



A tribute to my beloved sister-in-law, Pat Leigh-Pearson.

I first knew Pat when I was ten years old. We shared a love of horses and Pat Boone records! Pat's mum and dad, Tom and Flo Simpson were lovely people and were devoted to their daughter. Pat was very close to her parents and later they moved down to Suffolk.

When I was twelve, I was lucky enough to be asked to be a bridesmaid at the wedding along with Beryl, a close friend of Pat's who was the matron of honour.

Pat possessed a fun-loving personality and whenever we met that was the order of the day. Many times we used to meet at Thoresby Hall, a place that Pat loved. She fell in love with a peacock called George and looked for him every morning whilst going down to breakfast. On a visit to Sherwood Forest we donned Robin Hood hats and promptly starting singing the Robin Hood song as we walked through the forest, we got funny looks from the other walkers I think it was because we were out of tune but we didn't care! One of the tricks Pat liked to play was placing price tags on your back which caused great amusement to passers by! On one occasion, I took a large life-like puppy puppet that I called Waldo. Pat thought it would be great fun to walk around the hotel one morning with him perched on my shoulder. Many of the guests thought he was real and caused great excitement, so much so we were asked to take him down in the evening when they provided entertainment for the guests, but neither of us were brave enough! Pat and I often chuckled over the cream tea we once ordered at Thoresby, it was enormous!

On a visit to Suffolk, it was near to Simon, her son's birthday and we decided to purchase a bottle of cider. Michael said there was a cider press not far, so off we set. Pat and I went in and were amazed to see how many different varieties and could not

make up our minds. The owner was very helpful and produced several tasting pots. After several minutes of tasting and still unsure we decided on the nearest bottle. On hitting the open air we both collapsed into uncontrollable laughter and started singing. We were bundled into the car and taken straight home!!!!

During visits to Suffolk, Pat and I would often saunter into Halesworth and spend an hour or two over coffee and cakes at a local café nattering away. Delightful!

Pat's passion was reading and she introduced me to several authors as she knew the genre I enjoyed and through Pat I have had many hours of enjoyable reading. On hearing that her eye sight was failing, I sent Pat a Kindle so that she could enlarge the text.

Up the Reds!! Although Pat had never seen a game at Old Trafford, she was a fervent supporter of Manchester United and indeed sent money to the supporters fund. When United won the Champions League, I purchased a flag for Pat and on a visit to Thoresby presented her with it, she was thrilled to bits and I am sure she wanted to display it through the car window on the way home!

On a visit to Thoresby, we saw this plaque in the shop. Pat and I both bought one and gave it to each other. It is something I shall always cherish.



Whenever I left, Pat always got out her hanky and waved furiously. That is what she is doing now. I could not have wished for a more loving, kind and caring sister-in-law, in fact we used to call each other sisters. I would like to thank Pat for all the happy memories. My only regret is that we did not see more of each other. Although we cannot see each other, she will never leave me, Pat will always be my loving sister.

Kathleen xxxx.