

# ***TESTIMONIES and MINUTES OF RECORD OF THE LIVES OF SUTTON FRIENDS***

The Religious Society of Friends (Quakers) has for many years maintained the tradition of writing a *Testimony to the Grace of God* in the life of some deceased Friends. This is commissioned by the Area Meeting (once known as the Monthly Meeting) and is sent up and published in the proceedings of Britain Yearly Meeting. In recent years Sutton Meeting has maintained a policy of writing a Minute of Record of the life of all deceased Friends, also some attenders well-known to us.

Those records that are available have been collected here, some in an abbreviated form. They create a rich picture of dedicated service by a succession of remarkable men and women, some large in the world's estimation, some humble. As we read these records it is easy to see how Sutton Meeting has maintained over the years a strong and mutually supportive fellowship.

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## **William Henry Curtis (1946)**

William Curtis, affectionately known to his early associates as 'Tubby', was for a time employed at Bournville, as also were his father and brother. Here he was a stalwart player of Association and Rugby football, a strong swimmer and a lively participant in the other activities of the Athletic Club. The family attended Selly Oak Meeting, and one of the oldest members of that Meeting remembers William as a fine type of young man, with a deep desire to live a true Christian life. He joined our Society in 1913, and his ties with it were further strengthened by his marriage to Emily Dow, a member of the old Quaker and Cumberland family of that name.

For a time William Curtis held an appointment in West Africa, and on his return to England he established a business of Printer and Publisher at Wimbledon. He and his family attended Croydon Meeting, but some 15 years ago he was one of the small group of Friends who were moved to start a Meeting for Worship in Sutton, and he is one of the first of that group to be removed by death. From the first he was active to promote the welfare of the new Meeting, and gave generously of his time and of his business talents and experience. As the Treasurer of the Meeting, he carried the chief burden in raising funds for the purchase of the premises in Worcester Gardens and for their adaptation as a Meeting House.

In our business meetings, William Curtis quickly made up his mind on the matter in question, and sometimes it may have seemed as if he wished to sweep aside any contrary proposal. He would stand by his opinion, even in matters of apparently small importance, but his hearing of the views of others was always courteous and kindly.

His interests were wide and he had a keen zest for life. He was at his best among young people and preserved his youthful outlook to a marked degree. His home was a centre where the young people of the Meeting gathered for tennis, table tennis and other activities; committees and study groups met there frequently, and the periodic

'Family Gathering' of the Meeting will always be associated in the minds of Sutton Friends with the names of William and Emily Curtis.

Youth is often a time of spiritual awakening, but one feels that William Curtis' deepest experience came to him somewhat late. For some years, although active in all the business and social life of the Meeting, in organising the Study Groups, and in contributing to the discussions, he took no vocal part in the Meeting for Worship. When later he began to do so, his ministry was, we believe, always acceptable; in particular he discovered a special gift in ministry to children.

But considerable as were his services to Sutton Meeting and to the Society, most of all we loved him for what he was: friendly without effusiveness, sympathetic without sentimentality, light-hearted without levity, of firm convictions, but always considerate of the opinions of others. He was indeed a man of whom one might stand up to all the world and say, 'This was a Friend'.

### **Margaret Rainey Armitage (1949)**

Sutton Friends had thought of Margaret Armitage as the 'mother' of their meeting, and they had long recognised the fact that her outstanding integrity, faithfulness and graciousness had made the pattern and the standard of their aim as a community. She was always gentle, but underneath her gentleness there was an unusually strong personality, and in the early days at Dashwood Hall it was the strength and tenacity of Margaret Armitage as well as her unfailing kindness and patience that did so much to steady and direct the purpose of the Meeting. Her life had a steadfast, even, movement, that revealed the same strong courage and gentle dignity throughout.

Margaret Armitage was the eldest child of a family in Nottingham. Born into a home where circumstances were comfortable, she grew up during a time when a reverse in the family's fortunes necessitated her earning her living. So Margaret took a course in Art and became an Art Mistress.

At first Sutton Meeting met in a hired Hall and it was Margaret Armitage's home that became a centre for committee meetings and study circles. No evening seemed to be inconvenient to meet at Margaret Armitage's home, and no demands on her time seemed to ruffle her smiling calm and welcome. Her mind was alert and quick to see the significance of various points under discussion. Her concern for each Friend and her swift response to need increased our demands on her hospitality and love. Then when the refugees from Germany and Austria began to arrive in the neighbourhood, a new demand was made. A place for weekly gatherings of the refugees was needed. These unfortunate people were often completely bewildered and dismayed at finding themselves at the mercy of circumstances over which they had little or no control.

In Meeting for Worship, Margaret Armitage never found vocal ministry easy. It was only under overpowering inward compulsion that she ever spoke, but when she did so it was always heart-felt and to the point. She cherished a deep concern for the right holding of Meetings for Worship.

Although she was never robust Margaret Armitage was indefatigable in visiting any member of the Meeting who needed pastoral care. Anyone ill or isolated, in trouble of mind or anguish of soul, would find her eager and swift to visit and help, right up to the time when she became ill herself. Everything that concerned Sutton Meeting concerned Margaret Armitage and her loving interest and help extended to many movements of goodwill beyond our Society.

In her later years Margaret sometimes referred to herself as a 'has-been' but to those who knew her there was in her mind and heart some quality of the Eternal Now. It is difficult to define her place in our hearts without appearing to eulogise her - the

last thing she would have wished. Her goodness, her uprightness, the generosity of her heart, her selfless devotion to duty, the particular quality of her speaking voice, and the lovingkindness of her touch on our lives - of these things we can speak, but the particular characteristic of our Friend eludes us when we would put it into words. We can only say to one another: 'There was no one quite like her, Margaret was a dear.'

### **Jessie Ritch (1951)**

Although the strong and serene face of our dear Friend, Jessie Ritch, with the gentle eyes through which a deep compassion looked out on suffering, bewildered, and sinning humanity, will be seen amongst us no more, her spirit remains with us as a living reality. We are moved to record in our Minutes the inestimable privilege we have enjoyed of knowing and loving one in whom the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ was so signally manifested, and for all the blessing that has come to us as a Meeting through her life and service.

Jessie Ritch was among those who, in 1932, met together to consider a proposal to start a new Meeting for Worship in Sutton, and a deep impression was made on the meeting as she solemnly charged us to give earnest thought to the seriousness of the step we had in mind. Once the decision was made, Jessie Ritch gave herself wholeheartedly to the service of the Meeting, and throughout its early years it was largely her earnest and moving ministry which knit the group together, and laid the foundations of the fellowship in Christ which we now so richly enjoy.

Although gifted with exceptional fluency and facility in expressing her thought, Jessie Ritch's ministry was the very reverse of superficial. Simple and free from intellectual subtleties, it reached down to the deep springs of spiritual life. Her voice was full, soft and melodious, and although free from trace of her northern origin, her speech had a richness and clarity which was in itself a delight to hear. Jessie Ritch was strongly attached to her distant home in the Orkney Islands, and loved to return there when possible.

She was an ideal hostess, with a keen sense of humour and zest for fun, and more often than not someone who was lonely, homeless or convalescent or in some other difficulty, would be found sharing the shelter of her home. Many can bear witness to the healing of body and spirit which came to them through her companionship and her self-identification with their perplexities, weakness and distress.

The fountains of the abundant life which Jessie Ritch lived were of course to be found in an inner prayer-life. Those who have shared her daily life know that it was rich in meditation, devotional reading and prayer. We saw the fruits, but the roots reached down to hidden springs. She placed little value on theological orthodoxy and the conventional forms of the religious life, except in so far as they were living expressions of her fundamental conviction of the all-embracing love of God. Although her intellectual integrity would probably have precluded her alliance with any other branch of the Christian Church, it would seem that she was attracted by the symbolism which finds expression in the Catholic type of religion. This sometimes led her into ways which were somewhat at variance with traditional Quaker practices, as instanced by the little 'chapel' in her garden, with its lighted candles, and which, because it was her place of prayer, we must feel to have been a hallowed spot.

Over the years, Jessie Ritch was a true missionary; she brought many into touch with our Society, not a few of whom have found their spiritual home with us. Her life was spent helping the unfortunate, the helpless, the weak. She was the friend of all, old or young, but the children were always especially the object of her solicitude. She undertook the responsibility of the upbringing of more than one physically or

emotionally handicapped child. The words of Scripture most often on her lips, and from which she spoke many times were: *'Feed my sheep; feed my lambs'*.

In all that has been said we do not forget that our Friend was not without her human foibles; these indeed endeared her to us all the more, as we realised that she was no 'plaster-saint' but compounded of the same elements as ourselves. Her enthusiasms were sometimes short-lived, but even when, as sometimes happened, she asked to be relieved of some piece of service taken up under concern, the result was that others were drawn to share in what had been of her originating. Her life was a very full one, dedicated in all its moments to her Heavenly Father's business.

The fact is, we think, that underneath her unfailing serenity and abiding faith, there were strong tensions at work, and she would at intervals stay away from Meeting for long periods, apparently somewhat out of unity with us, or perhaps (who knows?) disappointed in us. The burden of the world's suffering had been laid upon her, and one feels that she was not infrequently called on to wrestle in prayer in her own Gethsemane. So far as we know, she faced these times of inner conflict alone, and never burdened others with her deepest problems, but would wait patiently until the struggle was resolved, and then come back to us completely united in love and fellowship.

As we think of her, we recall the great cloud of witnesses of whom she is one, and of whom it is said: *'These are they which follow the Lamb, whithersoever He goeth'*.

### **Percy Cleave (1958)**

Percy Cleave was a man of great gentleness and humility, to which he added a delightful sense of quiet humour. These virtues he expressed in a life of quiet service. Percy was a barber, and on moving into this district in 1937 from Swindon, he first took a shop in Wallington and later one in a poor part of Croydon. Not all who went there did so for a shave or haircut, but to enjoy its friendly atmosphere and to talk to Percy. 'I am sure', said a friend of his, 'that as Percy rubbed oil into a customer's hair, he blessed him.' This would have been natural, since Percy desired all his actions to be sacramental. He was very positive in all his relationships with others and took a lively interest in all their doings. He had a great understanding of another's doubts and difficulties, and one felt that if it had happened to oneself, it would have happened to Percy; likewise, if one had thought it oneself, Percy would have done so too. He was a man whom adversity had refined. It was often surprising, when talking to him, to hear the multitude of troubles he and his wife had borne. He had accepted the changes and chances of this life, but had not forgotten them, and so could sympathise with those who were still struggling. He had great insight and so could see to the heart of a problem. Since he was in a small way of business which barely brought in sufficient money he had a hard time which persisted until his retirement, when he sought so to arrange his life that others could speak to him at leisure and without hurry. It was then that he ministered to some families of Friends by going to their homes and cutting their hair. It was pleasant to see him start on the littlest one and proceed in order to the adults. To have Percy cut your hair was a grace.

Percy underwent one of the hardest lots we are asked to bear, that of spiritual isolation. In 1943 he left the Society and joined the Christian Scientists. He had always endeavoured to allow his life to be used as a channel for God's love and this step was in keeping with his longing for the healing touch. The Christian Scientists' hymn: 'In atmosphere of love Divine, we live and move and breathe' expresses the way in which Percy wanted to know his friends, and for a time Friends failed to fulfil

this need. Percy was delighted when, in 1950, he was readmitted to the Society, but many Friends felt humbled that he wished to do so.

During the last years of his life illness made attendance at Meeting less regular. We then more fully appreciated his presence, for when he was there God's presence became more real. His ministry carried the conviction of one who had found the essential simplicity of religious experience. He was very ready to go.

### **John Holland (1964)**

The life of John Holland will be remembered among us for two distinct strands which ran through it. First, we saw an energetic and forthright personality following high and crystal-clear principles, often in spite of criticism: 'Valiant-for-Truth' are the words which this strand in his life most strongly calls to mind. Secondly, we saw how this aspect of his personality was balanced by a deep and loving concern for human lives wherever he encountered them. In his widely varied work he was continually brought into contact with people from all walks of life. He treated them as individuals, reaching out to them, endeavouring to build up a close relationship with them, taking every opportunity to be of service to them, whilst always making his own stand on the side of truth, justice and honesty abundantly clear. It was part of John's whole approach to life that he was not attached to possessions; his usual reply to any talk of repayment was 'pass it on', meaning not so much the particular gift as the spirit of giving.

Born in Manchester, he was committed from the start to a life of tension and struggle. His full-time education ended at 14 though he continued to educate himself at evening classes and through the Workers' Educational Association, but no one who heard him sum up a lengthy discussion could fail to recognise the keenness and clarity of his mind.

