' get-togethers and BBQ's she organized. Later Judy made a new set of friends while attending neighbour, Jean's 'corned beef pie nights'.

When Caroline hit some troubled times and Judy and Mick took over the care of their new granddaughter Meg, Judy in her usual way, just got on with it and took great pleasure from helping Meg develop into the lovely young lady she is today. In 2003 Katy was married to John and later Judy and Mick were blessed with two more granddaughters, Chloe and Lorna. They were very much part of Judy and Mick's life spending time playing after school and enjoying trips out in the holidays with Meg as well. Chloe and Lorna loved their Grandma very much and it was a great wrench for everyone when Katy, John and family moved to Australia.