

A Celebration of the Life of

## **Enid Ellis**

29 July 1933 – 30 October 2024

25 November 2024, Huddersfield Crematorium  
Celebrant: Hannah McKerchar



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## **My Life – in Enid’s own words**

*I was born on 29<sup>th</sup> July 1933 in Hyde Terrace Nursing Home, in Leeds to Freda (my darling mum) and Clifford Jenkins my dad. In 1938 and 1941 I was followed by my sisters Muriel and Sheila. Mum was quite poorly after Sheila was born, so Muriel went to stay with Big Gran (dad’s mum) at Beeston and I went to stay with Aunty Dorothy (mum’s sister) and Uncle Zeph at Rodley. I don’t remember a lot of what we did during the war – my dad, who was a barge builder, converted our coal cellar with bunks etc for us to go in if there were air raids (the coal was removed first) but I don’t remember us having to make use of them very often.*

*I went to Queens Road Infants School; home for dinner at 12 noon and back again for the afternoon session. Mum always had a dinner ready for us even on Monday – wash day. Then I went to Brudenell School and when I was about 11 I sat and passed the 11 plus exam and went to Thoresby Girls’ High School and took the 3 “R”s, also French, shorthand and typing and bookkeeping. When I left school at about 14 I got a job in the typing pool at the Provincial Insurance Company which was on Boar Lane in Leeds (no longer there) where I stayed until I was about 19. Then I left and got a job in the classified ads department of the Yorkshire Evening News and stayed about a year.*

*I was a member of the 5<sup>th</sup> Leeds Girl Guides and went camping to Robin Hole and other places where my main friends were Barbara Dalton (Dolly), Beryl Millson and Dorothy Fox (Foxy) and we still keep in touch, by phone mainly. Dolly and Beryl and I were also connected with the Cubs at Chapel. We were all in the youth group at Woodhouse Moor Methodist Chapel and after the Sunday evening service attended the discussion group at the home of Mrs Monahan. We were supposed to discuss a subject chosen for us and were split into two groups, the over and under 18 years old. Beryl was good at giving a resume of what we hadn’t discussed! We had fun in the Youth Group and often went on rambles and midnight hikes and were out most weekends walking in the Dales and places we could get to by public transport. In fact one of the other members, Bill Jessop, my sister Muriel married years later.*

*We went to dances at the Capitol Ballroom at Meanwood, where one night I met my dear husband Arnold. Getting there entailed a fairly long walk over Woodhouse Ridge and back again after the dance – which I wouldn’t advise now, but Dorothy and I, who I used to go with, mainly talked all the way there and back.*

*After I met Arnold, a few weeks later Dorothy met her future husband Bob; we still went dancing but not as often.*

*Arnold lived in Huddersfield so he used to come over on his BSA Bantam and leave it in the car park at the station and get a tram; through the week he came on the train. We got engaged on Coronation Day, 2<sup>nd</sup> June 1953, and watched the Coronation on a TV in the window of the electricians, where he had set up a TV and pulled the sun blind out to keep the rain off!*

*Arnold and I were married on 17<sup>th</sup> July 1954 and went to London on our honeymoon. I'd never been there before but Arnold and a friend used to go each year in the annual holidays in July, so he knew his way around, which was good. We had a lovely time and while there as well as sightseeing went to see "The King and I" at Drury Lane, and "Guys and Dolls" at the Coliseum, as well as seeing all the main sites of interest. We came back broke and had to exist for nearly two weeks before Arnold got a wage and couldn't even afford the train fare to Leeds (2s & 3d) each from my mum and dads to collect some of our wedding presents. We moved into our new house at Burniston Drive on our return and didn't have many luxuries - not even a cooker until we found that the Electricity Board had it on show in the showroom window as it was a new model, and we were managing boiling water in a pan on the open fire and living on boiled eggs and salads - I wasn't a very good cook anyway!*

*I got a job at Brook Motors, where I stayed until January 1957. In the October of that year our son Martin Paul was born, on the 15<sup>th</sup>. I was thrilled as I wanted a boy - he was lovely and on the whole a good baby. Our darling daughter Caroline was born on the 28<sup>th</sup> August 1959. She was a lovely baby, happy most of the time and very friendly and always had lots of friends. She was kind and popular. Unfortunately she died on the 12<sup>th</sup> November 2012 aged 53 from cancer. I missed her dreadfully but was glad her Dad didn't know, as he had died in 2010 after a long illness. I never got over her death but she made the most of her life and had a lovely husband Edward and they were very happy - it just seemed so cruel, she was loved by so many people.*

*I must mention how kind my sister Sheila and husband Roy have been to me; I don't know how I would have got through without them since Caroline died. It has been a role change, my little sister looking after her big sister like she has. Taking me out and on holidays with them, sorting my TV and mobile phone out, doing jobs for me and lots more. I really don't know how I would have got through these past years and I wish to say a big thank you to them. Also to Muriel and Bill, but they live in Scotland so I didn't see as much of them, but even so have had lots of good holidays and travelled hundreds of miles on holidays in Northumberland and Scotland - Aberfeldy along with Sheila and Roy - it was lovely all being together.*