His gifts of personality were no less outstanding. He was blunt and forceful but this was balanced by an affectionate charm and a lively humour. He was the Friend one called upon when the Meeting had to be told something it was reluctant to face. His religion was not an afterthought, it was a constant point of reference in the whole conduct of his life. He rose through the Trades Union Movement to be Assistant General Secretary of the AESD, then Assistant Director of the Industrial Welfare Society; then Personnel Manager at Associated Television.

Before he joined Friends, John Holland was a Methodist, serving both as a lay preacher and Sunday School Superintendent. He was also an active pacifist, and it was our peace testimony which in 1939 attracted him to us. Within a year he, and his wife Christina and their two daughters had been admitted into membership at Manchester.

He brought to his membership of our Society the same qualities as to his work in the outside world. In our business meetings his contributions were deliberate and firm, sometimes pointed. He was particularly outspoken whenever he felt that matters were not in right ordering or that the meeting was inclined towards woolly thinking. We remember his concern for matters of principle. If, as sometimes happened, his outspokenness gave offence to someone he was always found seeking reconciliation at the close of the meeting and from the twinkle in his eye one knew that he had not been attacking persons, but opinions.

His ministry was rich and deep, but always with a practical bias, often arising from a problem of Christian living or from a meditation on the Bible. We recall particularly how, when the ministry had been scattered he would rise near the close of

the Meeting and methodically draw together the various threads, so that it was well left.

It was, however, during the last few months of his life that the grace of God was most clearly revealed in the life of John Holland. On hearing in hospital that he had developed an inoperable malignant growth his face became radiant for he now shared with his family the knowledge of his condition. One of his first reactions was that setting his affairs in order was work that he was going to enjoy.

The life of John Holland has illustrated for us an aspect of the Christian life that is very pertinent to our condition at the present time. Truth must be proclaimed with vehemence in a world in which social evil is firmly backed by power. But the truth which above all wins men's allegiance is preached in humility, through sincerity, by an unlimited concern for human lives and a willingness to be used by God.

#### **H. Cecil Heath (1972)**

Cecil Heath had been a member of our Meeting for 35 years and is lovingly remembered by all who knew him. For some years before his death his health was poor and he found it difficult to come to Meeting from Streatham, but in his earlier years among us he took a full part in the Meeting. His lifework was for the temperance movement. He was trained as a barrister and for many years he was the general secretary of the United Kingdom Alliance, seeking to influence public opinion against the evils of the drink trade. Cecil's wife Muriel was also very influential within the temperance movement, for a time being president of the World Women's Temperance Movement. Cecil and Muriel were both active members of Sutton Meeting and they contributed greatly to its life.

Cecil was a large and very portly man. He had a genuine warmth of character and a marvellous sense of fun. He certainly fulfilled George Fox's injunction: 'Walk cheerfully over the world answering that of God in every man'. He was a living example that one has not necessarily to be solemn to be religious. Most of us will remember his flair for telling amusing stories, of which he had an unlimited supply. They were almost his passport for friendliness. The best ones were undoubtedly the true ones, for Cecil had a remarkable gift for quickly seeing the humorous twists of our everyday life. One moment he would engage one completely by his deep sincerity about some social problem and in an instant he would lead one into a gale of laughter by some relevant story. He was a fully round man in more ways than one. Many of us will have happy memories of him surrounded by a crowd of delighted children, completely enthralled by his conjuring feats – he was a member of the Magic Circle.

We remember him in the early five minutes or so of Meeting for Worship, glancing one by one at those present and lovingly taking them into his thoughts. His contribution to Sutton Meeting over the years, both in the ministry and life of the Meeting was incalculable. To know him was to love and respect him.

#### **Violet Reed (1972)**

Violet Reed had been a member of the Unitarian Church in Croydon. When it became physically difficult for her to attend Croydon meeting she came to us at Sutton and worshipped with us for many years. Even when she first came to us she seemed an old lady who needed to be helped and transported to and from meeting. She was a well read and intelligent woman and could almost always supply the answer to any queries on the Bible. She had travelled and met many influential people, including Emperor Haile Selassie. She had a keen sense of humour and we had many a laugh together.

**Bernard Thomas (1973)**

Bernard Thomas was the son of a Baptist Minister and grew up in an evangelical home. In 1916 he joined the Friends' Ambulance Unit and served with the Unit at Dunkirk. At the end of the war he became a member of the Society of Friends.

Bernard was a founder member of Sutton Meeting and became its first clerk. He continued to serve the meeting until the end of his life. His vocal ministry was rich in scholarship and strong in Christian conviction, yet characteristically gentle in form and delivery. It was with deep regret to many of us when, some years ago, he felt he could no longer speak in Meeting. He served as an elder, also on the Premises Committee where his professional advice as an architect was always available to the Meeting.

It was the man himself we came to love. He was, perhaps, difficult to know, but once his reserved, retiring nature gave way to his delightful smile one began to know the real Bernard Thomas. His puckish humour, so often effectively used at our Preparative Meetings to deflate pomposity or to bring us back to a sense of direction, combined with his genuine humility and his knowledge of life and letters, caused one to be ultimately drawn to him at a deep level. It is significant that children, who spontaneously see through to the heart of a person, loved Bernard Thomas. As one came to know him it was to learn that his faith was strong and his life, the sum total of it, was his ministry.

**T. William Miller (1973)**

Tom Miller was one of the founder members of Sutton Meeting. Together with his wife Elsie he joined the Society in 1932, the year in which Sutton Meeting was formed. They took a keen interest in the new meeting, working quietly in the background. Tom was a printer by trade. As a member of the Institute of Advanced Motorists he used his car to transport handicapped patients to local hospitals. He was a gentle man and a gentleman in every sense of the word.

**Frederick J. Hannant (1976)**

Fred Hannant probably never realised how much he meant to Sutton Meeting. Nor did Friends fully realise how much he meant to them, until he died. Quiet, humorous, kindly, modest, he knew everyone in the Meeting and his easy manner embraced a sensitive concern for us all.

In his ministry, which was fairly frequent, and in private conversation, he spoke to our condition, radiating his deep Quaker faith in the language of everyday life. None of us will forget the sight of him rising to speak, his slumped, arms-folded figure quietly unwinding itself until there he was, balding head slightly bent, hands resting on his hips and that quiet voice of his coming out of the silence and back to the silence once again. His ministry had a telling quality and a lasting spiritual influence on the Meeting

Fred's father had a small laundry business in East Ham. Fred, the eldest son qualified as an accountant and during the last 20 years of his life he worked for the National Coal Board at their London headquarters. In 1939 he registered as a conscientious objector and joined the Friends' Ambulance Unit, a step which was to lead him in a few years into full membership of the Society of Friends. He became the Chief Accountant of the FAU. He attended Hampstead Meeting before moving to Cheam and joining Sutton Meeting, where he was Clerk for 3 years from 1951.

Fred Hannant was a man of many contrasts. Bound for the office, he appeared to be a typical commuter. Beneath the conventional exterior, he yearned for the life of a man of action. A passion for dinghy sailing came to him in his later years, and we soon got used to seeing him arrive at Meeting on Sundays clad in a white sweater and blue peaked cap, ready to take his boat out on the Thames in the afternoon. He loved foreign travel.

Down the years he had done much to help conscientious objectors and for many years up to his death he organised through Sutton Meeting the posting of Christmas cards to war resisters in prisons throughout the world.

Despite the heavy commitments of his work with the Coal Board he never neglected his responsibilities to Friends. Typically, on one occasion after a strenuous day involving travel to the Midlands coalfields, he came off the train in the evening and straight to a meeting of Elders. To the Friend who expressed appreciation he simply answered: "That's what it's all about, isn't it?"

In his last ministry in Meeting, Fred had spoken with deep feeling and affection about a Friend with whom he had worked closely for conscientious objectors and who had died, suddenly, on his way to a business appointment. In commending this Friend's firm commitment to the tasks each day brought, coupled with his ready acceptance that each day might be his last, Fred was surely expressing his own rule for life. He suffered a fatal heart attack on his usual train to the office some days later.

### **Dennis V. Scott (1978)**

We all help to make our Quaker Meetings what they are, contributing colour and texture to the mix. To Sutton, Dennis Scott for 40 years brought a sharp, tangy breeze from his native Yorkshire. Unforgettable, that rotund, bluff, waistcoated figure rising to minister, the strong, deep, vibrant voice reaching all his hearers. He spoke of encounters with people in the street, on buses, on trains, or whom he had met during his working life as a bank clerk, a job which he regarded and spoke of as a service, a medium through which he made contact with other human beings.

Though Dennis did not seek office and tended to dislike committee work, he nevertheless was a great strength to this Meeting, which he loved as he loved the Society of Friends as a whole. He was keenly interested in the young people and in his younger days would introduce them to music and the arts. Young and old loved him for his exuberance. Some of us can recall summer outings when Dennis organised donkey rides and a barrel organ for the children's enjoyment. More seriously, he was always interested in the opening minds of the young, and keen that they be given a good grounding in Quakerism and in basic Christian teaching.

Towards the end of his life he became increasingly concerned at what he regarded as the over-intellectualisation of the Society of Friends and he often referred to this in his ministry. To us all, he was a very humane man, reaching out to that of God in each individual. And he had a great sense of wit and humour.

For many years he and Lavinia Roche were close friends, going together to theatres and concerts. Lavinia continued to care for her mother for many years and therefore felt that she could not marry. Eventually, however, Dennis and Lavinia did marry, but it was while Dennis was in hospital a few days before his death.

### **Ann-Mari Finch (1980)**

When Ann-Mari Ek first stepped onto British soil, disembarking from her native Sweden, she was in a sense returning home. Her grandfather had married a young Englishwoman and Ann-Mari was very aware of her quarter-share of English Heritage. In the summer of 1932 she encountered at Woodbrooke two forces that were to change her life: Quakerism and Jack Finch. Ann-Mari was about to start training as a nurse in Sweden and was not free to marry Jack until 1936. They then started their married life in a little house in Hackbridge. In 1943 they became wardens of the recently formed Sutton Meeting, then accommodated in the big old house in Worcester Gardens.

In spite of having a young family (4 little girls in time) Ann-Mari managed to keep open house. In her own words, she aimed “to make our flat an extension of the Meeting House, and the Meeting House an extension of our flat”, even to the point of there not being a separate front door, so that people - and draughts - breezed straight upstairs. Children’s Sunday classes and evening discussion groups, as well as individual invitations, took place in the Finchs’ home.

Words cannot explain the quality she exuded: she cared for human beings more than anything else, and this caring was infused with intelligence and understanding of their needs, so that she was often able to help in a direct and practical way. Ann-Mari was a grass-roots worker and shunned official Meeting appointments: she worked on her own ‘like a whole team of overseers’, as someone put it. People in hospital, the lonely, the elderly or young families with children: Ann-Mari managed to find time for regular visiting, hospitality or baby-sitting. When she took on a responsibility, she never failed to carry it out. Her strength of body and spirit stood her in good stead; she was practical, capable, a good organiser and an excellent cook! She celebrated Swedish traditions like Lucia, the midwinter festival of light; Swedish songs and country dances brought a welcome variation to social gatherings. Ann-Mari created a spirit of caring, warmth and festivity, and Sutton Meeting flourished.

Coming from a highly gifted, artistic and literate family she retained throughout her life a keen interest in all the arts, especially poetry and the theatre. She started a poetry evening in Sutton Meeting which still continues. When the new Meeting House in Sutton was built, Ann-Mari and Jack ‘retired’ to Dulwich, acquiring a house large enough to provide lodging for foreign students and a front room with space for study groups and poetry evenings.

### **Leslie Cowley (1981)**

This is not the first time on the death of a Friend that we wish we knew him better. Leslie Cowley was known to us in recent years as a quiet, grey-haired man, fairly frequent in his attendance at Meeting for Worship, whose main concern was our work for peace. In view of his fitness we were surprised to discover that he was 80 years of age at the time of his death and it may be that his quietness, coupled with the fact that few of us now alive knew him at the peak of his active life, made us less aware than we should have been of his fine qualities.

Leslie Cowley was a printer and he lived most of his life in Carshalton and Sutton. Music was his greatest pleasure; he played the violin and organised string groups to play in his home. He read widely and was also an enthusiastic traveller. But we remember him most for his concern for peace. In the second world war he registered as a conscientious objector. He took part in mass demonstrations in London and walked in the first Aldermaston March. Leslie was a member of the Peace Pledge Union from its beginning. He and his wife held PPU meetings in their home, often with large numbers present. They supported almost every march, vigil, or

bazaar that came their way in the cause of peace. Leslie joined the Society of Friends around 1957. We remember with gratitude the life of this quiet, fine man.

