

Karen Finch

8th May 1921 – 15th April 2018

Celebrating her life and saying farewell



Tuesday 1st May 12:15pm

at

The North Chapel
City of London Cemetery
Aldersbrook Road
London E12 5DQ

Order of Service

Welcome by **Julian Graff**, family friend

Ruth Sinding Karen's sister

Katrina Finch Karen's daughter

Frances Lennard Director, Centre for Textile
Conservation

Rosalind Janssen Early Textiles Study Group

Joshua and **Jacob Cohen** Karen's grandsons

Alan Cohen Karen's son-in-law

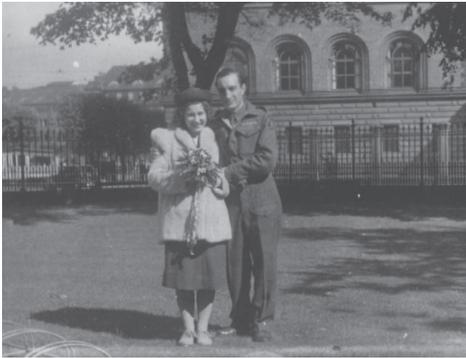
Musical Interludes

Viking Music: **Sounds of Odin**

Eric Páske: **Jeg er Traet**

Harlem Kiddies: **May-Fair Boogie**

Svend Asmussen: **June Night**





Jacob's chain mail and Joshua's coat of arms, made by their mormor



A history of textiles is virtually a history of civilisation, for man, all over the world, has made textiles from earliest times: nets to catch food and fabrics to cover himself for warmth, decoration and visual enjoyment. It is not known exactly when man began to weave but there are cave pictures from about 5000 B.C. which show primitive looms.

...history is closely connected with textiles, and those which have survived to the present day are part of our heritage and need our care and protection if they are to give pleasure and knowledge of the past to those who come after us.

Quoted from *The Care and Preservation of Textiles* by Karen Finch and Greta Putnam

For her 80th birthday, Karen made a rare venture back into the kitchen to make an army-sized portion of øllebrød (Danish porridge) for her guests showing she had not lost those girlhood skills. She always retained something of the art school party girl, a twinkling eye and coquettish smile, disguising the formidable strength and resolve of purpose that enabled her to achieve success against all odds...

Karen accumulated many honours that reflected her standing at the pinnacle of the conservation profession (OBE, NACF Lifetime Service award, Hon. Fellow IIC, FRSA, D Litt, etc.). Her legacy lies not in such glittering prizes, but in championing textiles as documents of history. She saw in textiles a reflection of the warmth, colour and diversity of humanity, a testimony to our connectedness. She taught us to understand textiles as the embodiment of an ancient form of knowledge, one that is deeply rooted in the land and the seasons.

Philip Sykas, Karen's former student at the TCC at Hampton Court



If you would like to make a donation in Karen's name her preferred charities would be Marie Curie (www.mariecurie.org.uk) and/or Barnardos (www.barnardos.org.uk).

Everybody is welcome to join us for a post-funeral reception at our home at **37 Bisterne Avenue, Walthamstow E17 3QR.**

Thank you for coming to celebrate Karen's life today and for your messages of condolence and support.