*Arnold and I had many holidays with Martin and Caroline to the Lakes at Easter when they were young and stayed on a farm in the Duddon Valley. Martin and Caroline enjoyed feeding the spring lambs and other young animals before we could get them to come out with us and started their love of walking, Martin in particular.*

*We also went to Cornwall in the summer for a year or two, travelling down in the car before the motorways - we used to make them a bed up on the back seat and set off about 8pm after Arnold had done a day's work and they slept most of the way. One year Sheila came with us, so the car was a bit crowded with all the luggage as well, but we only went as far as Bristol the first day and then went to Bristol Zoo the next day before continuing on to Newquay - Mrs Luty and her big breakfasts!! Then we found Pembrokeshire and went there a number of years, staying on a farm, of course, where Martin passed most of his days - cleaning the cow sheds and other jobs! By then, Sheila and Roy had a family of their own who came as well, which was lovely, and later on Caroline's friend Beverley and her parents came so we were quite a crowd for a few years.*

*Then Martin left school and moved away and went into farming, and Caroline went away with friends and met Edward, her future husband, so we started going abroad - our first holiday was to Rome, a city I'd wanted to visit, and we went there two years and walked all over. We had marvellous holidays and saw as much as we could and enjoyed eating out at the end of the days. After that we went to Portugal, Austria, Spain, America, Canada, Turkey, China and then Malta, where we went many times for a month at a time and were lucky to meet others who were there at the same time. We walked all over Malta, with Gill, Sid, John and others, as well as investigating Valletta, a fascinating city. We had good holidays also with Martin in the Lakes, Yorkshire, Shropshire, Northumberland and with Caroline and Ed - our first to Jamaica, then Venice, Madrid, Portugal etc.*

*Now we move on to a very unhappy time. In 2008 Caroline got breast cancer but was responding to treatment. March 2010 Arnold was taken into hospital and never came home again - he was very ill most of the time, was just coming round after many blood transfusions then fell when he was convalescing and broke his hip which wouldn't heal no matter how hard the doctors and nurses tried. He died on 15<sup>th</sup> July 2010, two days before our 56<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary.*

*I was just starting to come round and be used to him not being there when Caroline started with brain tumours and she died in November 2012 after a great deal of suffering towards the end. I never got over losing her and missed her very much. I don't know how I would have got through without her if it hadn't been for Sheila and Roy being there for me and all they did - taking me out and on holidays with them, sorting out problems with my mobile, TV, doorbell etc, Sheila popping round, and I knew I could go there whenever. Ed also, though he had enough to contend with, with his own grief. Fortunately he has lots of friends who he's been able to go away with and who have just been there for him.*

*Martin has been marvellous - he started ringing each day when his Dad was poorly and continued - he'll never know how much those phone calls meant to me, twice a day mainly, even though he never had much to say, just ringing meant so much. So thank you Martin, and I do hope you and Dawn stay together. I would like to think when I'm not here you have someone. I'm so glad I've met her and like her very much.*

*Also Muriel and Bill, thanks for the holidays I've had with you at your house, Aberfeldy, Skye and other places we've visited together and when Arnold was with us. And for the lovely 80<sup>th</sup> birthday surprise you planned for me with Sheila and Roy; it really was lovely, and all the many holidays I've had with you all and celebrations.*

*All I can say to you all is a big thank you for helping me get over these past unhappy years, and who knows, I might meet up again with Arnold and Caroline and all I loved and have gone before.*

## Memories From Loved Ones

*Karen, Enid's niece, said, "One memory that always springs to mind is when Auntie Enid looked after me after I had my appendix out, she made me pancakes with strawberry jam and cream, which definitely helped my recovery. It was a real treat as it wasn't Shrove Tuesday.*

*I also have a lovely memory of Enid and my mum when I got married; when they arrived for the wedding I wasn't quite ready as my veil was still a piece of netting. Mum and Enid rallied round and turned it into a veil in the exact style I wanted. I still have the veil and those lovely memories."*

*Dolly recalled fondly the fun she had with Enid on those camping trips when they were in the Guides together. Bessie, a longtime neighbour and good friend, also has very fond memories of the holidays she organised for herself, Sheila Richie and Enid more recently. Sheila Richie had trouble breathing and Enid trouble walking, and Bessie said she would go for a walk on her own in the evenings.*

*She also, like many others, mentioned Enid's time keeping! We've all been kept waiting while Enid made the final adjustments to her appearance and we found it quite amusing that when we read her appraisals for her time at Sainsburys they commented on how punctual she was!!! We think they might have got her mixed up with someone else.*

*Enid was a prolific letter writer, and she and Arnold wrote many letters to each other when he was away with work. We found one letter where Arnold had asked her not to lock him out of the house when he came home this time.*

*She often sent Martin newspaper cuttings in her letters. When Martin travelled back to Shropshire she would always send him home with sandwiches and cake.*

*Enid was very particular about her appearance and kept her house very tidy. Family and friends were very important to her and she loved to socialise, including at the modern sequence dancing that she and Arnold enjoyed. She kept all of her theatre programmes and over the years saw many musicals locally and in London and Manchester.*

*Of course, Arnold was the love of Enid's life, but we can't end today without a mention of her heartthrob, the Huddersfield-born actor James Mason. She had his book beside her and read it over and over again till she must have known it by heart!*