**Martin Wilson (1982)**

Martin Wilson was known to Sutton Friends as a man of gifted intellect and considerable musical talent. He was a professional pianist, both a performer and a teacher. He read and studied in great depth the lives of those men, especially Beethoven, who meant so much to him in his musical career and he had the ability in no small measure to open the door to a new world especially to his more mature pupils. He lived with his mother until her death at an advanced age. The relationship between mother and son was one of great mutual respect and love, and throughout the latter years of her life he tended her with loving care.

His search for Truth found him making his spiritual home with Quakers and although not a regular attender at Meeting for Worship he lived life at a deep level and nothing was ever trivial. He was passionate about our Peace Testimony and wrote many letters to MPs and local councillors about the arms race. He was in prison for his pacifist stand during the War, which was all the more courageous as he had already been called for military service and came to the pacifist point of view while in the forces.

He had a great love of God's world, and his knowledge of plants and birds was extensive. He found great peace in the wild and lonely places and sought through many organisations to protect and preserve the beauty of our world for future generations.

**Geoffrey Morris (1982)**

Geoffrey Morris was known to us as a small, quiet, bearded man, who had an artistic temperament coupled with a strong concern to use his considerable technical ability for the benefit of people in the Third World. Temperance and vegetarianism were in his background and he maintained them throughout his life. In the second world war Geoffrey registered as a conscientious objector and did heavy rescue work in the Civil Defence Service in Birmingham.

Following a youthful enthusiasm for electronics, he worked in London in an x-ray electrical firm and later set up his own small electrical firm in south Birmingham, a project that subsequently failed through lack of capital. He then moved into medical electronics in hospitals: first in Birmingham and then in Dumfries, becoming a founder member of the Electro-Physiological Technicians Association. His concern to work in developing countries first came to fruition when he took up a post in the University of Ibadan, Nigeria, in 1957. His first wife Dorothy became ill and they returned to England where she died of cancer. Geoffrey found work in Carshalton and came to Sutton Meeting in 1960.

In 1961 Geoffrey married Betty Mumford at our Meeting House in Worcester Gardens. In 1970 they left for Indonesia where Geoffrey worked as a World Health Organisation Consultant to provide medical electronic technical assistance and to train local personnel, a successful project that lasted 5 years. After a second but frustrating term in Ethiopia, Geoffrey and Betty returned to this country and we again valued their active membership of Sutton Meeting. In retirement, Geoff had more time to devote to his great enthusiasm for sculpture and life drawing. When the Meeting heard of a local project to install flashing emergency lights in the homes of elderly and disabled people, he took over much of the work of manufacturing and installing suitable devices, all made with his usual meticulous attention to detail. We will

remember his twinkling smile, his quiet presence among us and his over-riding concern for the Third World.

### **C. May Pilliner (1982)**

May Pilliner lived for ninety years, many of them as an active member of Sutton Meeting. As one of its founder members she saw it grow from a small group of Friends to a large and lively meeting. A quiet, gentle woman, May's ministry was not that of the spoken word but service in many capacities. She was convenor of overseers for a period, seeking out and caring for any in need of care. Always interested in the children and young people, she also convened Children's Committee. May brought her domestic skill to organising the House Committee and for many years the Sewing Meeting where a few women F/friends met regularly, not only to work but for informal chat. Though serious and earnest, May always enjoyed a joke and had a merry laugh. She was a faithful, loving Friend, and we remember her with thankfulness.

### **William Humphries (1985)**

William Humphries started attending Sutton Meeting 5 years before his death at a time when all his energies were occupied in caring for his second wife in her long final illness, and he felt he needed some strength from outside himself. Having had contact with Quakers in his very early years through distant members of his family he sought out the Society of Friends and was accepted into membership in September 1982. Those who knew him appreciated his great gentleness and loving kindness, especially in caring for his wife.

### **Jack Finch (1987)**

Jack Finch was born in London in 1908, the youngest of the four children of Ernest and Emma Finch, both birthright Friends. Many years later Jack said that he preferred to call himself a 'convinced birthright' Quaker. Jack was educated at Whitgift School where he took a courageous stand in refusing to join the Officer Training Corps on conscientious grounds. After Whitgift he was at Oxford and Woodbrooke and subsequently was a teacher first in Norfolk and then in Surrey. Later he became Headmaster of Burlington School in New Malden.

At Woodbrooke he met Ann-Mari Ek from Sweden, and they were married in 1936. They had four daughters and were wardens of Sutton Meeting for 26 years, their daughters growing up in the meeting house. His youngest daughter, recalling those years, has said: "Much of his goodness, his kindness and interest in people, along with his adherence to principles, was worn so lightly that it did not weigh on us as his daughters. At the same time we all knew it was all part of him. He was an exceptionally kind father totally loving us however much we tried his patience."

Jack Finch's life was described by one of his countless friends as 'an act of love, which succeeded'. He lived out his ideals in whatever he did, managing to hide the hurt when he was let down. His priority was that God was glorified. He had the common touch and it could be said of him that, like Enoch, he walked with God - or at least, with *one* hand in His, for in the other would be the hand of someone in need of support or help.

His long and loving marriage with Ann-Mari was a great source of strength to him; he regarded marriages as each one "another cell in the Kingdom". Although a deeply religious man, he was warmly human, liking the ordinary things of everyday life - watching football or listening to music. He and Ann-Mari loved the theatre, art

and literature and had regular meetings in their home for poetry reading. Their home in Surrey and later in Forest Hill was open always to Friends and to overseas students - or to anyone seeking help and advice. It was a haven of love and hospitality and this home life was a major source of Jack's strength.

Jack Finch's Quakerism was strong in his daily life and was sustained by the meeting for worship every Sunday. It was from this, as he always insisted, that his beliefs stemmed and were sustained and it was in meeting that he shared them. His ministry, given in a loving and resonant voice, was deep and strong but easily understood. It showed his overwhelming faith in the power of God's love and his caring nature shone through. He had no intellectual misgivings about theological niceties. God was Love, Jesus showed the way to live and Jack was a willing disciple. His ministry was nearly always on the theme of God's love for us and the need for us to be channels for that love. He practised what he preached and walked cheerfully over the world. He will long be remembered with joy and thankfulness for his life and work. Speaking in 1962, he said "My Quaker faith has meant more to me than I can possibly say. Today I am more certain than ever of the insights that Quakerism can give ..."

### **Winifred Maddock (1987)**

Winifred Maddock was a founder member of Sutton Meeting. The wider family within which Winifred grew up had many famous members, including the bishops of Winchester and Liverpool, the Astronomer Royal, the professor of philosophy at Oxford, the King's physician, and the architect of the Bank of England. She herself trained as an architect and with her husband she designed the Sutton Meeting House extension at 7 Worcester Gardens.

Winifred attended Meeting regularly, and was much given to silent prayer. She told of her preference for 'prayers of offering': asking God to use us to do his will. She served as an Elder but was not heard in vocal ministry. At one stage she was a member of the Friends' Spiritual Healing Fellowship. Always arriving early for Meeting, she liked to watch Friends arrive and would greet them with a smile or a little wave of the hand. Some Friends thought of Winifred as 'The Rock' and that was apt, for we know that when Moses struck the rock the living water came forth. That was Winifred: strong and firm, yet out-flowing. She knew people in things that are temporal as well as eternal.

In the Sewing Meeting she loved to chat about Friends and their families and took great interest in the growth and development of children and young people. She rejoiced in the arrival of each of her 9 great-grandchildren.

It was the intimate, caring touches that made Winifred so lovable. If one of us showed interest in an author's writings she would lend his books, without wishing them to be returned. If there were a case of physical difficulty she would provide gadgets to make life easier. When Winifred made marmalade or jam for sale, she painted the fruit on the top of each lid, giving us beauty as well as sustenance.

Her courage was shown during the gradual deterioration of her health in her last few years. An eye operation was disappointing but she kept her brain alert, reading as much as she was able, and doing crosswords. Even though she found stairs difficult she preferred her upstairs flat, so that she could look out of the window and wave to friends whom she recognised. Her outreach was constant and she was much loved. We shall remember her with affection and thankfulness.

### **Eva Alexander (1987)**

In the early part of her long life Eva played the cello, including a period with the London Symphony Orchestra but her career in music was thwarted by ill-health. In the second World War she trained as a social worker and became warden of a hostel. After the war she was for many years secretary of the London branch of the National Council of Women. For a large part of her life Eva was a member, and latterly an elder of Westminster Meeting. In Sutton we knew her only at a time of failing health, but still strong in personality. She was well-read and in spite of failing memory she often included quotations in her ministry, sometimes from her own poetry. We remember her with affection.

**Betty Addey (1988)**

Betty Addey was a faithful and deeply concerned member of Sutton Meeting for 35 years. The family moved to Sutton when her husband, John, was appointed to the teaching staff of Queen Mary's Hospital, Carshalton. In the early years Betty was fully engaged in bringing up her three children and supporting John in his work. He was secretary of the British Astrological Association and his international connections made heavy demands on them both. After the children had grown up she was able to play a more active part among Friends and served the Preparative Meeting as overseer and on numerous committees. From 1984-6 she took over the hosting of one of the regular weekly discussion groups and those who attended will not forget the warmth and grace of her hospitality and the quiet depth and unpretentious honesty of her contributions to discussion. She was a great admirer of John Woolman and tried to model herself on him, both in simplicity of lifestyle and in the loving way in which she could on occasion express disagreement.

Betty was born in Merseyside to a non-conformist family. She was appointed before the war as secretary to Joan Mary Fry for the Friends Allotments Committee and transferred in 1943 to Friends Relief Service for whom she worked in London and Birmingham. John Addey, an ex-Ackworth scholar and notable athlete, was at that time serving in the Friends' Ambulance Unit. He contracted poliomyelitis and subsequently was severely disabled, very bent and having to walk with two sticks. For a time they lived in Richmond where she was one of the founder members of Richmond Meeting.

The last year of gradually diminishing strength was faced with courage and acceptance. Her loving concern for her family, for friends, and for the Meeting continued right to the end.

**Margaret M. Arnold (1988)**

Margaret Arnold was born in Tooting, south London, her father having been a regular soldier. She was confirmed into the Church of England, trained as a Froebel teacher and taught in Mitcham. Margaret joined the Fellowship of Reconciliation and her pacifism led to a break with the Church. A fellow member of FOR took her to Streatham Meeting and Margaret stayed to become a member of the Society of Friends.

Margaret and Maurice met at Yearly Meeting; they were married in 1944 at Sutton Meeting House in Worcester gardens and lived in Maurice's family house in Pollard Road, Morden. From that time onwards, Margaret and Maurice raised a family, shared the ups and downs of a business of herb and spice wholesalers and gave themselves in full commitment to the Quaker way of life. Margaret loved her family, entering deeply into their joys and hurts. Home was important to her, but

home was not an exclusive place; it was open wide in loving caring and hospitality to any who needed to enter.

Margaret was drawn to biblical scholarship; she obtained the University of London diploma in religious studies and her continued reading informed her ministry in meeting which was deep and challenging as well as being direct and readily understood. She was always ready to talk about her religion but it was rooted in personal experience and it found full expression in her life. Margaret took a full part in the Society's life, being a conscientious attender at Monthly and General Meetings. She served her own Meeting diligently and represented Friends in local ecumenical affairs. She held the offices of Preparative Meeting clerk and clerk to elders, but it was as clerk to overseers that her pastoral service came to fruition. She cared for us all, established Quakers, attenders and casual visitors alike. Everyone, without exception, knew her welcoming smile. She kept in constant touch by letters and visits over the years with people who were sick, with those who had moved away, and others whom she knew to be in need.

Margaret bore her illness courageously. At a Meeting for Worship held in her home towards the end of her life she spoke of the struggle to live each day in the confidence, as expressed by Julian of Norwich, that "all shall be well, and all shall be well, and all manner of thing shall be well". With Margaret's death Sutton Meeting has lost a Friend who loved us all, but her influence for good will remain with us.

#### **Lucy Holmes (1988)**

Lucy was a birthright Friend, born in Middlesborough 92 years ago. She became a teacher and in middle life, when teaching in Wimbledon, she began a friendship with a colleague, Muriel Darling, which lasted until her death. They shared a home together. During the 1940s Lucy felt drawn to the Baptist Church of which Muriel was a member. She resigned from the Society of Friends but after some years felt this to be her spiritual home. She applied for readmission and came to us at Sutton. She was a quiet person but revealed in conversation an innate sense of humour. She was not given to vocal ministry but her quiet presence gave strength to the Meeting. With the approach of old age Lucy became confused and spent the last five years of her life in hospital, where she was found by those who visited her to be content and uncomplaining. We remember her with affection.

#### **Arthur Pilliner (1989)**

Arthur joined the Society around 1918. He left school at age 15 and took up employment with Thomas Cook and Sons, the travel agents, for whom he worked for virtually the whole of his working life. In 1927 he married May Vincent at Jordans Meeting House and they lived at Carshalton. Arthur and May were among the small group of Friends who established Sutton Meeting in 1932. They gave devoted service to the Meeting. Arthur was Clerk from 1937 to 1942; he also served as Treasurer of the Meeting from 1943 to 1954 and subsequently was Treasurer of Monthly Meeting for many years.

