

## Remembering Lost Loved Ones

### Debra Britton

#### A very special mother, nan and friend

The family of our beloved JDA member, Debra, paid tribute to her life at a special JDA tea following her funeral on 31 October 2012



Debra meant a lot to all of us as a mum, nan and friend. Everyone who knew her described her as having a love for life, a helping nature, generosity and sweetness. We all miss her deeply and remember her with love.

#### Her children - Yvonne, Carole and Terry - share memories of their wonderful mum:

Even in her last months Debra was still a lady, rarely complaining. She died at home, surrounded by her beloved daughters, without pain and suffering. For many hours in the days before her passing, Yvonne and Carole sat with Debra, cuddling her on her bed, chatting and listening to her singing Danny Boy (very badly). Her flat was filled with laughter and love.



In August, Debra was taken to The Ritz for tea as a special treat with Yvonne and her friend Giselle. She wowed people there with her fashionable leopard print jacket. Debra's love of clothes was well known.

She had leopard print for all seasons. She must have been the only 93-year-old to shop at Next & Top Shop.

Her jewellery boxes were filled with gems. She couldn't resist a good sale. She loved dancing, ballroom, then, more recently, she would go to Salsa with Yvonne. Giselle taught her the steps and was amazed at how well she could keep up. She was 90 then.

JDA was her second home and a place of happiness. Next to her family, the most important people in her life were JDA staff and members, her very dear friends. Debra loved JDA activities and how the staff loved her and made her feel special. She, in turn, thought the world of them and loved them dearly. We, as a family, deeply appreciate your love and care towards our mum.

Debra loved helping people, whether it was cooking for friends and family, helping her Deafblind friends or being a JDA community member.

In her younger days, together with her husband Louis, Debra worked hard to raise her three children. As a family, some of our best memories are of camping holidays to Devon. We would all be squashed and squeezed into the sidecar or on the back of the motor bike. We also took the tent, food, clothes and everything for the week. Many times it was so full we had to get out and push the bike up the hills of Devon. How we managed to get to the campsite is a mystery!

Debra always lived in Walthamstow and was well respected in the community. Mum loved holding parties at her flat, having great fun with a roomful of deaf people. There was always laughter, playing games and Dad filming. Debra's love of entertaining and food and cooking made their parties very special.

We will miss mum dearly. We carry in our hearts many happy memories of a wonderful, caring, sweet mum. We are so lucky and blessed that we had mum for 93 years and while we are very sad for our loss, we know that she is now at peace.

Terry, Carole and Yvonne



#### Debra, our beautiful nan



Our nan was a wonderful, elegant lady. Her passing is a gift. Just as her life was a gift. The time we have here can never be known and death is nature's way of reminding us not to squander the time that we have.

Nan was fortunate to be full of life and in good health for the 93 years she spent here.

At JDA, after Nan passed away, we gathered together to celebrate not only her life, but life itself.

Let's live each day as if it's our first. Let life begin anew every moment of every day, with a sense of gratitude for our mere existence. In peace.

Simone, Justine and David