

Elizabeth McBeath

1928 - 2017

Elizabeth spent the greater part of her professional life – over 25 years - at Wymondham College. Elizabeth joined Wymondham College in 1961 as an English teacher and left (temporarily) in 1966 when she married Barry McBeath. She returned to Wymondham College in 1971 with her husband also being appointed Director of Music at Wymondham.

Throughout her life music was something very important to Elizabeth who, herself, was a talented violinist and played in a number of orchestras with her usual enthusiasm. Born Elizabeth Mair, she founded the annual Mair Cup at Wymondham, which was presented to the house presenting the best musical entertainment.

Elizabeth retired in 1993, having served as Housemistress, Senior Mistress, House Warden and Senior Deputy Principal. She had a long and distinguished career at Wymondham College. Her involvement at Wymondham was both varied and committed.

As well as teaching in the History and Modern Languages Departments she was a founder member of the Parents - Staff Association and for 23 years a member of the Library Committee. More recently she added to her other roles that of responsibility for children with special needs, specifically those with writing and spelling problems. She also found time to play in the college orchestra, leading it during the many College musical productions. In later years Elizabeth also accompanied school parties abroad.

In her retirement Elizabeth got much enjoyment from attending Italian language classes in the town of Montepulciano. She did this for quite a few years and made some good friends on her annual trips to Italy.

One of Elizabeth's passions was gardening and she would spend many happy hours tending her large garden and always finding more jobs that needed to be done.

On her retirement from Wymondham College the words "thank you" were spelled out for her with fireworks. The Head of College described her as having had a unique and irreplaceable role in the College.

Her stepson, Norman, wanted to say how very grateful he is to the staff at nearby Hethersett Hall for all the care, attention and sensitivity which was given to Elizabeth while she was being looked after there for the last three years of her life.