In 1983, May was ill and Arthur had to endure seeing her condition deteriorate and eventually die. Despite failing eyesight and a weak heart he set to work to make a life for himself in his own home. In 1985, he was in hospital for nine months, suffering a leg amputation. At one time he seemed at the point of death, but he rallied, and with great resolution learned to walk and fend for himself. His sight deteriorated and in sheltered accommodation he seemed lonely but he seldom complained, managed to maintain an alert mind and on occasions to crack a joke. He continued to

attend Meeting regularly, being grateful for the lifts he received. We miss his regular presence in his corner seat.

### **Fred Dunman (1990)**

Fred was for many years a core member and Treasurer of Esher Meeting. We only got to know him when, in his seventies, he came to live here with his wife and family. He made an unforgettable impression on us, all the more surprising in view of his slight build, modest manner and his air of withdrawal due to severe hearing loss since childhood. He had an infectious enthusiasm. He and Minnie adopted two children from Germany, and he relished to the full his position as head of a large family.

He was involved in CND from the early days and took part in the Aldermaston Marches. His ministry at Meeting for Worship was not frequent in his later years, but it was always deeply felt and founded on his unswerving convictions. His deep faith enriched our Meeting both in his ministry and in his silent presence with us. Fred was a man of serene courage, shown by the gallant way in which he bore the loss of his wife and by his unfailing capacity to rise above the physical weakness which latterly made everyday activities increasingly difficult without the help of other people.

### **Percy Russell (1992)**

Percy Russell was a small and sprightly man who made friends easily and loved conversation. We knew him only during the last few years of his life. He did not join the Society of Friends but he enjoyed being with us in Meeting for Worship, at our social evenings, and our austerity lunches.

Percy was born in 1904. He married twice, and often said that he had had two wonderful wives. He worked in London as a printing plate-maker and became 'Father of his Chapel'. He was a keen socialist. During the war he was for some years in the London Fire Service.

The qualities that we most enjoyed in Percy Russell were his sociability and his wit. He loved to be with people and made friends everywhere: in the park, or on the railway platform. And people valued and maintained his friendship. He had a marvellous sense of humour and a great fund of stories. Although Percy Russell has only peripherally been associated with our Meeting we are glad to have had him among us. After his death we learned that Percy had left a generous legacy of £19,700 to Sutton Meeting.

### **Eleanor Woodall (1992)**

Eleanor had deformity of her leg bones which she bore with great fortitude. A Sutton Friend, Jessie Rich, took a caring interest in Eleanor and this led her eventually to join our Society. Together with Gladys, the friend and companion with whom she lived for most of her adult life, she led a full and active life that included extensive foreign travel.

Eleanor's interests were wide. She played bridge, loved music and learned to play the recorder, loved painting and attended art classes for many years. Her watercolours of flag irises, in particular, glowing from a purple ground, bold in stature and yet sensitive, expressed Eleanor's own perception of the world. She loved to share the excitement she found in painting and would enthuse about new techniques she had learned, encouraging her listeners to 'go and do likewise'.

We all recall her invariably late arrivals at gatherings, when she would clump in, her waterproof anorak rustling, and grin at everyone as she found a support for her shorter leg. Her spoken ministry in Meeting for Worship often came near the end of

Meeting. Usually it referred to some personal experience of music, art, or the natural world and expressed new possibilities of finding the sources of joy in that experience. Although sometimes puzzled at Eleanor's elliptical expression, we were never in doubt that her spoken ministry resembled her life in its connection of daily experience with the world of the spirit.

### **Helen Duker (1993)**

Helen was born in Hungary in 1912. When she was still very young the family went to live in Vienna. In a comfortable middle-class Jewish home-life with warm and loving parents, Helen valued a very special relationship with her young brother Heinz and they invented their own private language. In 1938, Helen and her mother were helped by Quakers in Vienna to come to England, leaving her father and brother in hiding in Hungary.

Retirement in 1975 from teaching full-time hardly slowed Helen down. She wrote wonderful letters, cards and notes to us all: thank-you letters, celebration cards, caring letters (before, during and after hospital treatments), consoling letters during grief and difficult times. 'Still needed and wanting to be needed; more and more hindered by physical handicap but battling on' she once wrote: 'I still work at a youth club for mentally handicapped youngsters and my two firm connections of Anthroposophy and the Society of Friends hold fast! With retirement Friends become increasingly important'.

She became an Elder of Sutton PM and worked with the Caring-Sharing Group. 'Life of others takes over - enjoy the moments!' With her wonderful sense of fun, she hugely enjoyed all socials and outings with Friends and with others and her joy was shared by all. 'My time is full, my cup runneth over, I can deeply enjoy the moments of meaning in life, still thirsting to learn and wanting to give'. Helen's ministry expressed her sense of wonder at the beauty of life, of the natural world, of relationships, her thankfulness, her clearly expressed awareness of the Presence, constant, everywhere. Her last ministry in Sutton Meeting, just a week before she died, was about her thankfulness for being back home after a holiday - back home among Friends.

She is remembered with grateful affection for her radiant love by all who knew her. With her unfailing cheerfulness and good humour, despite considerable physical disability and pain, she continued to be a source of light and love to everyone she met.

### **Marjorie Wills (1994)**

Marjorie Wills spent a week in August 1994 with twelve members and attenders from Sutton Meeting at the Ammerdown Centre, Radstock, Somerset and it was, she said, "one of the happiest holidays of my life". Four days later she died peacefully in her sleep at the age of eighty-seven.

She was slight of build but great in personality and spirit. Nothing got her down; nothing defeated her. She was a great traveller, adventurous, often acting on the inspiration of the moment: "let's go to Hampton Court" (or some other location) she would say to a friend, and off they went. Marjorie got up at five o'clock every morning and was always busy. She had no time for a television set. She did her own decorating and above all she worked, in all weathers, in her garden. "I've got to look after my garden" was a phrase often on her lips. In recent years flowers from her garden were on the Meeting House table every other week. Marjorie joined the Religious Society of Friends in July 1941. "I love my Meeting" she often said, and we all loved her.

There was something special about Marjorie Wills. She was, one might think, just an ordinary person, but there was that about her which is memorable. She was frank: we knew where we were with her. She was friendly, cheerful in adversity; she made light of her ailments. She did not parade her religion, but she lived abundantly and courageously in the spirit of Jesus.

#### **Victor Fadden (1994)**

Victor had been attending Sutton Meeting for around 2 years. In April he lost his wife, Eve, and a few months later he fell and broke his pelvis; throughout this difficult period he showed great cheerfulness and fortitude. He continued coming to Meeting for Worship whenever he could and we valued his quiet presence among us.

Victor had been a Roman Catholic throughout his life. We sensed that in these his later years he had a questioning mind, probing us after Meeting for Worship about matters of faith. In his occasional vocal ministry we also sensed that he was searching for the truth. We are sad that we have not had time to know Victor Fadden better but we are grateful to have had him among us for this brief period.

#### **Margaret Appleyard (1994)**

Margaret and her husband Reg shared a great love of the outdoors. Their garden and allotment brought them much pleasure, but their great hobby was cycling. They had many outings and holidays together, Reg on his bike and Margaret on her tricycle, and they explored widely in England, Scotland, France and Switzerland. It was a grievous blow to Margaret when Reg died suddenly in 1971. Margaret served the Meeting faithfully as one of our representatives on the Sutton Council of Churches and was also very active in the local branch of Amnesty International.

Gradually, as Parkinson's disease advanced, Margaret's activities were curbed, and she eventually went into a nursing home. It was at this time that Margaret found herself in great inner turmoil, as her fierce independence battled with her need for care and acceptance. The struggle often showed itself in sharp speech, which caused her more pain, as she realised she had hurt those trying to help her. Nevertheless there were many times when her old sense of humour won through, and one would see again that twinkle in her eye. In the last few months of her life the turmoil seemed to die down and it appeared she was able to appreciate that there is a ministry of acceptance alongside the ministry of giving.

#### **Arthur J. White (1995)**

The Religious Society of Friends needs leadership. Throughout our history the spirit, attitudes and witness of our Society have been formed by men and women whose strength of personality and insights have provided this leadership, not necessarily in roles of responsibility but in the effect that they have had on our meetings and on individual Friends within them. Arthur White had a profound influence on those who knew him. Many were moved by him to greater commitment and service.

Arthur was born in 1913. He was the son of a blacksmith in Battersea and would proudly point to railings still standing that his father had crafted. Arthur started work with the London Power Company in 1928, moving on in 1937 to the Miners Welfare Committee. He stayed in the coal industry for almost thirty years, finally becoming Chief Officer and Secretary of the Coal Industry Social Welfare Organisation.

In 1966 Arthur left the Coal Board and took up the post of Recording Clerk of London Yearly Meeting. It was a position that he held with great distinction for 12 years, despite suffering a short period of severe stress in 1973. Through his influence

the work at Friends House became more integrated and unified and he recognised at an early stage the importance of the staff having a representative voice in day to day working arrangements. The formation of the Friends House Staff Association was largely in response to Arthur's prompting.

Arthur and Edna met in their teens and were keen Baptists. They were both baptised on the same occasion in 1929. Arthur became a deacon and lay preacher in Battersea Chapel. He even contemplated entering the ministry but there were "stirrings of dissent" brought on by some of the words and phrases in the hymns, also by his doubts about the value of the outward sacraments. They both felt the need for a stronger emphasis on Christian pacifism. Arthur recalled: "The crucial point is that we had come to these views on our own. We could not shake them off. We did not know that any community of Christians had come to the same view....[but]....When we picked up leaflets in Wandsworth Meeting House we discovered to our great joy that here was a community which thought as we thought". So, in 1942 Arthur and Edna together resigned from the Baptist Church and joined the Religious Society of Friends.

Arthur's faith was deeply practical and his emphasis was on living in the present. Meeting for Worship was very important to him. He ministered frequently and his insights were drawn from personal experiences in his daily life. His ministry often had the feel of modern parables delivered with a lightness of touch and a gentle humour but which, nevertheless, carried powerfully affirming and positive messages. He was critical of Friends with hobby-horses and those who came with prepared ministry, though he loved them in spite of this. His article reprinted in *The Friend* of 26 January 1996 carried the message "The love of God is there". Arthur was a seeker and he saw life as a journey through which our faith evolves year by year. But he could not see where it was leading. He often referred to the mystery of our existence. It was characteristic of him that on social occasions he would bring the conversation round to questions of faith and we loved the direct way in which he would challenge us. Arthur served the Society widely in speaking engagements and his range of topics included Quaker Worship, The Nature of Ministry, The Nature of Prayer, and the Future of the Society of Friends.

This practical faith bred in Arthur a deep concern for the right holding of business meetings. He was an excellent Preparative Meeting and Monthly Meeting Clerk and his service as Recording Clerk will long be remembered for its faithfulness and innovation. In later years he helped in the training of Clerks. His emphasis was always on meticulous preparation, on "doing your homework". He clearly saw the difference between seeking the sense of the meeting and merely achieving a consensus. When not at the table he listened to others and had the gift of discerning the right moment to take the lead in moving the meeting on to a decision. He served his local meetings and the Yearly Meeting in a variety of roles and was the only Friend to serve on both of the last two Revision Committees for the Books of Discipline.

Looking towards retirement in the late nineteen seventies Arthur decided that his lifelong enthusiasm for participatory sport might best be met by taking up bowling. He joined his local club and quickly established himself as a formidable competitor in both singles play and team competitions. He was a popular figure at the club and the esteem in which he was held by his fellow bowlers was evident on the day of his funeral when the meeting for worship was attended by a large number of his team mates, each one wearing his bowling blazer and club tie.

Above all Arthur was a family man rejoicing in his marriage and in his children and grandchildren. He was husband, father, grandfather and, to all, a friend. He had time to listen and had the unerring ability to gently help those seeking his guidance to find their own ways forward. In these circumstances Arthur did not tell you what you wanted to hear, he told you what you *needed* to hear. We recall that he himself would often ask advice when faced with a decision for which he was responsible. We saw in this his desire to be in touch with others involved in that decision, a concern that leadership should be shared.

In our curious Quaker language Arthur White was undoubtedly regarded as a 'weighty Friend'. This is a strange phrase and perhaps not the one with which Arthur would have been most comfortable. At the end of the memorial meeting held at Friends House two months after his death someone was heard to say: "Isn't it wonderful to have a memorial meeting for a weighty Friend who had everything to do with love and nothing to do with weight". It was an accurate description both of the meeting itself and the way we felt about this greatly valued Friend.

