



## Helen Bligh

**Helen Bligh** is an inspiring woman who is part of our wider Kendrick Family.

She recently won a battle against breast cancer, which is a major achievement. On top of the cancer treatment itself patients like Helen, also deal with physical struggles like a weakened immune system and mental challenges such as loneliness. Despite this, Holly's mum has still managed to stay happy and take on the organisation of the Whitley Carnival!

**She is a huge inspiration to us all.**



## Jayne Green

**Jane Green** works for Thames Valley Police as a detective, training other aspiring detectives, but she occasionally works on cases as well. She has recently been diagnosed with Rheumatoid Arthritis, which is an autoimmune condition (meaning her immune system, which would normally fight diseases and infections, is attacking her joints instead). This causes pain and swelling in her hands if not treated, and the drugs she takes shut down her immune system, leaving her susceptible to other diseases. Despite all this, she goes to the gym every other day and walks and runs regularly. She still works, does housework, cycles, crochets - however it makes all this more painful for her. She powers through all this, and always makes time to take her daughters to football and supports on the side lines.

**Thanks to Imogen, Jane Green is an inspiring woman who is part of our wider Kendrick Family.**



## Dr Sally Dilley

**Sally Dilley** (née Tigwell) was born in Reading and attended Kendrick School from 1972-1979. She went on to study Medicine at Southampton University - she was the first member of her family to go to university and the only member of her year group at Kendrick to study Medicine (very different from now!)

She spent nearly 30 years working as a GP at the same practice in Chelmsford. Very unusually for the 1980s and 90s, she was a full-time working mother while her husband, Peter, looked after their two children. She was also involved with training, appraising, and inspecting other GPs and in 2015 she was elected a Fellow of the Royal College of General Practitioners in recognition of her reputation for excellent clinical practice and patient care.

She took early retirement in 2018 due to ill health after being diagnosed with an aggressive and unusual form of cancer. Thanks to the expert treatment of other medical professionals, she has continued to enjoy a good quality of life while undergoing treatment and was interviewed by the BBC about the pioneering drug trial in which she took part. She continues to be active as a volunteer, including acting as a judge for the Macmillan Professional Awards and being part of the patient participation group for cancer services in Cambridge. In 2022, she walked the entire Suffolk Coast Path with her younger son, Stephen - who started teaching at her old school in 2023!

**A very inspiring story and woman.**





## Sadie Miles

Peighton's mum, **Sadie** has a hearing impairment and has endured many surgeries because of it. This means she struggles to hear people every day, but she still pushes through with a smile on her face. Alongside, her job, Sadie is also a carer for Peighton's disabled sister. All in all, she is a very busy lady juggling a job, her family and home.

Peighton is very inspired by her Mum because no matter what the world has thrown at her she still perseveres.

Perseverance is a fantastic trait shown by many inspiring individuals.

