



DORIS FRASER



Doris was born in Clapton, East London in December 1925 where she lived until she moved to Queen's Road in Leigh on Sea with her family when she was 8 years old. Doris attended North Street School until she was 10, when she was granted a special place at Westcliff High School.

Upon the outbreak of War, life changed for so many people and Doris moved with her family to Woodford, just in time for

the Blitz. After her family was "bombed out" Doris' Father was transferred from the Customs & Excise to the Air Ministry in Cumbria and as a result Doris attended Secretarial College in Carlisle.

At 18 she joined the WRNS (Women's Royal Naval Service) as a writer and served in Cromarty, where troops were being trained for D-Day operations, and then to Portsmouth where Doris met her future husband Steve, a Petty Officer serving on Landing Craft.

They married 4 months later before he embarked on service to the Far East. After his return to the UK, following Japan's surrender in 1945, they lived in Wanstead – and had three daughters. When the children were older, and we were able to "juggle itineraries, Doris worked part-time in a large psychiatric hospital and then in a local care home. With her experience, she then worked for the Psychiatric Rehabilitation Association in various centres in the East End of London. After several further courses Doris then spent 20 happy years as a social worker in Waltham Forest. She was in a great team but many changes took place and in 1988 Doris moved to Leigh to live with and look after her mother who was 90 at that time.

Sadly, her mother died 3 years later – and her husband Steve died in 2002 after suffering a severe stroke 3 years previously. Doris said that she had a very happy marriage, sharing a variety of interests and enjoying their 3 loving children and grandchildren. Doris has 4 grandsons and 5 great grandchildren.

Doris' eldest daughter Kathleen moved in with her earlier this year and has been able to help with, as Doris herself says – "the many afflictions I am cursed with!" She keeps as active as she can, following her broken hip earlier this year, and goes to an exercise group each week as well as attending local reading and art groups.

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She enjoys the company of friends and family – and I hope very much that she will be able to re-join our monthly meetings in the New Year.

This research is courtesy of Bob O’Leary, Honorary Secretary of the Leigh-on-Sea Branch of the Royal British Legion.