### **Maurice Arnold (1996)**

Margaret and Maurice met at Yearly Meeting; records indicate that they attended Monthly Meeting in first month 1944 and were married there in seventh month 1944. Even then they were establishing what was to become a life-long habit of supporting the Society at all levels and were being appointed to various committees. Margaret greatly supported Maurice in all that he did. Maurice had taken over his father's business after the war and was always trying out new ideas to keep it afloat, but at times life was very worrying. He never indulged in small-talk and could appear to be taciturn when worried, but he much appreciated a good discussion.

A great service which Margaret and Maurice gave to Sutton Meeting was in their generous hospitality after Meeting for Worship. All new attenders and those in need were in turn invited to their home for a vegetarian lunch. In this way they made many friends for life. Appointed by Monthly Meeting, Maurice was for many years a prison minister to Brixton, only giving up the appointment in 1985. During the sixties he befriended many prisoners; some let him down including one he employed in his factory for a time. He always tried to run the business on Quaker lines and for many years he made only a modest income. Finally he had an inspiration: he would mill spice and thereafter his fortunes improved rapidly. A great love of his life and to which he gave much service was Scouting. Maurice served as treasurer of Preparative Meeting and as an elder. He served Monthly Meeting in numerous roles including clerk. Maurice lived his life as he wished, upholding the integrity of his beliefs and giving what he could to his family, the community and in service to the Society of Friends, which he loved.

### **Helen Stonelake (1996)**

Helen hesitated to join the Society of Friends for many years but was delighted to be accepted into membership in the early 1970s. She was a faithful member of Sutton Meeting until her death, serving as an overseer for several years and taking a special interest in the children's classes. Each year she presented them with nests and Easter eggs for hiding, and often helped with the Christmas pantomime. She expressed her great love for animals in supporting the Quaker Concern for Animal Welfare on behalf of the meeting. Practical, domestic details were not Helen's strength, but there was something childlike about her delight in simple things and her implicit trust in

God's love and in the goodness of other people. She was very critical of herself but full of love and forgiveness for others.

In her later years Helen endured increasing blindness and deafness but hardly ever complained. She accepted the help of others with great gratitude and those of us who were able to support her during this time felt enriched by the experience. She listened avidly to the radio and this was often the inspiration for her ministry in Meeting for Worship. Helen inspired love and service from all who knew her. Her foster daughter travelled many miles to visit her and the warden of her sheltered housing spent much time with her. All members of a Quaker meeting are unique and we remember with thankfulness the special contribution that Helen made to the life of Sutton Meeting.

**Ann Maffin (1996)**

Although not given to ministry, her quiet and kindly face seemed to beam a blessing upon us. She usually crept away soon after meeting but she often comforted those in need to whom she spoke. Some of us grew to know her and value her as a dear companion. We shared with her all her concerns for her daughter, son-in-law and their two sons.

**Tom Hood (1998)**

Tom was for a time secretary of the Bedford Institute Association. He came to believe passionately in this type of work and finally set up SHARE (Self Help Association for Rehabilitation and Employment) in Raynes Park. This was to become his life's work; giving a fresh start for people of all ages and with a wide range of disabilities. Friends helped him establish this venture especially George Ward. Sadly, Tom suffered much pain for most of his life having received extensive damage to his spine and to one of his legs at the age of eighteen while he was serving with the Auxiliary Fire Service during the London Blitz. Although he could not come to Meeting for Worship very often he supported the meeting both in his thoughts and financially. At home he continued to keep in touch with current issues of concern and one sensed his longing still to be fighting the social evils of the day. We felt that he was a Friend with great faith and vision who maintained a sincere and energetic interest in the advancement and work of the Society until his death.

**Frank Collins (1998)**

In 1995 he was persuaded to apply for membership. When approached by an overseer with this suggestion his emotional response was "Why do you want me in membership: I'm useless. I am deaf, half blind, and a cripple; what possible use can I be to the Society of Friends?" He was visited and warmly welcomed into membership. It was his presence with us that we valued, not his potential contribution to our committees. Frank said that for him Meeting for Worship was indispensable. His hearing was poor and he found it difficult to catch all the ministry, but what he valued was to be present and to appreciate the friendship that he found among Friends. He spoke rarely but we recall the sincerity of his ministry and the strong, deep voice with which he delivered it.

Frank was a person who had a gift of attracting affection. During the time that we have known him he required considerable physical help and a number of us have willingly and joyfully transported him to Meeting and to hospital, helped him in his home, and spent many hours talking with him. Those who have done this have

expressed their gratitude for his warm friendship, his humility, his wide knowledge, and his long-suffering. He has brought to our Society a loving and kindly presence, and his faithfulness and fortitude are an example to us all.

**Kathleen Bulled (1998)**

Many people associated with Sutton Meeting remember the hospitality that they received in Kathleen and Ken's home. They were both much involved in the life of Sutton Meeting and for many years Kathleen played the piano for hymn singing before Meeting for Worship. She also served Sutton Meeting in many other ways, including overseers and the hospitality committee. She was assistant editor of our newsletter, the Sutton Friends Quarterly for 12 years from 1962-74. But apart from these areas of service, we remember her friendly and welcoming presence in our meetings and her devotion to her children, Christine and Anne, both of whom were married in Sutton Meeting.

Kathleen was a greatly loved member of Sutton Meeting. She had a warm and caring personality, always welcoming people with a smile, even during her final long progressive illness. Her love of nature and all things of beauty showed in her quietness and peaceful manner. Those of us who knew her were enriched by her friendship and we greatly miss her loving and faithful presence with us.

**F. Christina Holland (1998)**

Although Christina did serve as assistant PM clerk, on nominations committee and as an elder, we remember her most for her presence among us, for her loving concern for each individual person, for her deeply Christian ministry in meeting. She was a homely person. She was a central member of the Sewing Meeting that was held here every Wednesday for many years. Christina baked bread, and week after week she made marmalade and sold it here in aid of Friends' work in South Africa.

Christina did not have an easy life: she was widowed for 34 years and in her later years greatly troubled with arthritis. She even underwent 4 hip replacement operations, two when she was over 80. She was devoted to her family and showed loving concern for them all.

**Maurice Green (1998)**

Maurice was a large, powerful man, well informed, and with a wide knowledge of public affairs. He occasionally spoke in meeting, always with strong conviction, often about the problems of living in the modern world. Maurice had a great intellect and a quick mind: his hobbies were chess and bridge, in both of which he achieved considerable distinction. But he was also very fond of his family and had great fun with his grandchildren. We remember his love of music and poetry and his witty and lively conversation.

In 1988 Maurice suffered a stroke which left him partially paralysed. He reacted to this disability with great courage and determination, firmly resolved to conquer this and return as far as possible to a normal life. In the event, he never fully recovered the use of his limbs but we marvelled at the way he remained active, never complaining at the trouble this caused him and the limitations that it placed on his life. He willingly took on the task of Membership Clerk of Purley & Sutton Monthly Meeting and although this work could mostly be done from home he regularly attended Monthly Meeting in order to discharge his duties

**Kenneth Bulled (1999)**

Ken was born in Axminster in 1910. He was a small, quiet man who during his working life was a teacher of maths and science; there is no doubt that his teaching was done with great concern for his pupils. When he retired he continued giving individual tuition to many children who needed special help. Ken loved a bit of fun. He had a great catalogue of stories and jokes that he would tell, the product of a lively mind, continually seeing the funny side of life. Ken was a humble man with a love of children. Children were often entertained by him and he had great fun with them.

Ken and Kathleen were married in 1939 and throughout the time we knew them they were inseparable. At the end of the war they did much to help German prisoners who were held in a camp in Banstead; they invited prisoners to their home and formed lasting friendships with some of them.

Ken's faith was expressed in love and concern for people. He was not a very religious man and although he came regularly with Kathleen to the meeting house on Sundays, he preferred to stay in the library. In times of good health they both came to our social evenings. Particularly in his early days Ken would have described himself as a follower of Jesus.

### **Leonard Lamerton (1999)**

Len Lamerton began attending Sutton Meeting around 4 years ago. He was fairly regular at Meeting and we valued his quiet and thoughtful presence with us. He quickly became one of us, and formed friendships with a number of individuals in the Meeting, some of whom he had known previously. It was clear that he valued the silent meeting although he himself spoke only on one or two occasions. He was concerned for the conduct of public affairs and when we decided to appoint a Parliamentary Liaison Correspondent, Len agreed to do this for a time.

Len Lamerton was an eminent scientist in the field of medical physics. He worked at the Royal Marsden Hospital, rising eventually to be the scientific director of the Institute of Cancer Research. After his retirement, he devoted considerable time to the Samaritans and to the U3A for which he lectured in philosophy. Subsequently he became a prison visitor at Downview.

Early in 1999 Len began to experience a difficulty in swallowing and after a time this was diagnosed as due to a tumour of the throat. There followed months of severe illness and discomfort and for the last three months of his life he was unable to speak. A number of us visited him in hospital and especially memorable was a meeting for worship held at his bedside during which he wrote on a piece of paper: 'I want to express my heartfelt thanks to my Quaker friends who, through their thoughts, deeds and their philosophy of life, have given me strength to pass these last months'.

In June this year Len applied for membership of the Society of Friends. Visitors were appointed but his state of health and lack of speech made visiting difficult. Eventually Monthly Meeting agreed to accept him into membership on the basis of a report from members of Sutton Meeting; he was admitted into membership but died the following day. It is our belief that he was just well enough to be aware that he had become a Quaker. We recall Len Lamerton as a fine man whose friendship we valued. We are sad that he was unable to enjoy his membership.

### **Lavinia Roche-Scott (2000)**

Everything about Lavinia, her dress and appearance, her house and garden, was always very neat and ordered. She loved the colour blue, her eyes matching the colour of the clothes she invariably wore. She liked things 'just so' and her way of greeting

you and speaking carried this sense of preciseness and clarity, with a touch of ‘no nonsense’ along with her warmth of welcome.

She was born in Guernsey, though she was of Irish descent; her father had served in the Boer War. The family moved to South London, where she worked as a school secretary and for Dr. Barnardo’s, where she met Dennis Scott, a high official in the Bank and went with him to Sutton Quaker Meeting. They were absolute soul-mates, enjoying the theatre and concerts and poetry reading. However, she felt that she had a responsibility to look after her parents and so they did not marry until March 1978 when he was dying: the Quaker marriage ceremony was held in the hospital; they were both in their 70s. We remember Lavinia as a very caring person. For many years she was an overseer and latterly convenor of overseers.

Not long after Dennis’s death she left Sutton to live in Godalming, eventually moving into a residential home shortly after which she died at the age of 96.

### **E. Margaret Vokes (2000)**

Margaret Vokes lived a life of great service: to her family, to her Quaker meetings, to individuals in need, and to a number of non-Quaker organisations. She was forthright in her opinions but had a tender regard for others.

She was a birthright Friend, brought up in Plymouth where her parents were wardens of the Swarthmore Institute, and she later went to The Mount school in York. Margaret came to live in Surrey and attended Purley meeting where she met and married Vivian in 1954. Vivian developed Parkinson’s Disease and Margaret looked after him with great love and devotion, especially difficult and traumatic during his final months. Margaret was devoted to her children and cared for them through childhood and into adult life. Her family life brought her secret sorrows and burdens which she carried with cheerfulness.

After The Mount, Margaret read science at Bristol University. She enjoyed teaching, for a time at Croydon Technical College. Margaret cherished her Quaker roots. She loved our Society, was well informed about Quaker history and often shared this knowledge with us to our advantage, but was always self-deprecating. We remember her much valued talks in the ‘Meetings for Learning’ series and her leading of Tuesday Group discussions. Her regular performances as narrator and prompter at our New Year pantomimes showed her characteristic combination of punctiliousness and good humour.

In our business meetings she provided a firm source of authority on traditional practice. She served Sutton PM as clerk from 1986-88 and for many years she was treasurer of the Premises Committee. She was particular in her knowledge of the procedures of Six Weeks Meeting. In her final years she was treasurer of Purley & Sutton MM, a task that she did not find easy but nevertheless carried it through with great commitment. We remember also the dedicated service that she gave to Friends in need, in particular those approaching death. In her later years when she herself was infirm she spent many hours each week dictating texts for the blind.

In Margaret Vokes we have seen a life marked by many troubles but a life lived for others. We miss her presence in our meetings and are deeply grateful to have known her.

