

Tribute – Remembering Rachael Leah Kosky

01.02.1930 – 08.12.2017

Rebecca Kaye (nee Clements) pays tribute to her beloved grandmother

My Booba, Rachael Leah Kosky - **also known as Rene** - was born in Stockwell, South London. She was the youngest of Rebecca and Harry Segal's seven children.

Rene attended the Old Kent Road School for the Deaf in South London, Victoria School for the Deaf and Oak Lodge Deaf School in Balham, where she made many Deaf friends.

During the war, the flat Rene lived in was bombed and went up in flames. The family lost everything.

When Rene left school, **she worked as a machinist for many years**, mainly in Brick Lane in the East End. She moved from one factory to another, searching for a better income. She was a dressmaker for most of her life and **made all her own clothes**.

In 1957, Rene met **Myer Zanvel**. Very quickly they fell in love and became engaged. On 23 March 1958, they married at New Road Synagogue in the East End. They lived in the East End, then bought a house in Manor Park and later moved to Ilford, Essex. **They had one child, Ann, and were proud to see her marry Harvey Clements in 1988.**

Rene was devastated when she was made redundant as a machinist. She worked as a cardboard box assembler until her retirement in 1990.

Rene was a keen side-car passenger on Myer's motorbike, always travelling and exploring around the UK. **Together they also attended car rallies with their Deaf friends and travelled across Europe.**

Rene's favourite colour was blue. At their home in Mortlake Road, she even went to great lengths to paint her front door, fence and gate in blue! **You could never miss their house when going down the road!**

Rene suffered from Paget's disease of the bones from the 1970s, but she never complained, always went to work and never took a day off sick.

In 2002, Myer passed away suddenly. Rene moved to Penge, South London, to be nearer to Ann. In 2014, Rene moved to Buckhurst Hill, Essex, into a warden-assisted flat, also to be near her family.

Rene relied on support from her daughter Ann and her grandchildren to take her out, but otherwise she was very happy in her flat. **She loved her independence and always found something to do: crochet, painting and, of course, looking after her many plants!**

Rene was very proud of her grandchildren – Daniel and me. She was over the moon when I married and ecstatic when her **grandchildren, Elsie and Zachary**, came along. **She loved spending time with us all – and she loved cuddles with Poppy the dog.**

Rene's health deteriorated suddenly. She spent her last days at home, before she passed away peacefully in her sleep. **We will all miss her dearly.**

