



Betty's story

Family and Home

Getting to know Betty

Jigsaw puzzles, books and visits from her daughter occupy her days; and bedtime crosswords help to keep Betty's mind active. The taste of sweet and sour chicken, is worth the risk of heartburn, but coffee is not.

There are 'a million and one' other things to discover about Betty, but what matters most to her is her family and a strong sense of home.

Family Values

Born an only child on the banks of Loch Long, and moving to Ireland as a baby, Betty frequently came home to visit her Scottish family, during which time she became very close with her cousins. Her parents finally settled back in Scotland when Betty was 11, as her granny was unwell and her father wanted to be closer to home.

Betty describes her parents as being firm, but fair people. Always willing to listen to her and taking time to explain boundaries. Betty recognises her family as being the first place where she learned about the world and how to live in it.

One Magical Night

At 17, Betty was invited to a dance at the local youth club, run by one of her older cousins. That night she met 17 year old Willie.

As he walked her home, the pavements glittered with frost, and the couple ventured on a life-long romance.





A Growing Family

5 years later the pair married. As both were only children, they were keen to build their family. First came Carol and then Avril.

Then some years later, came a son-in-law, and grandchildren. Carol remained closer to home, and Betty described her as a blessing and the rock of their family.

Avril and her family moved to the United States, which gave opportunity for long holidays in Texas, and Winnebago trips to Disney Land.

The family has continued to grow, and Betty has great-grandchildren. She enjoys watching videos of them and can see some of the values she grew up with, being instilled into them too.

A Sense of Home

Betty continues to have a keen sense of home as place of respect. She sees her room as her home and sanctuary. Expecting her space to be respected, and to be consulted on any changes.





Together at Home

In 2018, Betty had a series of falls and was admitted to hospital, at the same time Willie was admitted to Hillview. Following a long hospital stay, Betty was reunited with Willie, and both were residents at the home.

Betty recalls the day that they celebrated their 70th wedding anniversary. Willie had been poorly, despite this he made it through their celebrations. Betty recalls with heartfelt kindness, "he would have done anything for me, and I'd have done anything for him". Their celebrations included a visit from the Provost and a card from the Queen.

That same evening, Willie was taken to hospital, a few days later Betty went to say her goodbye.

Betty and Willie had spent 75 years together, and Betty remembers it as very happy life. This is evident in a home filled with photographs of the smiling faces of their family over time and through the generations.