### **Robert Baillie (2000)**

Robert was the epitome of the concerned businessman. Having been employed by Pickfords and Beechams as a transport manager he subsequently established his own firm, undertaking distribution for the Guernsey Tomato Board. He showed a caring

attitude to his staff and was concerned for the right conduct of business. He had a deep concern for peace and social justice. He and Phyllis came to Sutton Meeting in 1956, having joined Friends in Yealand, Cumbria. From 1961–64 he was our PM clerk, serving the meeting with efficiency and diligence. Together with Phyllis, he was a long-standing supporter of the United Nations Association. For many years together they acted as the link between this Meeting and the local branch of the UNA. We recall Robert as a fine, upright and high-principled man, who served this Meeting and gave wider service to others.

### **Maud Cova (2001)**

Maud Cova was a highly intelligent woman who was part of the community of Sutton Meeting for over 37 years, although it was only within the last month of her life that she came into membership. Her spiritual pilgrimage was difficult. Her mother, who was a very strong character, was an atheist although she did send her children to Sunday School at a local Tabernacle. After attending a WEA class on comparative religions Maud came to Sutton Meeting. She was a very private person in her beliefs. She found our silence very helpful and appreciated our way of life. Maud believed strongly in the teachings of Jesus and tried to put them into practice; with the help of her husband and brother she gave much support to a number of people who lived in her road. She also gave generously to charity. When her three children were old enough she gave service to others while working first as a home help and later as a Social Security Officer. Towards the end of her life Maud was very handicapped, suffering severe osteoporosis and a slight stroke. Although finding the restrictions thus imposed on her life very frustrating, she tried to remain positive and even began to study Latin, devoting some time to it each day until her death. During this time she also refreshed her knowledge of Buddhism by discussing it with her doctor.

### **Christopher Wren (2001)**

Christopher Wren was held in great affection by members of Sutton Meeting. We recall his white bushy hair, his good humour, his fund of anecdotes, his readiness to sing or act at our social gatherings, and his courage in the face of a life-threatening disease. He had a marvellous relationship with the children of the Meeting, who share our sadness at his passing away. We knew Christopher well only during the last few years of his life but were aware of the great variety of service that he had given over many years and in numerous countries of the world.

Christopher lightened the atmosphere in Sutton Meeting. For several years he appeared in New Year pantomimes, where his inability to remember his lines threw the cast into confusion and added greatly to the hilarity. For many years he also sang; when one of his life-saving operations damaged his vocal cords it seemed that his singing days were over but we were glad that eventually something of his old voice returned.

He had a great thirst for knowledge. He gained an MSc at the age of 57. Together with his wife Anne he went on university summer schools on subjects ranging from the Romans to the weather, archaeology, monotheistic religions, and the origins of place-names. He attended and taught in WEA and U3A groups. He loved the open air and in recent years this gave way to walking and cycling in the countryside.

Christopher was never active in the committees and business of Quakerism but we felt that he was very much with us. Through his strong and distinctive personality ,

and his zest for life, he contributed to the richness of our Quaker community, a community that is deeply saddened at losing him.

### **Frank Stevens (2002)**

Frank Stevens served Sutton Meeting diligently for over 50 years. Together with his wife, Connie, he was present at Meeting for Worship whenever his health allowed it, even up to some weeks before his death at the age of 90. He was known to us as a quiet, modest man who helped to form the backbone of our meeting. Those who knew him well have spoken of his integrity, his firm principles, his thoughtfulness and concern for others.

Frank joined the Friends Ambulance Unit in 1943. He first tended the wounded in hospitals in the UK, working with casualties who were returning from the Normandy beaches, often with horrifying burns and injuries. He was then sent to Belgium, Holland and Germany. Frank often spoke to us about his experiences at this time, which were burned into his memory. Sometimes his life was in danger and there were many dramatic incidents that required all the energy and resourcefulness that he could muster.

From a deprived background and with little formal education Frank was delighted to discover, three years after the end of the war, that he was eligible to train as a hospital almoner and in 1949 he secured a post as almoner at St. Helier Hospital, Carshalton. This was a very happy part of his life: he enjoyed the work and although the pay was poor he had embarked upon a secure profession. In 1960 Frank applied for and obtained the job of Officer in Charge of Blind Welfare in Surrey. Here he felt that he could make a real contribution to the lives of other people and he found this very rewarding. He became a Principal Officer in the social services department of Surrey County Council. He was also the Hon. Secretary of the Surrey Association for the Blind; he helped to found the Sutton Association for the Blind and became its first chairman and later president. In 1967 Frank was honoured with the MBE for his work in Social Welfare.

Frank at last was admitted into membership in 1954 and was devoted to Sutton Meeting, serving as an elder and an overseer, always deeply concerned for the right ordering of our business meetings and the quality of Meeting for Worship. In ministry he was often deeply moved. One sensed that he was a man of strong feelings, and strong principles, and passionate under a collected and disciplined exterior. On one occasion he eldered the whole meeting for excessive and superficial ministry.

Frank had a deep and firm faith but he was constantly probing its meanings and its expression. He asked questions about the mind of God, and about the function of prayer. He wrestled with Job. In the last few years he often told us of the value that he found in Sufi and Jewish sayings and he loved their irony. He was uneasy about the diversity of belief within the Society of Friends and about admitting into membership those who appear not to uphold our central principles. For Frank, the bedrock of our faith lies in the *teachings of Jesus*, not in notions about God.

Frank was a very practical innovator: he started the Sutton Meeting Playgroup to help families with small children, still continuing under private management. At the age of 78 he began to organise holidays for some of the older people in Sutton Meeting, mostly living alone. He took them at two-yearly intervals to Glenthorne, Charney Manor and Ammerdown.

As we look back over his life we see that he had an extraordinary ability to overcome difficulties and break out into new areas of activity; he faced the move from the home that he and Connie had shared for over 65 years into residential

accommodation with calm resolution. Many years ago he said to Connie: 'If I am always frank and you are always constant, we'll get by'.

Frank Stevens led a very creative life that affected a great many other lives. We give thanks for his service, and for the privilege of having known him.

### **Reneé Green (2002)**

Renée and Maurice were newly married when they came to live in Wallington in 1985. Both had recently been widowed and though Renée had no children Maurice had three. Maurice was a member of the Society of Friends and they began to attend Sutton Meeting; Renée was admitted into membership in 1989.

Renée's parents were Jewish; her father was a doctor and the family came from Hungary and Czechoslovakia. They lived in Vienna, but in the face of growing anti-semitism Renée was sent to England; her parents later followed her. Many of Renée's relatives died in the concentration camps.

We knew Renée as a charming woman of great generosity and kindness, cultured and warm-natured. She was an excellent cook and she willingly acted as convenor of Sutton Meeting's Hospitality Committee, introducing us to a number of new culinary creations. She had a strong sense of humour, was herself very witty and always appreciated a joke, but at the same time could be a very calming influence. She sometimes told vivid stories from her younger life, but despite all her amazing experiences, she was very down-to-earth. The children of Sutton Meeting who were lucky enough to know her, found her kind, caring and always interested in what they had to say.

We remember Renée most for her courage. In 1988 Maurice suffered a stroke which left him partially paralysed. Renee cared for him and helped him to regain mobility. A few years later, the progress of Renée's diabetes led to the amputation of her lower leg which she bore with great fortitude, seeming to dismiss the hardship that she underwent. She had great difficulty in obtaining a successful prosthesis and spent much of her last three years in a wheelchair. In 1998 Maurice's family encouraged Maurice and Renée to move into a flat in Didsbury, near Manchester, so that they could better support them. Maurice was hospitalised a few days before the removal date and was taken to Manchester by ambulance. He died on arrival in Manchester. This left Renée widowed in new surroundings, far away from her south London friends, and in poor physical health. Those of us who visited her and kept in touch with her witnessed the great courage with which she bore this tragedy. She continued to be cheerful, speaking lightly of her difficulties, and taking a very positive attitude to her predicament.

We in Sutton Meeting are very grateful to have known Renée Green. She has been an example to us all in her kindness, generosity, and courage.

### **Eric Marshall (2002)**

Eric was born in the village of Littleton, near Evesham in Worcestershire. His parents were Quakers and had met at Woodbrooke. He went to Ackworth Quaker school in Yorkshire from 1928 to 1937 and retained links with his school throughout his life, attending old scholars' reunions. One of his fellow pupils remembers him as a quiet boy, but he was well liked.

In 1937 Eric obtained a job with Friends Provident Insurance Company, which was retained for him during the second World War. He was conscripted, but maintained the Quaker Testimony against war and received exemption from military service. His war work included forestry, gardening and warden's assistant to the Mary

Ward Settlement in London. It was here that he met his wife Elizabeth and they were married in 1946.

Eric returned to Friends Provident at their London Office. They came to live in Cheam with their two young children and began attending Sutton Meeting.

Eric served for eight years as a Labour Councillor for Sutton, during which time he was involved with establishing the Sutton Library and Westcroft Sports Centre. He also served on the Children's Committee of the Council. In 1994 Elizabeth suffered a stroke and Eric spent a lot of time at home giving her support until the end of his life.

With the Meeting's help he was able in his later years to come to Sutton Meeting fairly often. Eric always said how much he appreciated Meeting for Worship and occasionally contributed ministry. He 'let his life speak' in the way he responded to the community. Eric was a kind, gentle person, and is remembered with great affection.

### **Coral Elmvang (2003)**

Coral Elmvang faced a number of disappointments and challenges in her life. She was a very private person who kept these difficulties to herself and, as we saw in her latter years, she bore her problems with great fortitude.

Coral was born at Lewes in 1932, one of two daughters of a farmer. When she was around 18 months old she was found one morning asleep with her sister, her mother having walked out. She was brought up by a succession of housekeepers, a clever and very independent child. Coral qualified as a secretary, worked in industry, and later joined the United Nations as a secretary, first in Geneva, then in New York, and finally in Jerusalem as personal secretary to General von Horn. It was in Jerusalem that Coral met and later married a Danish husband. They came to England and had a son, Peter, but the marriage failed a few years later. Peter was an active child who at the age of six was knocked down by a car and suffered serious injuries from which he was slow to recover.

During the 10 or more years that we have known Coral her compassion and concern for others have been clear to us. She involved herself with those who needed transport to the meeting house. After Meeting on Sunday she was usually to be found sitting with someone in private conversation, offering what help she could; she was a very good listener. She was one of quite a number of people who have involved themselves wholeheartedly in this Meeting, without wishing to formally come into membership; she was, as it were, an unofficial overseer.

From what we have been told about Coral's earlier life, and what we ourselves have known of her, it is clear that she was an example to all of us of service to others and uncomplaining acceptance of pain and anguish.

### **Brenda Mallinson (2003)**

Brenda Mallinson was born on June 12<sup>th</sup> 1924, the youngest of three sisters. She was brought up in Battersea where she was deeply involved with the Baptist Chapel and the Girls' Life Brigade. In 1957 she moved to Button, where she started to attend Sutton Quaker Meeting. She joined the the Religious Society of Friends in 1979, and became actively involved in the life of Sutton Meeting. She served the Meeting as an Overseer, a member of the Hospitality Committee and, for many years, as librarian and custodian of Monthly Meeting records. More recently, she was a member of the group that recycled cards to sell in aid of Quaker work.

Brenda began her working life as a Civil Servant in the India Office, something that clearly inspired an interest in India and she travelled there on numerous occasions

in later life. Her love of travel took her also to many European destinations, many of which, largely unknown at the time have subsequently become hugely popular holiday destinations. Brenda, along with her sister Joyce can be seen as something of pioneers and trailblazers in this context. Later, Brenda worked for the National Coal Board as a Personal Assistant to one of the Directors, a post she held until her retirement.

Brenda enjoyed a variety of hobbies, including needlework, cookery and woodcarving. She was always very proud that her father had been a carpenter, and this gave her a fondness for all things fashioned from wood. Although she had no children of her own, she took great interest in the lives of her nephews and nieces. She was always available to them as a confidential counsellor, and a source of inspiration, humour and fun.

In recent years Brenda became increasingly immobile, but she continued life with the courage, determined independence, integrity and a caring that exemplified everything she did.

### **Nora Tedder (2003)**

We in Sutton Meeting knew Nora Tedder only during the last 12 years of her long life. We remember her chiefly for her strong concern for others and her courage in facing up to persistent and difficult health problems; but we have also become aware of the devotion and service she has given in each of the other Meetings to which she has belonged.

Nora was born in April 1915 in Pretoria, South Africa, into a Quaker family of English extraction. They had a happy family life. She trained as a domestic science teacher and later taught black children; she was also a very good needlewoman. She married Garnet Tedder, a pharmacist, and they lived in Pretoria and Johannesburg where she had her three children. Her children remember monthly visits to townships where they played football while Garnet and Nora ran classes. Becoming increasingly worried about bringing up children under Apartheid, the family came to England in 1955. Garnet died in 1986 and in 1991 Nora moved to Sutton to be near her son John. Though no longer able to be so active in her new Meeting, she quickly became a valued member, always wise and concerned for others, enjoying conversation and telling us about South Africa. In Sutton, too, she was an elder.

