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TRIBUTE

In memory of Professor Jan Dewing

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Introduction

Five members of the Post-doctoral International Community of Practice (a subgroup of the Person-centred Practice Research International Community of Practice, of which Jan was formerly the director) came together to agree a process through which we could co-create a poem in memory of Jan. Each of us had developed a relationship with Jan through our doctoral studies, but also through working with her in our organisations and through this journal. These relationships with Jan were unique to each individual but significant for us all.

Individually, we each selected Evoke cards (evokecards.com) that spoke to us about our memories and relationship with Jan. Using the cards, we then recorded a video story, sharing our cards and why we had chosen them. We uploaded the stories to an online database so they could be viewed by us all. While looking at the pictures and listening to the stories, we made notes about what was significant for us within the stories. Subsequently, we met virtually to synthesise the collective themes.

Using the themes, we began to create poem lines and stanzas. These creations were then crafted into the first draft of a poem by Michele. This draft was shared so we could review and refine it until we agreed on the final poem, which appears on the next page.

This approach is aligned with Jan's way of being in the world. Using creativity to unearth our intuitive knowing is something that philosophically and theoretically she inspired us to explore and embrace.

You are Stardust – our friend and mentor Jan

*Look up to the stars – to the person that was and continues to be
We journeyed together around the globe and in our minds
Bringing life and meaning to philosophy and thought
Her work lives on, she lives on, within those who shared the road
We worried if we were good enough to share our work and thoughts
But her mastery and genius always focused on others
Together, we co-created
Teaching us, by not telling us, probing until we figured it out
Challenge, what a challenge! Comfortably uncomfortable
Emancipated woman of women – personhood reigns
Pushing boundaries, digging deeper – moving to the edge
Holding space letting it come, letting it flow
Straight, direct with eyebrows that spoke within contented silence
Loved to shock and shake the tree of life, love and laughter
Unafraid to be afraid, never dropping values
Connecting and re-connecting even from afar – a forever community
Nothing ordinary about this northern soul, now dancing with the little prince among the stars*



JANE STOKES PHOTOGRAPHY