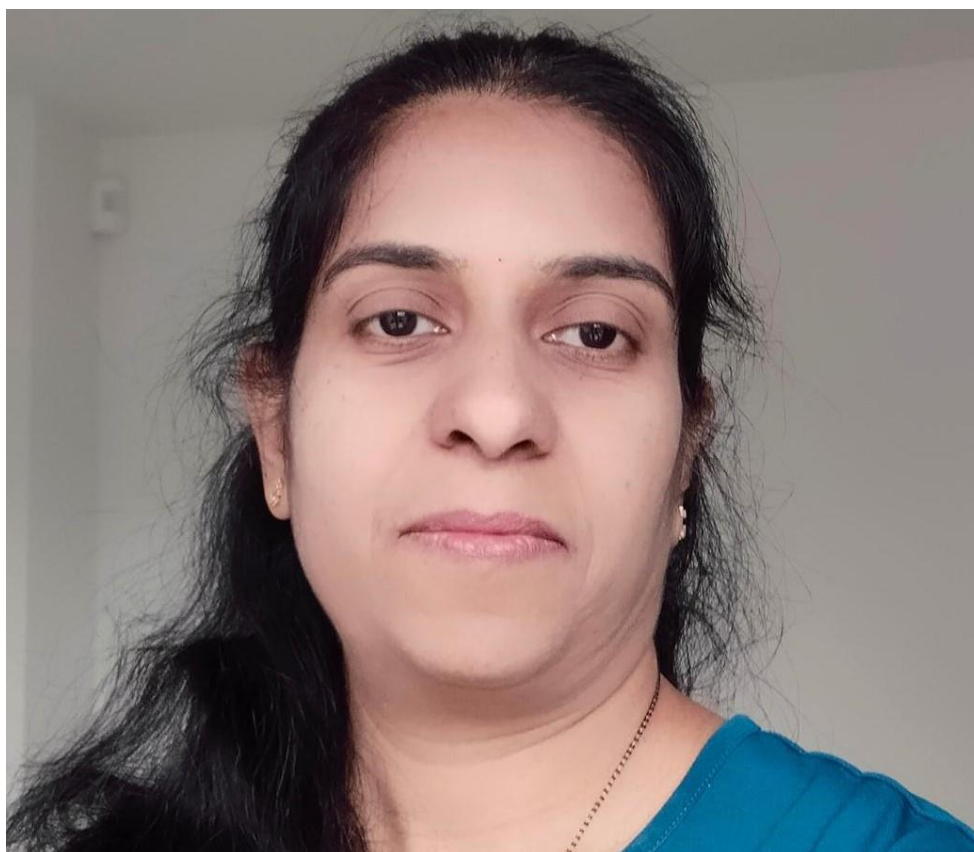


## Saliha Meliani

Tasnim's inspiring story occurred in Algeria when her dad was around six years old. They lived together at the top of a block of flats with Tasnim's two aunts. One night a terrible earthquake started the family were woken by parts of the ceiling caving in, and the sounds of screaming were everywhere. **Saliha** shielded her young children from the falling rubble and waited for help to arrive. After some time, she realized it wasn't coming so, she hoisted one daughter onto her back, and carried her son and other daughter under each of her arms. Somehow, amidst the turmoil, she ran while carrying all three children down eight flights of stairs, and the building was crumbling all around her. They managed to get out safely and waited for the earthquake to cease.

We agree with Tasnim in thinking that her grandma's actions were amazing, she saved all three of her children's lives.

**An incredibly inspirational woman.**



## Neelima Datla

Sravya feels her Mum Neelima is an inspirational woman. Sravya has great respect for all mothers. Hers in particular works very hard as a software engineer. She is also an amazing carer for Sravya and her sister who always puts their best interests first as well as taking care of the home. Sravya feels that without her amazing mum, things would be very different for the family. Sravya likes the saying, 'a mother's love can never be matched', she wholeheartedly agrees with this sentiment.

**Another inspirational Mum in the Kendrick Family.**



## Garima Singh

Mannet is very proud of her mother – she feels she is the most hardworking person she knows. She always does her very best in everything she does, and her dedication is a big inspiration to her daughter.

She has overcome many barriers in her life, for example when she lost a very close loved one, she didn't stop living her life, she carried on and did her best to make sure he would be proud of who she is today.

She is Mannet's number one role model in everything and she is amazing at making people smile, making them feel loved and feel respected.

**A fantastic inspirational woman.**

# Padmavati Doiphode

Anushka's great grandmother was raised by her aunt, due to having lost her own mother when she was young. At the age of 15, just after completing her GCSEs (equivalent), her aunt married her off to Anushka's great grandfather (it was his second marriage). However, after marriage, my great grandfather's previous wife returned, in spite of my great grandmother having had four children with my great grandfather. During their relationship, she was mistreated due to her husband preferring his previous wife. At the age of 24, she left him taking her four young children with her, and relocated to her brother's town, far away from her in-laws. She stayed with them until she finished her training to become a nurse, so she could independently provide for her four young children without the aid of her family. When she was offered a job as a government nurse, she moved away and settled in a faraway city to give them better opportunities for education. Being a single mother made it incredibly tough for her to raise her four children, especially with limited earnings. Despite all this, she refused to take aid from her family, as well as her husband and in-laws, as it was her decision to leave and raise her children independently. She struggled with not only financial difficulties, but also the challenges of being one of the very few women in her time to work for a living. She raised all four children to become very successful, one of them being my grandfather who is now a retired college headteacher. During the last few years of her life, she struggled with paralysis, so my grandfather took care of her. This meant that she grew very close to my mother, reminding all her granddaughters the importance of women's education and independence. Her inspiring story showed how even through all these setbacks, she decided that it would be best for her to step out and raise her children on her own.

**A very inspiring story of female independence.**





## Dr Jacqueline Nolte

Ms Nolte's has a sister called **Jacqueline** – they both grew up in an extremely authoritarian society built upon institutionalized racism and the ideology of what was known as apartheid, South Africa. It was blatantly designed to protect the interests of a colonial white minority settler society and that settler society went on to classify people according to race. Our ancestry is a mixture of settler and slave ancestry, and people were classified according to race and then accorded different privileges regarding whether they were seen as so-called whites or so-called non whites. They were forced to live in separate places, accept different health systems, educational systems and were prohibited by law from sexual relations and marriage across these classified races. It was a brutal and militarized society.