During her last two years in a care home, Nora always showed concern for her carers, especially the black and Asian ones; by getting them to talk about themselves she tried to enhance their dignity and sense of worth – even while she herself was increasingly frail and physically dependent.

Nora Tedder made a very particular contribution to the life of Sutton Meeting, not of course in taking organisational responsibility or ‘doing things’ but through her presence among us as a deeply concerned Quaker at the end of a life of devoted service to the Society of Friends. She is sorely missed.

### **Eileen Pollak (2005)**

Eileen Pollak was born in Northern Ireland, the daughter of a technical drawing teacher in Ballymena. Her father was a devout Presbyterian who had a high regard for education and from school Eileen went to Queen’s University Belfast to study French and German. After graduation she taught languages at various schools in Northern Ireland. Eileen always wanted to travel and after the war she took the adventurous step of going to Prague as a teacher. There she met a Jewish journalist, Stephen

Pollak, and they married in May 1947. Following the Communist takeover in 1948, Stephen sent Eileen back to the UK and later he himself escaped through Austria.

Eileen and Stephen lived in London and had two children. Eileen taught at Wimbledon Technical College. Her husband died in 1978 after a long period of illness, perhaps related to injuries that he sustained in the Spanish Civil War. Eileen courageously cared for him through this period. At the age of 63 she began an interest in the Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament and we believe that this was when she started attending Sutton Meeting. She was deeply committed to peace and was tireless and articulate in supporting a number of organisations. She promoted the Corrymeela Community in Northern Ireland and she ministered about this in meeting. She camped at Greenham Common and travelled with Pensioners for Peace to the Soviet Union.

We remember Eileen as a slightly-built, quietly spoken woman; a very caring person in whom we were aware of an inner strength. She was always thoughtfully and positively concerned to promote peace. She never joined the Society of Friends but we felt that during her years in Sutton she was with us in spirit.

### **Joan Jarman (2005)**

Joan was brought up in a Methodist family. During the war Joan studied botany at Newnham College, Cambridge, where she demonstrated an interest in the wider world by joining the International Society. Following a teacher training course, she took a teaching post at Sutton High School for girls; finding lodgings with our late Friend Marjorie Wills.

Immediately after the War, the government called for volunteers to help with farm work. Joan joined one of these teams during a holiday, and there met David, her future husband who had recently returned from working with the Friends Ambulance Unit and the United Nations in China. The couple were married in 1950 and began their connection with Sutton Meeting.

It was only when their children reached their teenage years that Joan felt able to return to Meeting alone. She was now able to come regularly and was welcomed into membership in 1986. For some years she served as an overseer and was a member of the women's group. Joan gave much unassuming help to elderly members of the meeting whom she befriended.

After retirement Joan was able to give voluntary service to the community. She taught groups of children about the wildlife in Nower Wood, a site organised by Surrey Naturalists. She served for over twenty years as a magistrate.

During the years that we knew Joan, we valued her presence with us. She was a very private person but always seemed cheerful and serene even latterly when very ill. She brought her enthusiasm to our activities for peace and social responsibility. We fondly remember her warm smile and her kind and cheerful face.

### **Ronald Abbott (2006)**

Our Quaker Meetings have few Friends of eminence in the City of London but we were reminded at the funeral for Ronald Abbott on 1 September 2006 of the high regard in which he was held by his business colleagues. He became senior partner in the firm of Bacon & Woodrow, Member of Council and Treasurer of the Institute of Actuaries and the Chairman of the Occupational Pensions Board. In 1989 he was awarded the CVO in recognition of his service to the Royal Household.

We knew Ronald as a modest man who seldom spoke to us about his professional life. He became a member of Sutton Meeting in 1947 and in 1948 he married Mary

(‘Mollie’) Hampson in our meeting house in Worcester Gardens. Their daughters Mary and Christine were active members of our Children’s Meeting throughout their childhoods. Mollie died in 1972 and some years later, with his new wife Barbara, Ronald moved to Rottingdean on the Sussex coast where he was a member of Lewes Meeting.

Ronald was a tall, upright, man who gave service to Sutton Meeting for over 30 years. His vocal ministry expressed a strong Christian faith. He served the Meeting as elder for a number of years and was clerk to elders from 1976 – 1979. In our business meetings he provided wise counsel and was a Friend to whom we often turned for guidance. In 1955 he was convenor of a committee that led to the building of an extension to our premises in Worcester Gardens. Ronald was a founder member of the Tuesday Group in 1967 and we have records of his talks on Teilhard de Chardin, John MacMurray and John Robinson’s *Honest to God*. For many years, both in our Worcester Gardens and Cedar Road meeting houses, Ronald played the piano skilfully for our hymn-singing before Meeting and we recall the power that he brought to tunes and verses that turned him on. He also had a lighter side to his personality and took part in social evenings with enthusiasm. He had a strong tenor voice and, among other occasions, we have a record of his contribution to the legendary *Lord Mayor’s Banquet* in 1952 where he and Mollie emulated Ann Ziegler and Webster Booth.

We recall Ronald Abbott with great affection and are grateful for the important contribution that he made to the life of Sutton Meeting.

### **Jill Sheppard (2006)**

Jill Sheppard, the dearly loved sister of Mary, died suddenly on 10 August 2006. The funeral, in the manner of Friends, was especially memorable for the spontaneous reading of some of her poems at tea after the Meeting.

Jill attended Sutton Meeting, at times intermittently, for well over fifty years. She was a quiet member of our Meeting, but we were always aware of her considerable artistic and literary knowledge.

Jill attended Sibford School and gained a degree at Royal Holloway College. After a year training in the library at Bedford College in London, most of Jill’s working life was spent as a professional librarian at the Polytechnic of Central London with tireless inspirational support to her readers.

Soon after Jill retired she became a founder member of Sutton Meeting's card recycling group. The members enjoyed her company and appreciated her caring and admired her knowledge, especially of art.

Although modest about her abilities, she spoke with a quiet confidence on art, music (especially opera), literature and poetry. For over forty years she attended a monthly poetry group, which was also attended by some Quakers. She produced thoughtful and finely crafted poetry herself and her deep grasp of the essence of a poem enhanced the occasions when she read aloud. Her painting and sketching was always of a high standard, both representational and abstract.

For many years Jill and Mary spent holidays in Austria where they met their German friends and went cross-country skiing. Jill also attended Yoga classes.

Jill would go to any length to help someone in trouble or distress. Her neighbourliness and generous spirit extended from humanity to animals. She related vividly to birds, foxes, mice, and even insects. The foxes were fed regularly.

We remember with affection Jill's warm and gentle contribution to Sutton Meeting.

### **Isabel Boag (2006)**

Jack and Isabel Boag were at the centre of Sutton Meeting for 26 years. They left this area and moved to Edinburgh in 1992 and already the number of Sutton Friends who worshipped with them and remember them well is decreasing.

Isabel had a quiet but strong personality and she quickly became a valued member of Sutton Meeting. She had a generally serious demeanour but in conversation her smile would break through. She was deeply concerned for individuals in the Meeting and for the proper conduct of our business. Together with Jack, she sought to make the Meeting outward-looking and involved in social and international issues. They had strong connections with Eastern Europe and South Africa. In June 1967 they started the Wednesday Group, one of three mid-week discussion groups at that time in Sutton Meeting, beginning with a series of evenings on Apartheid. In 1981 Jack & Isabel initiated and led a very successful local group of the World Disarmament Campaign.

Isabel studied at Newnham College, Cambridge. She entered medical social work and taught for the Institute of Almoners. After they came to Sutton, Isabel became closely involved in the work of St. Christopher's Hospice in South London and was a personal friend of its founder, Dr. Cecily Saunders.

We remember the hospitality that Jack and Isabel showed in their home in Sutton, giving help to a great many people both from this area and from abroad. Isabel took a great pride in her garden and she was a knowledgeable plants-woman.

Isabel was Clerk of Sutton Meeting from 1970 to 1973 and she served the Meeting diligently as Elder and Overseer. Isabel's contribution to the life of Sutton Meeting was considerable. Her wise counsel guided the Meeting on many occasions. She combined a loving concern for individuals with a concern that the Meeting as a whole should be effective in addressing some of the major problems of the world around us.

### **John Nicholson (2006)**

John was born in Swansea in 1925. During the war he was conscripted as a Bevin Boy into the Welsh coalmines and he remained an enthusiastic member of the Bevin Boys' Association all his life. After the war, John and his family moved to Surrey and eventually settled in Chipstead. John spent all the remainder of his working life with Lloyds Bank in London until his retirement. With his family John enjoyed holidays abroad and walking the Surrey Hills.

John was a very spiritual person who spent many years struggling with the truth of his beliefs, discussing, reading, reflecting. The liturgy and the creed of the Church of England were not for him, and his search for spiritual fulfilment gradually centred on the Society of Friends. He was an attender for several years before becoming a member of Purley and Sutton Monthly Meeting in 1981. Being accepted into Membership was especially precious for John whose distinctive belief in the eternal presence of 'the spirit of all goodness' was exemplified in his life by the way he cared for all those with whom he came into contact.

John was a most valued member of Sutton Quaker Meeting and was held in much affection. He gave outstanding service as an overseer, being extremely conscientious and caring, never failing to be aware of the needs of others. John also served Monthly Meeting on Standing Committee for Nominations for many years.

John was very gregarious and had the gift of making contact with people from all walks of life and all cultures with great ease. His friendly manner, genuine interest in

people, his laughter and humour enabled him to strike up acquaintances with strangers which often turned into lasting friendships. After his wife Triss died ten years ago, John became increasingly involved with foreign students, often from Asia, through Woodbrooke and the Birmingham colleges. He loved to drive them round England, Scotland and Ireland, and show them the famous sights. He was very hospitable and often had students to stay in his home. John also travelled extensively himself in these years, to China, Burma, Africa and North and South America, often linking with Quakers en route.

John's warmth, humour, consideration and kindness to many in the Meeting will be much missed.

### **Jack Boag (2007)**

Jack Boag was held in great affection by very many people, Quakers and non-Quakers alike. He and his wife Isabel were at the centre of Sutton Meeting for 26 years. They left this area and moved to Edinburgh in 1992 but memories of them remain strong.

Jack was born John Wilson Boag in Elgin, NE Scotland and his upbringing was Scottish Presbyterian. He trained as an engineer, became an eminent radiation physicist, performed ground-breaking research in radiation chemistry, and towards the end of his career he became head of the largest medical physics department in the UK, at the Royal Marsden Hospital.

Throughout his life Jack was a committed pacifist. During the Second World War he was in a reserved occupation, part of the time filling radon needles for cancer therapy implants. The Pugwash movement was close to his heart and Jack became its British secretary in the 1980s. He gave a number of eponymous lectures but when, in 1984, he was invited to give the Crookshank Lecture to the Royal College of Radiologists he surprised his audience by taking the title *The Nuclear Imperative* and dealt with the effects of nuclear weapons, the concept of nuclear deterrence, its weakness as a military policy, and the need to understand the point of view of the Russian people.

Jack joined the Society of Friends in 1953 on a visit to Washington and he and Isabel came to Sutton Meeting in 1965. They quickly involved themselves in the life of the Meeting. They had strong connections with Eastern Europe and South Africa and their home was a place of support and refreshment for many. In June 1967 they started the Wednesday Group, one of three mid-week discussion groups at that time in Sutton Meeting, beginning with a series of evenings on Apartheid. In 1981 Jack and Isabel initiated and led a very successful local group of the World Disarmament Campaign. As we look back to the period when they were active in this Meeting it is clear that their main influence was in encouraging us to be outward-looking and involved in world affairs.

We recall Jack as a wise and faithful member of the Meeting, serving as clerk to elders from 1974 to 1976 and convenor of our Premises Committee 1983 to 1986. His guidance was firm and business-like and he combined this with a caring concern for everyone in the Meeting. He did not often speak in Meeting for Worship but we recall him reminding us of the quotation: 'The world has not been left to us by our parents but given to us in trust for our children'. We remember with gratitude the service that he and Isabel gave to this Meeting.

### **Margaret Aldous (2007)**

Margaret Aldous, with her husband Kenneth, were active members of Sutton Meeting for over 35 years. They came in 1965 when Kenneth was appointed to head the new

Children's Department of Sutton Borough Council. Margaret worked as an EEG technician at the Royal Marsden Hospital.

Margaret was accepted into membership in 1981 and she provided a friendly presence at the centre of our Meeting. She served as an overseer and as treasurer of our Premises Committee as well as on our Hospitality and Children's Committees. Together with Ken they gave enthusiastic support to our social occasions.

