

ANN WESTCOTT, 1923–2010

Ann Westcott, known to just about everyone connected to Lundy, passed away suddenly on Tuesday 5 October 2010 at her home in Appledore, aged 87.

She was born in Ilfracombe in 1923 but spent most of her early life with her two sisters in Scotland. She graduated from St Andrews University with a first class degree in English Literature. She married her husband Jack Westcott in 1948. He was a popular history teacher at Barnstaple Grammar School and they were married for 41 years. He died in 1989. They had two children, Peter and Susan who still live in North Devon. Ann also leaves three grandchildren, Rebecca, Nicholas and Alice.

Ann made her career as a teacher in Barnstaple and Bideford; variously at Edgehill College and The Convent in Bideford and latterly at North Devon College in Barnstaple until her retirement in 1983. She also taught basic English and literature to adults and her reminiscences of trying to introduce Chaucer to shipbuilders were hilarious. Her great enthusiasm for the theatre is well remembered by ex-pupils at those establishments. Her wide knowledge of English literature, both classic and modern, was evident in her conversations and in her writing.

Throughout her life in North Devon, her overriding interest was Lundy. She spent her holidays and many weekends there every year since at least the late sixties. She was the editor of the Lundy Field Society newsletter for 30 years. Together with her great friend Peter Rothwell, a local teacher and artist, she organised sketching breaks on Lundy over a period of many years.

After she left the college, she did not quietly sit back and enjoy her retirement. She first ran a small stationery business in her son's shop in Barnstaple, then, on moving to Appledore, she opened the Quay Gallery and coffee shop and finally she moved to Bude Street where she continued to operate a small art gallery. She was making business calls by phone right up to the day before she died. She would never give up.

I first met Ann on Lundy in 1970 when both she and I were there on holiday with our families. She has been a close friend ever since that time and I cannot imagine life in Appledore without her.

ROGER ALLEN
May 2011

See also frontispiece