

Elaine (Oppenheimer) Jay - BIOGRAPHY

I left South Africa at the end of 1965, travelled extensively and then worked in London for about 18 months. Married in 1966. Returned to S.A. for 2 years 1967-69 but returned to the UK where I have been ever since. Divorced in 1974 I had one long relationship but my fiancé died suddenly at the age of 56, I then remarried have two sons, one from first marriage, one from the second and am now divorced again.

After working in PR and Promotions for a variety of organisations, I set up my own agency in the late seventies and have continued to run this business. As a result of my profession, I have been lucky to travel, have some amazing experiences and meet many interesting people, Prime Ministers, other politicians, well known celebrities, sportsmen and women, even an American President (a brief handshake!)



I have now moved out of London to a village about 40 miles from the capital where I can enjoy the quieter country living whilst still being close enough to travel in to the city for social or business reasons.

I work as an independent PR consultant, from home, with a few clients, and also invigilate during exam times at the local senior school.



Elaine with her sons at Daniel's 21st birthday – February 2006.

My hobbies include golf (badly) dancing (tap, salsa, modern) reading, running a bridge group and a member of the Bedfordshire Astronomical Society.

The latter includes wrapping up very warm on clear nights freezing and looking at the stars and planets through telescopes with a whole bunch of similarly mad people. I am involved in rescuing baby or injured hedgehogs and I am on the social committee at the golf club.



Elaine at the London 'mini-reunion' – November 2013

My memories of Northview are fond ones, though my first year at the school was very difficult.

I arrived in the 2nd term of Form 2, from Brakpan High, so friendships had been formed years before by the girls at the school, many who had been at primary school together. I was very young and gauche, and sadly badly teased. These days they would call it bullying. However, things perked up in the latter stages of Form 3 and from then on I felt at home and enjoyed the rest of at school.

My clearest memory of my two friends Paula Myers and Helene Toker, who are both sadly are no longer with us, was during our final cooking exam at Domestic Science in Matric. We were all nervous, panicky and really under pressure, when both the girls burnt their croutons. I, much too occupied in trying to hide my left over potato, (you were not supposed to have any leftovers), glanced over when they showed me their blackened, smoking, offerings, and said "lovely", not really noticing their disasters! Not much help to them, and they never forgot my lack of sympathy. As to my leftover potato, I put it on top of my head, under my white cap, and finished the entire cooking session with it there, disposing of it when leaving the exam! Helene also had leftover cheese, so she was throwing pieces out of the window and Form 1 girls were catching these.

Mrs Mac totally trusted us, she left us to our own devices often during the long exam, hence we managed to do these naughty things.

Elaine

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