Jacqueline was born in 1957, shortly after the first treason trial in South Africa, which is when the African National Congress had been identified by the country as a major threat (the ANC was the political liberation party of which Nelson Mandela was one of the primary architects). The terrible events of Sharpeville in South Africa, were a formative turning point in her upbringing and by the time she'd left school, she was already quite politicized working with young university students, just up the road from her high school, learning a lot about revolution and the theories of resistance. When she got to university herself the Black high schools were literally in flames, protesting against forced use of Afrikaans as an official language and boycotting the system. So, she with some other students,

set up safe spaces for these youths who were without anywhere to go during the day. They established what were called open schools and community arts projects and alternative educational environments in which youths could gather and learn. Her university years were dedicated to learning to work in NGOs and when she left university, she began a career in academia whilst still working in various NGOs until the point that she realized she either had to leave the country or make a choice - a choice to put her life on the line in the same manner as the young men who had chosen to put their lives on the line - young, primarily Black men who had decided to fight for their rights.

This was a huge decision to move from above-ground cultural and political work to joining an underground cell in the militarised wing of the ANC (uMkhonto we Sizwe). She worked in this capacity for 8/9 years until 1994 risking her freedom and her life. Even though liberation movements were unbanned in 1992, they had to remain underground because of the period of attempted destabilization of democracy between 1990-94. She says those years were intense, difficult and terrifying, but at the same time, heady and exciting because the new constitution was being negotiated. Being a proud part of the LGBTQ community, she was particularly intent upon getting LGBTQ rights entrenched within the constitution itself. She was one of those integral to the success thereof.

Suffering from PTSD, she moved to Canada where she respected the democratic structures and specifically Canada's work on human rights. She took a teaching post at the University of Fraser Valley and went on to become Dean of the Arts Faculty. She continued to campaign for human rights in various political, cultural and women's organizations and has dedicated her career to promoting intercultural dialogue. She established the UFV Peace and Reconciliation Centre and even in retirement, still designs and delivers courses on Peace and Conflict – Equity-Based Dialogue, Mediating Conflict and Conflict Transformation.

Jacqueline is an Art History expert focussing on contemporary South African culture, works produced during the apartheid era, the anti-apartheid struggle, the era of negotiations and the period of the first democratic government. In her own words she is “deeply committed to the education of citizens who will take their role of citizenship responsibly and ask questions about how they can contribute to a more just society. And I also take our educational mandate very seriously because access to education was denied in South Africa to most of the population and this was a privilege for an elite few.”

**Ms Nolte is extremely proud of her inspiring sister; and so are we!**



## Mrs Dale Vaughan

**Dale** is inspiring in many ways. You may recognise her as our housekeeper here at Kendrick. Her daughter Leanne (who also works at Kendrick) has nominated her for her kindness and thoughtfulness.

Dale has worked very hard at our school for many years, but she also works hard at home looking after her husband and three daughters. She is the rock of their family who supports them all in everything they do, without judgement and not allowing them to give up on their dreams.

Dale is a strong woman who could inspire us all. Hard-working but always makes time for those around her.

**We are happy that Dale is a part of our Kendrick Family.**



## Valerie Davies

Mrs Mayers' mother, **Valerie Davies** was born in South Wales in the 1930s. She moved to London to train to be a nurse. She then continued her training and qualified as a midwife, cycling round Brixton to help mothers give birth. She continued to train and then qualified as a Health visitor, working with young children and the elderly. She prioritised her career at a time when women were not expected to do so, and at one point split up with her then boyfriend to focus on her training. A year later they reunited, married, and left her profession to raise her family. She later went back to work when she was asked to apply for a job as a Health Visitor again. Mrs Mayers regrets not asking her more about her life, particularly since 'Call the Midwife' has been on the TV. She was quiet and gentle and wanted to help people although she could be firm when needed.