Margaret loved her family. Her love for them deepened as they learned to care for each other through difficult times. They had three children: Robert, Helen and Anne. Anne was born in 1969 with Down's syndrome. This put a great strain on both their lives but they bore this burden and cared for Anne with boundless love and dedication. They involved themselves in the provision of group homes for the mentally disabled in Surrey. For many years Margaret was treasurer of Woodlands Special School, Leatherhead. Margaret and Ken always aimed at giving Anne the degree of independence that her limited abilities allowed and in 1995 Anne was placed in a group home in Banstead which they had helped to set up.

Margaret had many friends. In her earlier days she excelled in tennis, badminton and table tennis. In later life, together with Ken, she took up bowls and enjoyed walking in the countryside. She had a passion for flowers and gardens. Margaret and Ken travelled widely, often taking Anne with them.

In 2002 Margaret was diagnosed with advanced ovarian cancer. Those of us who have been close to her have felt her suffering as she underwent courses of highly toxic chemotherapy for over 5 years. We marvelled at the positive and courageous attitude that Margaret had to her condition. When suffering pain she often said: 'It will pass'. Margaret loved life but did not fear death. Finally she faced it with fortitude, caring for others, and with love for her family and friends.

### **David Jarman (2008)**

David Jarman was the husband of Joan Jarman who for over 40 years was a member of Sutton Meeting and who died in 2005. During that time we occasionally saw David at social events at the meeting house and he was known to us. Following Joan's death, David began coming to Meeting for Worship quite regularly. He sat at the back and on a few occasions he spoke, strangely apologetically. We were glad to have him with us; he formed friendships within the Meeting and exhibited his paintings in the library.

In 1944 at the age of 17 he registered as a conscientious objector and joined the Friends Ambulance Unit. This took him to China at the time of fighting between communist and government forces. His experiences there made a great impression on David. In later life he often spoke about them and papers recording what he saw have been placed in the British Library.

In 1948 David returned to the UK with no educational qualifications. He worked on a farm where he met Joan and they married in 1950. He then set about building a career, gaining degrees in history and education and went on to teach at a number of schools including Cheam High and Stanley Park. Later he moved to Southlands College as a lecturer in education. He was deeply committed to his students. He also became a governor and trustee of the Link School, founded by our Friends Françoise and Dennis Tomlin.

David Jarman was known to us as a warm and kindly man who easily made friends and seemed at home among us. He had a huge enthusiasm for life and its possibilities, which was expressed in his interests in travel, art, education, politics and sailing. His family asked for a Quaker funeral and this was held on 7 March 2008,

attended by around 50 of his friends and relatives. We heard that David made friends with countless individuals wherever he went and that many of these friendships were long-lasting. We are sad that he is no longer with us.

### **Reece Bell (2008)**

Reece Bell began attending Sutton Meeting in 2003 and he had already been going to Meetings for Worship in Croydon and Purley. He made no secret of the fact that there had been tensions in his relationships with Friends; he told us that he was suffering from Asperger's Syndrome which, among other things, made it difficult for him to perceive other people's emotions. He saw and experienced the world in a different way from most of us and because of this he enriched our lives as much as he sometimes exasperated us. Many of us warmed to him and loved him for the man he was. We admitted him into membership in 2007.

Reece was born in West Croydon in 1927. He was an extremely bright boy and won a scholarship to what was, in effect, a Grammar School, but he did not thrive there. Doubtless today he would have been assessed as especially gifted but at the time he just did not fit the system. At fifteen he announced, without consulting anyone, that he would leave school. He joined the Post Office as a trainee telephone engineer and progressed rapidly to become an Executive.

Reece was generous with his time and his talents. He loved knowledge for its own sake and was tenacious in his quest to understand things. He enjoyed using his hands but his real forte was problem-solving: he could fix the seemingly unfixable. If someone said 'It can't be done' he loved to prove them wrong. Reece was prepared to speak out in support of what he thought was right but his impulsiveness led him, on occasion, to cross the line. He was disturbed when he understood that he had caused upset and then was ready to apologise. He was an intrepid spirit, who got it wrong many times but did not give up trying in his own way.

During the time we have known him, Reece has had a number of taxing medical conditions leading to disability. He had been such an active man and he hated being in a wheel chair. Reece often said he felt useless, but his indomitable nature prevailed. He gamely travelled long distances in his powered wheelchair, the length and breadth of London, wearing his favourite bobble hat.

Being a seeker, his spiritual journey was as interesting and complex as his life. He felt he had come home to Friends and we will remember him as a remarkable character.

### **Mary Smith (2008)**

Mary Smith was a familiar face at Sutton Meeting, having attended intermittently over a number of years. She was a tall, quiet, elegant woman with a serious demeanour but a friendly smile. To some, she tended to be known as 'the wife of Nicholas Smith, the actor'. She and Nicholas had been married in 1959 and it was a loving, happy and mutually supportive marriage. They had a daughter, Catherine, who is also a successful actor. Mary and Nicholas came together to some of the social activities of Sutton Meeting and we remember with pleasure the poetry readings that Nicholas gave us.

Mary had been brought up as a Roman Catholic and at one stage she considered entering a convent. We remember her as a deep-thinking person and during her last illness when she was undergoing treatment for cancer she wanted to talk about death and the afterlife. At this time, Nicholas said that Mary was suffering 'a double-

whammy': the debilitating effects of her treatment and the negative psychological effects of her Catholic upbringing.

She showed sensitive awareness of the needs of others in the Meeting and her quiet, direct approach was very helpful. We smile to remember Mary as a loyal member of the Hospitality Committee, up to her elbows in the washing-up bowl after many a social occasion, equipped with the most enormous and decorative pair of rubber gloves ever seen in the Meeting House.

Mary was a very practical person and she planned her own funeral in detail. It included a poem by Mary Oliver, of which the following is an extract:

*... when death comes  
like an iceberg between the shoulder blades,  
I want to step through the door full of curiosity, wondering  
what it is going to be like, that cottage of darkness?  
And therefore I look upon everything  
as a brotherhood and a sisterhood  
and I look upon time as no more than an idea,  
and I consider eternity as another possibility,  
and I think of each life as a flower, as common  
as a field daisy, and as singular,  
and each name a comfortable music in the mouth  
tending as all music does, toward silence,  
and each body a lion of courage, and something  
precious to the earth.*

We are sad that that we will no longer be seeing Mary Smith at Sutton Meeting. Although she was on the periphery of the Meeting we nevertheless felt her to be very much with us and we will miss her presence.

### **Richard Crump (2009)**

Richard Crump was not in membership but attended Sutton Meeting intermittently over many years. He was a tall, bearded man with a burning concern for peace, indefatigable in his support of public demonstrations against war. He was a long-time peace activist who held a weekly vigil in Whitehall for the people of Iraq from July 1991 to early 2008. During the 1991 war against Iraq, Richard joined a small group of protesters in the Gulf Peace Team who spent some weeks facing the dangers of that country, as a sign of solidarity with the Iraqi people and during its occupation by United States forces. A Friend once described Richard as 'the conscience of Sutton Meeting' in relation to speaking out against war.

We recall Richard joining us in Meeting for Worship on many occasions and often speaking about the need for practical action to restrain the military policies of Britain and the USA. He kept us aware of peace demonstrations, many of which he himself attended. Richard also came to social activities that were organised by the Meeting and we were able to get to know his lighter side. Although he had a great concern for the relief of human suffering, we will remember him for his infectious laugh. He was a man who walked cheerfully over the world.

We are sad that Richard will no longer be with us. His life was one of dedication to the cause of peace and he constantly reminded us of our own responsibilities for positive action.

### **Edna White (2009)**

Edna White was a dearly loved member of Sutton Meeting who we remember with deep affection. She had a long and serviceful life, dying at the age of 94. Edna and Arthur White met in their teens and were keen Baptists; they were both baptised on the same occasion in 1929. They lived in Battersea and married in 1940. They were a devoted couple who shared a strong concern for Christian pacifism and we believe that it was the Quaker Peace Testimony that led them in 1942 to resign from the Baptist Church and join the Religious Society of Friends, initially in Wandsworth Meeting. They came to Sutton Meeting in 1943 and were at the centre of our Meeting until Arthur's death in 1995. Their three children, Tony, Terry and Marian, grew up in Sutton Meeting.

While she seldom ministered in Meeting, we remember Edna as a positive, loving, and deeply caring Friend. While Arthur was busily engaged in a senior appointment at the Coal Board, and subsequently as Recording Clerk of London Yearly Meeting, Edna was always there, providing gentle and caring support, and looking after their growing family. As the children became more independent, she had more time to pursue other interests. She became involved in Guiding in Cheam, including running a Brownie Pack. She renewed her love of the Arts, joining Art Groups in Sutton and expressing her interest through painting and needlecraft. Edna and her two sisters, Joyce and Brenda [Brenda Mallinson, above], had a close friendship and supported each other with weekly meetings, sharing their family news and enjoyment of knitting, needlework and crosswords! Edna outlived both her younger sisters.

In Sutton Meeting we recall her service over many years as an overseer and a member of the children's committee. She cared deeply for each and every one of the children and over a long period she took on the responsibility of sending a birthday card to every child 'from Sutton Meeting'. Service was her ministry to the Meeting. A number of Friends have spoken of the caring concern that Edna showed for their family. We remember that for many years Edna was our meeting's main link with Sutton Welcare (the mother and baby home). She was a regular organiser of the Wednesday bread & cheese lunches at the Meeting House and in 1992 Edna helped to organise the knitting of teddy bears for children in Bosnia.

Edna continued to live alone from 1995 to 2003 when she moved into Orchard House care home in Sutton. Marian diligently drove her to Meeting each week but during 2007 Edna's increasing immobility made this no longer possible. During the six years that she was in care she was quietly accepting of her situation and was concerned for the staff who helped her. She enjoyed visitors, welcomed each with a smile, and was interested in their lives. She always enquired about the Friends whom she knew in the Meeting.

We remember Edna as a gentle, unassuming Friend, who gave steadfast support to her husband, her family and to Sutton Meeting. Hers was a life of service, caring and unconditional love and we remember her with great joy.

### **Betty Morris (2010)**

*Our life is love, and peace and tenderness and bearing with one another ..... and helping one another up with a tender hand.*

These words of Isaac Pennington were read at Betty's funeral and they speak of her life. Her ministry was not in words but in service to the Meeting, to her friends and her family. We do not recall her speaking in Meeting for Worship and she was seldom

known to discuss spiritual matters. But at the end of her life she sought reassurance and comfort, asking to be told of others' experience of God.

Betty was a quiet, caring member of Sutton Meeting for over 50 years. She served the Meeting in many ways, unobtrusively working at the duties asked of her and continuing to do so until a few months before her death. For many years she was convenor of the Children's Committee and she undertook this service with great commitment, organising care for all the children and young people with joy, thoroughness and love. She also undertook several terms of service as an overseer. She gave dedicated care to Friends and attenders, showing interest not only in what was happening to them, but also to their families.

Betty served the Meeting diligently on our Nominations committee, a task requiring judgment and careful thought. On a practical level she was for many years a member of our Hospitality group.

Betty Mumford was born in Yeovil, Somerset. Her mother died when she was eight and she and her sister Joan were brought up by their father and stepmother along with two younger half-sisters. She studied Geography at Girton College, Cambridge and became a high-school teacher, coming to Sutton to teach at Nonsuch School, Cheam. For those who were taught by her, her passion for the subject was apparent.

Here in Sutton she found Quakers and became a member in 1959. Geoffrey Morris, a widower with two children, Timothy and Pamela, was a fellow member of the meeting and they married in 1961. Their son David was born in 1965.

Their life together presented challenges that Betty met with courage. In 1969 Geoffrey's work took them to Djakarta where Betty felt a long way from her family and friends. She learned Indonesian, managed two servants, taught English and enjoyed cooking local food. Geoffrey died unexpectedly in 1982 and she was then on her own with David still at school. After he left for college Betty began to spend more time on her own interests.

Betty was a nature-lover, studying birds, keeping weather records and working in her garden. The artistic and creative aspect of her personality emerged in later life. She briefly took up drawing and painting but then for almost 30 years she attended woodcarving classes and produced many beautiful pieces, some as gifts for friends and family. For years Betty collected used postage stamps in Sutton Meeting which she trimmed, sorted and took to Friends House to be sold in aid of Quaker work for peace. She was a devoted member of Sutton's greeting-card recycling group, continuing to serve until failing eyesight made it too difficult but longing to return to it even at the end of her life when confined to bed! Another great interest was research into family history, her own and Geoffrey's, to which she devoted much time, travelling within England to delve into public records and parish registers.

As Betty's life drew to its close she was cared for devotedly by members of her family and she loved to have friends sit with her, hold her hand and talk with her about life. She wanted to know that her family would be comfortable with her funeral, and was content to know that they were with her as she died peacefully at home early on a Sunday morning. She was lovingly remembered by Friends in Meeting that day.