

Betty Breakwell

24th November 1928 – 9th May 2019

Betty, or 'BB' as she was affectionately known by her family, was born in November 1928 at Camp Hill Farm, Beausale, where she lived with her parents and younger sister, Jean.

Betty's love of gardening started at a young age and with the occasional help and advice from her father, she transformed a wild area at the farm into a beautiful cottage garden. Betty's knowledge and love of wildlife was second to none, she loved nothing better than to pass on her knowledge and help to novice gardeners. She always loved the abundance of cowslips and primroses which grew around the fields and hedgerows on the farm.

In the 1960s Jean and her late husband, Brian, were blessed with two girls, Sue and Jane, who became Betty's much cherished nieces and with whom she enjoyed very close relationships. She celebrated all the special events of the year with the family and was a pivotal part of their lives. Betty's love of gardening was inspirational to Jean, Sue and Jane, who have all followed in her footsteps.

Betty's warmth and friendliness were not just restricted to English shores; she developed a love of travel in her younger days and made firm friends in Switzerland with Annemarie and Irmgarde, who visited the farm on several occasions.

After leaving school Betty initially helped her mother keep the house, but later she became a teaching assistant at Beausale Primary school, where she spent many happy years. On her parents' retirement to Snitterfield she changed schools and worked at Hatton Primary school. Betty became engrossed in village life in Snitterfield and took an active part in the running of the Methodist church there. Throughout her life Betty followed in her mother's footsteps and was renowned for her hospitality. There was always a smile, a cup of tea and a piece of home-made cake to share at Betty's home, along with a good old chat! Baking became something of a hobby, especially after she retired, and she liked to keep her cake tins topped up.



In the 1970s Betty's career path changed when she started to work with children with special needs; first at Myton Grange, Warwick, where she met Dorothy, who became a very dear friend; and then at Gresham School, Leamington, where she met Stella who became another lifelong friend. Stella continued to visit Betty's home regularly during their retirement years, when they enjoyed many a long chat and shared much laughter together.

After her parents died Betty moved from Snitterfield to Warwick. Here she found great happiness amongst her wonderful and caring friends and neighbours who all helped her so much, particularly during the last few years when her health deteriorated.

Betty stayed very close to Jean and her family throughout her life. In 1984 Jean and Brian returned to Warwickshire from Berkshire and were eventually joined first by Jane and then by Sue and Graham, who settled with their own families. Betty became a great Auntie and again enjoyed taking an active and loving interest in the lives of her great nephews, David, Joe, Ryan and Liam. She was particularly proud to become a Great, Great Auntie to baby Lily when she was born last October.

Betty's courage and fighting spirit, coupled with the love and support of her family and friends, enabled her to remain in her own much loved home until the last three weeks of her life - two of them spent in Warwick hospital, followed by a week at Kineton Manor nursing home, where she received the most loving care and attention right to the end. The family's sincere thanks go to all the staff there for their amazing comfort and compassionate support.

AFTERGLOW

I'd like the memory of me to be a happy one
I'd like to leave an afterglow of smiles when life is done.
I'd like to leave an echo whispering softly down the ways
Of happy times and laughing times and bright and sunny days.
I'd like the tears of those who grieve to dry before the sun
Of happy memories that I leave when life is done.

By Helen Lowrie Marshall