

Excerpts of further Tributes to and reminiscences of Sue

Jenny Parrington, (colleague and friend)

Joy Delhanty and I were in the old Galton Lab. when Sue came to get involved in some research as a medical student. I was a PhD student at the time, but later on I joined the MRC in the new building when Sue came and joined us, so we go back a long way.

She was a wonderful medical research scientist, so clever, hardworking and generous with her time. It was not surprising that she did so well despite several health problems. I worked with her on the genetics of ovarian cysts using what would seem now very old fashioned techniques, but we enjoyed the whole project, and it did give us some interesting results. Later on, there were several projects where our paths crossed, and she was always very helpful and understanding with Ph D students.

Out of the lab, she introduced us to Contact, the organisation where needy old people are invited to tea once a month at different homes. I started off being a driver, and we had some interesting situations that we had to get out of, such as locking the only key of a hired car in the boot with 2 wheelchairs, faced with a stationary car, and two old folk in the back without their support! Fortunately, it all ended happily, and we arrived at our destination only a bit late.

Latterly, I always looked forward to our yearly small gatherings at the Spaghetti House, and afterwards on one occasion, she showed me round her new lab at UCL, where she used to go whenever she could, despite so much physical discomfort with her neck problems.

Moyra Smith (colleague and friend)

I have so many memories of Sue, both from my time in London and after. I remember our joint efforts in gene mapping and our co-attendance at gene mapping workshops in Finland, Paris and Los Angeles: I remember how we struggled with the Tuberous sclerosis data, and how difficult it was for me when our data did not match the chromosome 9 linkage that Julian Sampson and Sue found - but things were resolved in the end by the finding of the chromosome 16 locus; I remember Sue's visits to California and us spending time on the beach together; I also have a fond memory of how much she seemed to enjoy attending the clinic I had here for children with phenylketonuria; I remember listening attentively when she remembered her time

working with Tuareg children in Africa; On Friday I will be thinking of you and Sue's students and colleagues whom I knew.

Rosemary Thorpe-Tracey (Train and Cheddington friend)

Like others, I first met Sue on the train, commuting to Euston, when we talked about our dogs. Sue delighted in her beloved dogs: Mickey, then Silver, Bonnie, Scooby, Polly, Barney, Conker and Jake; her love of birds (she kept the best bird table in the county!!) and nature; her garden and allotment; the community she lived in. Sue was a member of the History Society; regularly walked with The Wednesday Walking Group and, with Denise Webb, supported most of the CADS' productions over the last 20 years. For many years she was a volunteer at Dancers End. Latterly she was a keen and enthusiastic member of the 'Nifty Fifties.' Sue was very generous in giving lifts to people who needed them - to the shops or to keep hospital appointments, etc.

Sue read fiction profusely and very fast and was an accomplished pianist, playing Schubert, Bach, Mendelssohn, as well as enjoying bashing out the accompaniment to a lively sing song: which she did often when helping to organise outings for elderly people in London on Sunday afternoons.

In 2006 I persuaded her to replace me as a Governor of The Collet School in Hemel Hempstead for children with learning difficulties. She quickly became the Chair of the Governors, a post she held for a few years before retiring. We shared very good holidays in the Peloponnese, Shetland, Northumberland and in 2016 Sue, with her usual generosity, treated me to three days in Venice to celebrate my 70th birthday.

Over the years Sue became an enormously important friend to me and I believe all of us here have experienced, in one way or another, her great kindness, support and generosity delivered with typical unassuming charm.

Joseph Nahmias (Former Wolfson House Post-Doc)

My connection to Sue developed because I often stayed late at work, so we sometimes were the only two people around with the result of getting quite close at a personal level.

I arrived in London in 1989 and worked in Jonathan's lab. At our joint lab meetings, I found it strange at first that Sue would sometimes ask rather naive questions, until I realised that she was simply anticipating the questions others might have but were embarrassed to ask. The other thing, that was impossible not to notice, was how much she cared about all the people in her group.

After I left, we met when I visited London. Last time was I think about 2.5 years ago and afterwards we went for an Indian meal. We went on, as usual talking on the phone quite regularly and she was always talkative about science but also other things.

Professor Dhavendra Kumar, MD DSc FRCP FRCPCH FACMG
Division of Cancer & Genetics, Cardiff University

"I had the privilege to know Sue Povey as my mentor and a friend. She enjoyed the respect and admiration from her students, colleagues and fellow geneticists worldwide. As a passionate teacher of genetics, she had the unique and pleasant manner to inspire and guide through complexities of basic genetics. She is remembered from her seminal work on laborious pre-genome era gene mapping methodology. Throughout her life, she worked for and supported the Human Genome International (HUGO) that later led to the planning and setting up the Human Genome Project. I shall always remember Sue as a visionary and humble human.

Darren K Griffin, Professor of Genetics, University of Kent

I always felt a special bond with Sue, which was only strengthened upon the discovery that our families both hail from the same obscure suburb of Leeds (Armley). Her family are in fact best known as the local GPs and she often spoke of the irony that she was considered almost a "black sheep" for not following in the "family business." Sue was first and foremost, a finder of solutions. The examples are too numerous to mention but my personal favourite is when I named her as one of my referees for my dream post-doc job in the USA. My future supervisor approached her at a conference for a verbal reference and, whatever she said, I was offered the job on the phone the next day. What a legend!