

Rosetta Palmer 1913 - 2013

Rosetta was a wonderful lady whose determination and courage in the face of life's ups and downs have been an inspiration to all who knew and loved her. Her keen intelligence and wit challenged anyone who engaged her in conversation or played a game of scrabble with her!



Born in Hove, Sussex, she was brought up over her father's butcher's shop. After school Rosetta went to Clark's Secretarial College. She had a love of words and was incredibly accurate in her work. Whilst working at Brittain's, a car dealer in Brighton, Rosetta met Robert Palmer and married and John and Helen were born during the war. Robert took a tobacconist and confectionary shop in Haywards Heath, before going off to war. Rosetta ran it throughout the war and then the family moved to Ham Farm, Skeynes Hill, Sussex. It was hard work, with horse and plough but Rosetta loved country life. It was difficult to make a living on small farms then as now, and after another move they took a village pub in Plumpton Green. Robert suffered from TB, so Rosetta ran the pub from 1952 to 1965 during which time Robert had sadly died in 1960.

She adjusted to life without him and carried on as pub landlady, always known as Mrs P. to the locals. She later ran the village Post Office for a time before applying for a job in the Applied Sciences Department of Sussex University. She loved working at the university, all her

skills came into their own, and students queued up to ask her to type their theses before finals. She was a keen WI member and became scrabble champion so many times that in the end they gave her the challenge cup to keep!

When she retired she bought a house in

Hassocks. Rosetta loved her family and her grandchildren and great-grandchildren were a joy to her. Helen and her family and Tina and John visited often.

When life became more difficult Rosetta moved to Milton. She never complained about her health problems - she kept going, insisting on the high standards she had lived by all her life. Appearance mattered - she made sure her hair was done and her outfits were coordinated with everything matching! She was loved by all the volunteers and members at the Day Centre and is sorely missed.

Rosetta's love for life will live on. A few days before she died she wrote the following: "Owing to the present circumstance I am unable to hold a 100th Birthday Party on 14th April but would like to thank my friends, neighbours and relations for their support and kindness over the past years. Thank you all. My love to all." Mrs. P or Ciss or Rosetta. John, Tina, Helen and families would like to express their gratitude for all the help they received from Doctors, Nurses and everyone who helped make Rosetta as comfortable as possible in her latter days.

John Palmer