

## VALERIE GENTRY

Valerie was born in London during the war, and like many children brought up close to the river, was bombed out more than once, and evacuated. Her parents separated when she was young, and her own experience of a dysfunctional family was her motivation in deciding upon her career. She trained for six years as a psychotherapist at the Tavistock Clinic in London, and worked for, among others, the University of Cambridge Counselling Service, as well as CRUSE, the bereavement counselling charity.

She served for several years on the Arts Society Executive Committee, as Visits Secretary, organising many day trips, and she was an enthusiastic member of the Gardens Group, and a keen participant in the annual holidays. More recently, she became a volunteer Historic Church Recorder, working for six years on All Saints, St Ives, and St Peter and St Paul, Fenstanton, until declining health prevented her from continuing.

As for so many, her way of life became much restricted by the necessity of shielding during the two years of Covid, but she never lost her pleasure in the natural world - watching from her garden in the shadow of the Old Bridge the life of the river - the swans and their cygnets, the sand martins nesting in the embankment wall, being hailed by the passing river traffic, her own launch, Badger, bobbing at her mooring. In spite of increasing illhealth, her sensibility remained acute; her outlook on humanity perceptive, broadminded and compassionate.

She leaves a much-loved daughter, Helen, and son, Paul, her four grandchildren - and three great-grandchildren, whose arrival during the last years of her life brought her so much joy.