

Pamela Liebeck (1930-2012)

Pamela grew up in Surrey and attended Somerville College Oxford from 1949 to 1952, where she read Mathematics. She then trained to be a maths teacher at Cambridge and started her teaching career. In 1953 she married Hans Liebeck, a fellow maths student at Oxford. In 1955 they moved to South Africa where Hans took up a lectureship at Cape Town University. They stayed there for six years, during which time Pam did some teaching at the university, studied for a music degree, and brought up her two small children. In 1961 Hans was offered a new post at Keele University and they moved back to England. They had their third child in 1963. As the children were growing up, Pam resumed her interest in teaching maths and took up a post in teacher training in mathematics at Madeley College of Education and later at Keele University. Dave Miller (Department of Education, Keele) wrote that she was

‘a truly wonderful colleague who had impact on all who met her through her enthusiasm and her great knowledge and understanding of maths and how it is learnt by children’.

Her Penguin book *How Children Learn Mathematics*, first published in 1982, is still in use in teacher training courses to this day.

Alongside her studies at Somerville, Pam was a keen sportswoman. She was a cricket and hockey blue and captain of the college tennis team. In later life she played squash at county level and tennis both competitively and for fun, only stopping through illness at the age of 77.

Pam loved the arts and especially music. It was through playing the cello that she met Hans when they started playing string quartets together at Oxford. They continued to play chamber music throughout their lives. Pam was also a pianist, singer, and composer. Her works included string quartets, piano music, songs, and the score for a silent comedy film called ‘One Man and His Dog’, produced by her friend from Cape Town, Donald Black. This won a national best sound award in 1973 and can still be found on the internet, through the East Anglian Film Archive.

Pam leaves three children and five grandchildren.