

## FAMILY ANNOUNCEMENTS

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### OBITUARIES

#### TOBY GAVIN FREEMAN

died at the Royal Free Hospital on October 7, 2016. His death was unexpected and he is greatly missed by his family and friends. Funeral to be held at 11am on 23rd November at the Golders Green Crematorium. All Enquiries please contact: Co-operative Funeralcare Maida Vale Tel: 0207 723 0444.

#### BENJAMIN CREME,

aged 93,  
Died peacefully at home on October 24th, with his family around him. Much loved husband of Phyllis, father to Julian, Lucis and Tara, grandfather to Sonya, Noah and Evie, he will be missed by many throughout the world.

#### GRUN, JUNE

Beloved widow of George, mother of Lucia and Michael, grandmother of George, died very peacefully after a short illness on 28th October 2016 aged 88. Private funeral. Donations, if desired, to The Disabled Living Foundation: dlf.org.uk

### BIRTHDAY MEMORIES

#### HAPPY BIRTHDAY MOM AND DAD

4th and 9th of November

We know that you are both at rest and doing what Angels normally do... Watch over those of us who are here carrying on for you.



May you both have a wonderful Birthday. Celebrate with those who are gone before and we will celebrate here for you. With our undying love. Princess, the girls... Kirstein and Karon, and your grand children. Alex, Samuel, Emma and Abigail

### FUNERAL DIRECTORS

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### IN MEMORIAM

#### IN MEMORIAM TANOO MYLVAGANAM

First year anniversary 5th November 2016  
Beloved Daughter, Sister and Aunt. Forever in our Hearts. Your Sister and family.

#### Remembering a loved one



For more details phone: **08456 714460**  
or email [norma.reeve@archant.co.uk](mailto:norma.reeve@archant.co.uk)

## OBITUARY

# Book world mourns a 'remarkable' agent

Liz Thomson

[editorial@hamhigh.co.uk](mailto:editorial@hamhigh.co.uk)

The book world is in shock at the sudden death last week of agent Carole Blake, co-founder of the Blake Friedmann Literary Agency, established in 1982 and based in Camden Town.

Blake lived for many years in Whitehall Park before relocating to Woodside Park where a magnificent penthouse allowed her to give free rein to her various collecting habits which, besides books, included paintings, jewellery, handbags, shoes (she was a benign Imelda Marcos), dolls' houses and rare gins.

For Blake was a woman of enthusiasms and to be a friend or a client (who inevitably became friends: prima donnas were not welcome) was to share in those enthusiasms, and she in yours.

Blake Friedmann represents some 150 authors, Blake herself around 25, including Joseph O'Connor, Lawrence Norfolk, Barbara Erskine, Anne de Courcy, Julian Stockwin and Peter James.

She had pared down the list as she headed toward her biblical three-score years and ten and with Julian Friedmann (her ex-husband, with whom she continued to work companionably) had restructured the agency to ensure that all staff shared in its success and its future.

Blake, author of the bestseller *From Pitch to Publication: Everything You Need to Know to Get Your Novel Published* (Macmillan), was a remarkable figure whose career spanned 54 years. A working class girl who loved books, she planned to be a librarian until her history teacher suggested publishing.

At 16, she joined Rainbird: "Everyone had a degree, or several. They seemed very sophisticated and worldly-wise. I was shy, nervous, but excited to be working with such people, many of whom remain friends," she wrote in a piece to mark her 50th year in the business.

Her first job was as secretary to the editors of a 10-volume art encyclopaedia and she "absorbed information like a sponge". Eight years later she was rights manager at Michael Joseph, securing inter-



■ Carole Blake died suddenly last week, aged 70.

**“ Blake was a terrific asset to publishing, loved and respected in equal measure by friends and colleagues around the world**

Liz Thomson

national deals for the likes of Dick Francis, Spike Milligan, James Baldwin, James Herriot and H E Bates.

Decades later, as a highly successful agent, she continued to read "the slush pile", the unsolicited submissions which many agents and editors these days consider beneath them.

Michael Ridpath's manuscript for *Free to Trade* arrived just as news was emerging that Barings Bank was in trouble, brought down by Nick Leeson's speculative trading. Blake read it in the bath and knew immediately that she was in possession of a remarkable and timely debut. Her five-way auction broke UK records and the book has since sold in more than 30 languages.

Unusually for an agent, Blake was unselfishly involved in every aspect of the book trade: she taught courses and employed paid work experience students long before it became the norm, and they weren't there to make tea and do the Xeroxing; she participated with gusto in various publishers' pantos, always happy to send herself up; and she was a tireless fundraiser for The Book Trade Charity.

Her remarkable career is a reminder that working class kids who leave school at 16 can have much to give.

She was proud of her background and acknowledged that in today's snotty world where money and background talk she would not have stood a chance. That would have been a great loss to the trade.

Blake was a terrific asset to publishing, loved and respected in equal measure by friends and colleagues around the world.

She was kind, generous, funny – took her job seriously but not herself. She was a force of nature, larger than life, a character, a one-off. We will never see her like again.

Blake died less than a month after her 70th birthday having suffered a pulmonary embolism during treatment for cancer.

## Memorial celebration for campaigner

A memorial gathering will be held to celebrate the life of relentless social justice campaigner Angela Loutit-Sinclair.

The event, on Saturday December 3, will include speeches, readings, music, slides and a film to honour her tireless and pioneering

spirit

Angela died in August this year, aged 95. She didn't let age get the better of her and continued campaigning in her latter years. At 92, she protested at the Whittington Hospital against cuts to services.

Her three children David,

Stephan and Jessica will host the event at 3.30pm at the church of St Thomas the Apostle, St Thomas Road, Finsbury Park.

Afterwards drinks, tea, coffee and snacks will be served at the Islington Ecology Centre in Drayton Park, N5 1PH.