**OBITUARIES**

**Professor Ruth Helyer**

Professor Ruth Helyer passed away suddenly on 19 August 2019. She will be remembered with fondness and admiration by learners and colleagues lucky enough to have worked with her.

Ruth was a mature student herself with personal experience of the benefits and challenges of combining work with study and family commitments. She was able to draw upon her own experience as well as academic scholarship to fuel her passionate commitment to developing Work-Based Learning at higher education level.

Ruth went direct from School to employment and followed a career in banking and then publishing. A part-time degree helped foster a love of English Literature and resulted in a First class award. Further juggling of study with work and family commitments was required as Ruth went on to achieve an MA and then a PhD. Her first academic appointment was as an English Literature Lecturer at the University of Teesside.

Ruth is best known in academia for her work over a twenty year period in the developing field of Work-Based Learning. While at the University of Teesside Ruth became a nationally and internationally regarded expert in Work-Based Learning and developed highly innovative higher education programmes in collaboration with a wide range of employers. In 2013 her contribution to learning and teaching in higher education was recognised by the award of a National Teaching Fellowship. Reflecting upon the award of her Fellowship Ruth described herself as “an avid believer in the power and potential of work-based learning”. In 2017 Ruth joined Leeds Trinity University as their first Professor of Work-Based Learning.

Ruth worked tirelessly to champion Work-Based learning not only with employers and learners but also within the University sector. Amongst a range of publications her most influential may prove to be “Facilitating Work-Based Learning: A Handbook for Tutors” which is an invaluable resource. Another dimension of her promotion of Work-Based learning and her willingness and ability to assist colleagues was her work as Editor in Chief of “Higher Education, Skills and Work-Based Learning” the academic journal of the Universities Vocational Awards Council.

Ruth was a colleague with outstanding ability coupled with good humour, energy, integrity and authenticity. She will be sadly missed by all whose lives she touched.

Ruth is survived by her husband Neil, children Max and Megan and grandchildren Clementine, George and Otto.

Emeritus Professor Jonathan Garnett