Bridget Robinson Studentship in Mathematics or Music

The studentship is intended to benefit a student specialising in one of the subjects that interested and inspired Bridget throughout her life.

Born in Guildford, Bridget grew up with her elder sister in Surrey. She was part of an extended European family with links across Austria, Belgium, France, Germany, Hungary, the Netherlands and the USA. Holidays were often spent with her maternal grandmother and cousins in Nijmegen and her paternal grandparents and cousins in Bruges. A talented musician and singer, she played the flute and the piano and loved to sing in a church choir. Music was important to her, possibly for its transcendental qualities but also no doubt for its harmony, symmetry and order, and reflected another interest of hers: Mathematics.

After gaining a Certificate in Education at Homerton in 1972, her first teaching post was at Glendowers where she taught Mathematics throughout the school. In 1981 she enrolled as a mature student at Bedford College. Dr Hamish Rae (retired) remembers her there as having a passion for Mathematics, aware that it was a subject where hard work and determination were among the requisites for success. She was indeed a determined, resolute student and duly graduated with a BSc in Mathematics in 1985, going on to teach at two other schools.

Bridget had high ideals and formed strong and long lasting friendships. She was painstaking in everything she did and her gentle approach to life was unhurried. From her beautifully formed, neat handwriting to her dressmaking, needlework and stained glass, she strived for perfection. Some of the inspiration for her creativity came from her visits to the Greek Islands, her favourite being Symi, born of a strong interest in ancient Greece.
Bridget’s life was to change irrevocably in 2014, however, when she suffered a profound brain injury. Her family were advised to expect that she would not be able to walk again and that she was unlikely to make any significant progress. After spending nearly five months in different hospitals, she was transferred to the Royal Hospital for Neuro-disability in Putney where she benefited from three months of rehabilitation. From there she went to live with her younger sister. Her 24-hour care was arranged at home and she was very much loved by all who came into contact with her. Gradually, she was able to find joy and contentment in her life once again despite its many restrictions and limitations. Listening to classical music and Choral Evensong was a regular pastime and therapy. With daily encouragement and routine but more importantly, as a result of her own efforts and tenacity, she did learn again (in a limited way) to eat and drink, to speak, to read, to write, to play a scale on her lap-harp, to stand, to sit and even to walk with the aid of a frame.

Her remarkable progress, sadly, was cut short by a terminal illness in 2017. Family and friends do remember Bridget’s unassuming, gentle personality, her lovely smile and the precision in everything that she did. She would be pleased that a student of one of the subjects that she pursued, and possibly the one that she taught, can benefit in some small way from this studentship.