**Another dedicated, inspiring woman.**





## Valerie Gwynneth Mayer

Mrs Mayer's daughter, Valerie Gwynneth Mayer was named after her grandmother. At the age of 5 she announced that she was going to go to Kendrick when she was 11. She was 6<sup>th</sup> on the waiting list after the entrance exam and was offered a place a week later. She enjoyed school, made the most of her opportunities and worked hard. She was on the leadership team in the sixth form, completed the Duke of Edinburgh Scheme and played the trombone. After school she completed a Zoology degree and then decided to apply for Teach First. She is keen to make a difference and currently shares the Head of Science role in an inner-city school in Bristol. Many of the students come from difficult backgrounds and do not speak English as a first language. She has always been interested in environmental issues and is also aware of other people's needs and is willing to participate in community and charity events. She is keen on travel and takes time to experience other cultures. She recently took a year out to travel to New Zealand on a working visa. She is not afraid to challenge her mum's views when she disagrees but will also ask for her advice and support her decisions. Mrs Mayer's admires the person she has become and feels lucky to have her as a daughter.

**What an inspiration to us here at Kendrick.**

**Inspiring women in our family  
by Rebecca (8PB) and Mrs Stephanie Neale (Admin  
and Student Welfare Team)**

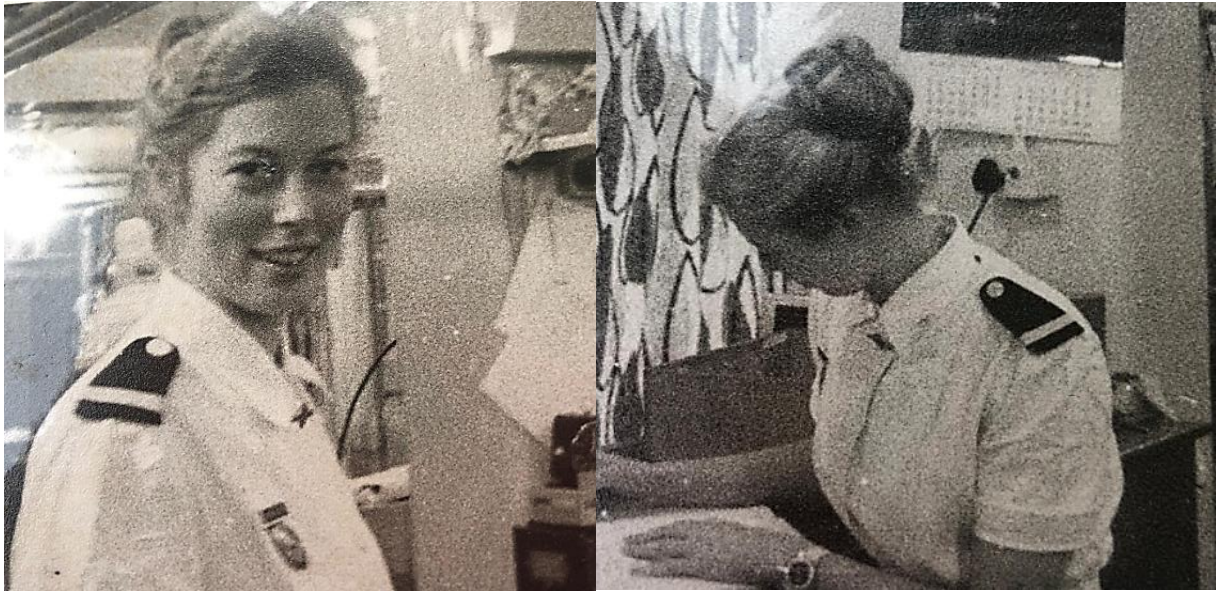


## **Greta (Margareta) Malmberg**

Mrs Neale's (late) maternal grandmother and Rebecca's great grandmother, who was born in Sweden in 1900 and went on to become one of the first women doctors in the UK. Greta (Margareta) Malmberg came to England aged 8, the eldest of 3 sisters and speaking no English. She learnt very quickly and moved from a school offering only very rudimentary education to one more scholarly and was determined to pass the exams which would enable her to enter medical school. She duly did and joined King's College Medical School in London. At the time, there were very few female medical students – this was not considered an appropriate career for a woman – and indeed the girls were asked to leave a number of lectures when the material being covered was thought to be unsuitable or might overcome their sensibilities, leaving gaping holes in their training. However, Greta fought tooth and nail to pursue her chosen field of community paediatrics, even lying about her age, enabling her to continue into working well into her 70s (including changing the birth date in her passport – we do not encourage either of these practices!). After the Second World War, petrol was very short, but being a doctor, she was allowed to drive a car for the performance of her duties; and

in her later years she was invited to be a “guinea pig” for the new treatment being researched – hormone replacement therapy. Above is a newspaper article Steph’s mother found, which was written shortly before Greta retired.

