

MERIEL FLUX 1965–2024

Meriel was born in Gravesend, Kent in 1965, daughter of Jim and Jean Flux, and sister of Rowena. Owing to her father's work for a multinational company, she grew up multi-lingual, the family having been based variously in the UK, Germany, Canada, Morocco and Switzerland. She started school in Canada and was then home schooled for six months in Morocco before going to boarding school in UK: first, at Maltman's Green and then Malvern Girls School (now known as Malvern St James) which she enjoyed.

From there she then went on to train as a nurse at Frimley Park Hospital in Surrey, where she loved both the work and the social life, including the monthly cocktail evening. It was here that she made her lifelong best friend, Tessa.

After completing her training and working for a while at Frimley, she took a job on a medical ward in Oxford's John Radcliffe Hospital and lived in Kidlington. She then took a position with the Surrey and Sussex Healthcare NHS Trust, initially based at Crawley hospital, eventually becoming the Trust's Manual Handling and Health and Safety lead, as well as a Royal College of Nursing rep.

Meriel moved to Deddington in 2017, living in her parents' old house. She quickly involved herself in village activity, being an active church member and, for a time, a churchwarden. She served as a committee member for the Friends of Deddington Library, took a leading role in the Deddington Craft Group and followed in the family's tradition of involvement in panto by making costumes, as well as participating in the Photographic Society.

Crafts were a major love – from etching glass to dress-making. Christmas presents were personalised, especially quilts. Animals were an equally important factor throughout her life; from her childhood hamster – called Septimus until she produced nine babies, prompting a renaming to Septimama – to her dogs, from Beano and Angel down the line to Zaatar and Comfrey, and the congregation of cats.

Meriel loved to experiment with food and drink, preferably to gourmet standard, hence her extensive cook book collection and her visits to food festivals in Abergavenny and Ludlow. Her pastry, made from scratch, was fantastic. Dressing up for fancy dress parties, including annual murder mystery events, was another pleasure as was playing Scrabble, at which she was a demon, making astonishingly high scores with seven letter words and always on a double or triple word score.

Meriel never married but was an active godmother to Fran (Tessa's daughter) and a devoted aunt to her nieces, Iris and Connie. She always valued her friends highly and could be ridiculously generous. She was her own quirky person and lived her unique life to the full.

'Do not cry because I am gone. Smile because I lived.'

Rowena Pullan

