

MOLLY – A TRIBUTE FROM GEOFF’S BROTHER - ROBIN

I would like to tell you my memories of Molly

I first met Molly in June 1955 when Geoff introduced her into the family home in Amberley, West Sussex. An attractive girl with dark brown eyes and a somewhat no nonsense straight forward nature as befitting a Yorkshire born State Registered Nurse who had been awarded the “Nurse of the Year” prize at Brighton General Hospital in 1951 .Her other nursing achievements included Midwifery and the Ophthalmic Nursing Diploma.

Having met Geoff at a cricket club dance, it was inevitable that romance would be pursued on the cricket fields of Sussex and beyond. I believe that Geoff was still studying at this time and marriage didn’t follow until March 1959, and some three - four cricket seasons later, by which time she knew practically every cricket ground in Sussex ! Not only Sussex, but her later cricketing trips accompanying Geoff included Barbados with the Jersey Seniors XI, Australia with the Sussex Martlets, Scotland, Berlin, France and of course all of the Channels Islands.

1961 saw the arrival of a daughter – Victoria – a son - Jonathan in 1964, and thereafter five granddaughters - Beatrice, Lily, Leo, Evie, and Verity – who she came to adore. One of her last requests perhaps sums up Molly perfectly. As she had done throughout her life she was thinking of her family right to the very end and made it clear to Geoff that whatever her circumstances, Christmas as planned in her Jersey home would still go ahead with everyone gathered. It was always a time she loved, there, smiling in the background and making the occasion extra special. It was typical of her kindness and love that, as ever, the presents she had so carefully chosen in the weeks and months before, and wrapped, were waiting for everyone under the tree and opened, yes with sadness, but also sure in the knowledge that the spirit of Molly was, undoubtedly, there as well.

Sussex of course was her home where both Victoria and Jonathan were born and much of her early married life was spent in the lovely old town of Arundel. By this time she had retired from nursing and established a flourishing antiques business in the town centre where she specialised in porcelain and glassware.

On moving to Jersey in the early 80’s, the later acquisition in 1989 of Boulivot Farm provided the opportunity to demonstrate and develop other talents. Then a working farm it required virtually complete re-planning and modernisation and it was in this field that her skills in both interior and external design became apparent. Her choice of furniture, carpets and curtains, together with the planning of the garden areas – formerly a cauliflower field - gave rise to a property which she considered to be a creation of her own and which she loved dearly. She would often say how fortunate she was to live in such a secluded rural part of the Island and to enjoy such privacy. It was a real family home in the true sense of the word and again nothing gave her greater pleasure than the arrival of the Granddaughters on frequent holidays with their parents together on many occasions with relations and friends.

She was an elegant and always well dressed lady who was both likeable and very positive. She loved Jersey and in later life she mellowed considerably developing a warm welcoming smile and keen sense of humour. She particularly enjoyed her visits into St Helier and many of the sympathetic tributes received were from everyday people in the town with whom she developed a warm relationship. Fortunately she was blessed with good health and throughout this last summer enjoyed swimming in the pool at Boulivot on most days. On being admitted to the hospital she surprised many of the staff, including her consultant, when they were told that she was in her 86th year. I understand that she greatly enjoyed recalling true life tales to the nursing staff about the TV programme “Call the Midwife” - a job she was unable to mirror because of her inability to ride a bike !

Many of the tributes received since her passing - letters, e-mails, and personal messages – have referred to her as **“a lovely lady”**. May I conclude on that note by reading extracts from one or two of these tributes -

“I find it hard to believe that she has gone - she was always so friendly and jolly whenever we met her. We will all miss her smiling face.”

“Molly was such a charming lady and will be sadly missed. I’m sure that your wonderful family will all be of great comfort.”

“Molly was a lovely lady and we so enjoyed being with both of you. We will always remember the great times we had with you both in Jersey and that super short holiday back in September.”

“ Molly was such a lovely Lady. We remember with great fondness our gatherings on the boundaries of numerous cricket grounds and the wonderful time we shared on the Sussex Martlets Millenium Tour of Australia. We have known you both for many years and Molly will be such a great loss to us. We were so pleased to read that she didn't suffer at all at the end which is a blessing in itself.”

“My memory of the last time we were together was of Molly in hospital saying not to make her laugh as her scar would hurt ! “

“Maggie and I both greatly appreciated Molly's very warm, welcoming manner whenever we met her and her friendly conversation coupled with a lovely sense of humour. She was charming company as you clearly appreciated many years ago when you chose to spend your life with such a super lady.”

She is now no longer with us but we can all be content in recalling her memory with the words –

“A lovely lady”