

# The Cross-Over Interview with Rosemary Abernethy Sunday 3rd July, 2011

Q1 Where were you born and live as a child?

A *I was born in Hillingdon Hospital and lived in Hayes Town until I went to University*

Q2 What were you good at in school?

A *I wasn't very good or very bad at anything really. I liked English and History.*

Q3 Do you have brothers and sisters?

A *One brother who is 7 years younger than me so I could boss him!*

Q4 Did you go to Church as a young person?

A *Yes, at the end of our road was St. Anselm's church where I was Confirmed. In those days, it was normal to dress in a sort of Nun's habit for confirmation!*

Q5 Do you still have school-day friendships?

A *My best friend at school now lives in the South of France. We often exchange letters and cards. I made lots of friends at University and I still meet up with them regularly.*

Q6 Are your family living near you?

A *No. My father was until he died. One daughter lives in West Drayton and the other in Guernsey. My brother lives in Newmarket and I have a sister-in-law and her family in the USA.*

Q7 Did you attend a University? What did you study?

A *I attended the University of Kent at Canterbury where I studied Social and Political Administration and later Brunel, where I studied for a Masters degree..*

Q8 When and how did you meet your husband?

A *We met at work in the same office*

Q9 How many children do you have?

A *Two grown-up daughters. Ruth is 30 and a Solicitor. Helen is 28 and works in the Human Resources department of a company that provides lighting for stage shows and big events.*

Q10 Do you have hobbies?

A *Flower arranging, of course, but I also enjoy lots of craft work, including knitting, sewing, gardening and reading. We have an allotment as well as a garden.*

Q11 What television do you enjoy?

A *I hardly ever watch television. Partly it is because we are busy and also, I have trouble hearing. Watching t.v. can be hard work for me.*

Q12 What are your favourite food and drink?

A *Salads I enjoy most, and I do like a glass of red wine, and of course, a nice cup of tea!*

Q13 Where do you like to go on holiday?

A *We have travelled a lot. Places we have visited include: Canada, Australia, Vietnam, lots of European destinations, Cuba, India, Sri Lanka, Kerala and lots of visits to the USA.*

Q14 Have you ever been seriously ill?

A *Yes, I have had cancer twice, although I didn't actually feel unwell at the time.*

Q15 Do you support a football team?

A *Not really, but if I had to say one team it would have to be Liverpool FC because my husband comes from Liverpool.*

Q16 Do you enjoy sports and do you cycle?

A *No, I don't cycle and I am not really interested in sports.*

Q17 Which is your favourite restaurant?



- A *There is a lovely little restaurant called Le Channel on the sea-front at Calais. The food is fantastic and it brings me happy memories.*
- Q18 Do you have a favourite song?
- A *I like the songs of Simon and Garfunkel, like Bridge over Troubled Waters.*
- Q19 Do you enjoy going to the cinema? What is your favourite film?
- A *We do not often attend the cinema but I did like The Lord of the Rings.*
- Q20 What kind of books do you read?
- A *Anything to send me to sleep, such as Whodunnits, or anything really, so long as I have something to read.*
- Q21 What kind of work do you do?
- A *I am a retired Probation Officer, but towards the last few years of my career, I became an Equalities Officer, which means it was my job to make sure that things were done fairly for everyone, whatever disability or problem they were struggling with.*
- Q22 Do you ever get upset?
- A *Yes, especially when I forget things or if I inadvertently upset someone else.*
- Q23 Do you deal with difficult things?
- A *As a Probation Officer, I dealt with many difficult situations and many difficult people. After being on trial and found guilty, there are still some people who just want to do the right thing and my job was to help them see things in a better light so that they could live happily in the community.*
- Q24 Do you have lots of time for home and family?
- A *I do now. When I was working full-time, it was much more difficult. Commuting took up a lot of my time.*
- Q25 Have you ever contributed to a publication?
- A *Yes, I contributed a chapter to a book on the management of foreign national offenders and my research into the subject has been published.*
- Q26 Who does the house work at home?
- A *A cleaner! But when it comes to household chores we tend to do different things but share the total burden.*
- Q27 Are you afraid of anything?
- A *I feel afraid if I am in a situation where I am not sure what is going to happen.*
- Q29 Are you allergic to anything?
- A *No.*
- Q30 Do you like children's programmes on t.v.?
- A *I don't watch nowadays, but when my children were younger I enjoyed Postman Pat and Camberwick Green and The Wombles. From my own childhood I remember with pleasure programmes like Muffin the Mule and Bill and Ben and Captain Pugwash.*
- Q31 Why do you like flowers?
- A *Because they are so beautiful. I find flower-arranging very peaceful and calming, especially in a church.*
- Q32 What do you hope for in the rest of your life?
- A *Good health for Peter, our family and me.*
- Q33 Do you have any questions for us?

*Rosemary questioned the children about how they saw flowers and what they meant in the language of flowers, mentioning Kate Middleton's wedding bouquet.*

