

## **Elizabeth J Duncan (Forbes)**

Elizabeth J Duncan (Forbes) Died on 18<sup>TH</sup> July 2015 only three weeks before her 91<sup>st</sup> birthday. Betty was the eldest of four daughters of Mr & Mrs Arthur Forbes and happy in her role of big sister to Margaret, Ena and Mary and as Auntie Betty to her nieces and nephews.

Although born in Ardallie and starting school in Pitmedden on moving to Cobairdy, her main education was at Gordon Schools from the age of 9 – 17 years old when she went to Edinburgh School of Chiropody, 1941 – 44.

After qualifying she worked in Edinburgh as an assistant in private practice, as well as with the Red Cross Mobile Chiropody Unit attending Army, Navy and Air Force bases in Fife, Lothians and the Borders.

In 1947 Betty returned to Huntly and set up her private practice, linking with part-time work for Grampian Health Board until her retirement in 1998. In 1950 she married David Duncan and continued her work, with surgeries in her homes at Heathcot and Fenagh, as well as covering a large area from Strathdon and Tomintoul to the coast in all weathers.

She was a regular Church attender and in early years sang in Strathbogie Kirk Choir. She enjoyed music with her husband Davie and through him became interested and knowledgeable in gardening which led to her interest in flower arranging. She was an original member of the Flower Arranging Society in Huntly and at busy times helped in the Duke Street shop. She was an avid reader until her eyesight deteriorated and although handicapped by increasing deafness over 50 years, wrote letters to keep in touch with school friends, college and work colleagues and relatives. She was keenly interested in current affairs and political figures, even sitting up all night to hear election results.

After a serious car accident in 1981 Betty, through sheer determination and wonderful physiotherapy, regained the use of her right arm, allowing her to continue her work until 1998. Sadly in that year as she planned to join Davie in retirement, Davie died suddenly, so alone she faced moving to Hanover Housing in Granary Street but she felt safe and spent 26 happy years there, making new friends and enjoying visits from old friends too. She adopted an

area of garden and had great pleasure in choosing new plants, shrubs and bulbs, all meticulously labelled and nurtured.

Over the years she and Davie enjoyed holidays in Majorca, Gran Canaria, Norway, Denmark and the south coast of England as well as motoring holidays in Scotland.

In retirement she made full use of her Bus Pass, meeting Mary regularly in Aberdeen or Inverurie and enjoyed trips with Mag and Bob to Kelso, Penrith and Lairg Marts, not for the livestock but more for the shopping opportunities.

Her activities were greatly restricted after 2009 when she suffered cardiac problems which entailed periods of hospitalisation but it was her strong desire to remain in her flat and be as independent as possible. This she managed with the support of her family, wonderful carers, community nurses and dear friends.

Her outings were restricted to Saturday visits to Roualeyn for coffee and occasional outings to Kelllockbank or Morgan McVeigh in her wheelchair. She was always so grateful for visits and all the help she received.

She had so many happy memories of her working life and enjoyed to the full all news of her extended family of nieces, nephews, grand nieces and nephews and 'greats'.

She is greatly missed by her family but all have special memories of her influence and loving example.