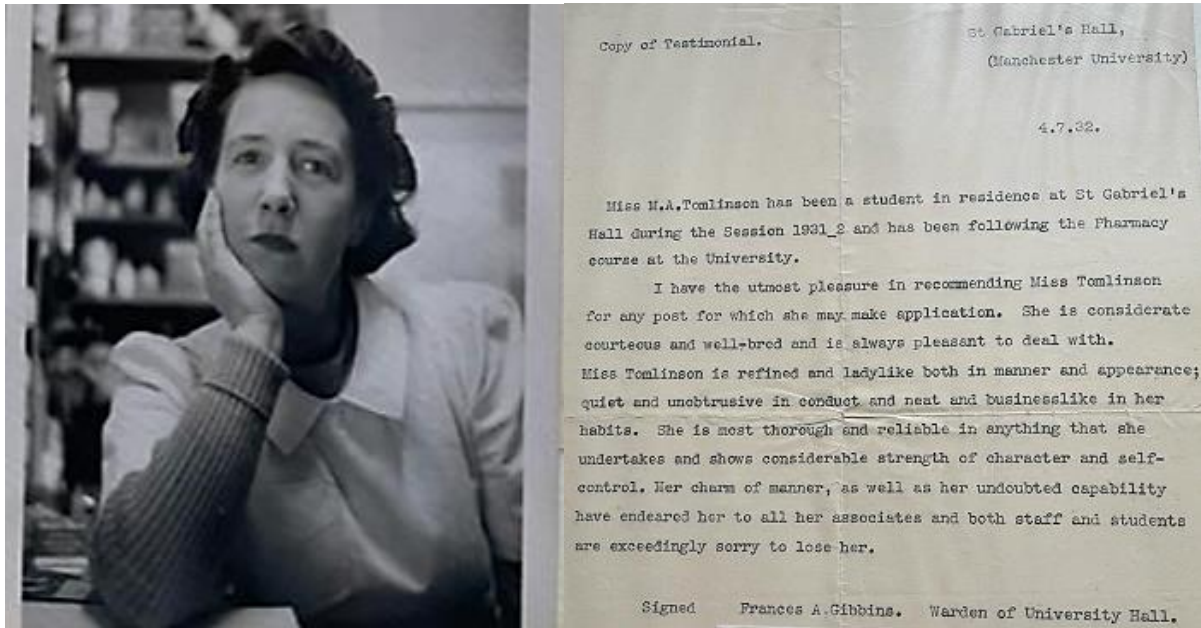




## Jo Blowfield (née Lewis)

Mrs Neale's mother, Josephine (Jo), always knew she wanted to do something medical too, but found academia much more challenging than her own mother, in particular maths. Physiotherapy was a relatively new field at the time, and she decided this might be a good compromise. There were only 18 girls in Jo's sixth form doing A Levels as hardly any studied them – the majority who continued school beyond O Levels joined what was known as "General Sixth", where they learnt homemaking skills or those suited to basic office work. Although neither maths nor science subjects at A Level were required for medical school then, a certain level of education was and Jo achieved 3 A Levels in English, French and History before being admitted to Middlesex Hospital Medical School. She spent her entire career practising physiotherapy at Mount Vernon and Harefield Hospitals in Middlesex, working particularly with the plastic surgery unit with burns and motor accident victims needing rehabilitation and helping stroke patients regain their mobility. Jo is a big part of our family and remains a great role model to her three children and seven grandchildren. Here are a couple of photos of Jo working in hospital.





## Margaret Tomlinson

Rebecca's (late) paternal great grandmother, coincidentally Margaret, was born in Manchester in 1909, another gifted scholar and keen sportswoman. After school she asked to go on to university, but her father told her she must go to finishing school in Switzerland instead. When she returned, she insisted on being allowed to join university and qualified as a Pharmacist at Manchester University. During the Second World War she lived and worked in Highgate and Muswell Hill, losing her home twice in bombing raids. At the end of the war, she decided to make a fresh start, travelling to South Africa, where she took up an appointment as a pharmacist and married in 1947. Apartheid drove the family back to England, where they settled in North Harrow with their children and when her husband died suddenly, Margaret returned to work aged 64 to support the family. This involved a partial retraining since Britain had moved to the metric system. She worked full time for Moss Chemists as a locum, until she retired aged 75. Here is a picture of Margaret and her letter of recommendation received on graduation.

**A very inspiring family!**