

## MARY MENDUS (nee LOWLESS)

25.02.1914 – 11.12.2010



Born on 25<sup>th</sup> February 1914 in Clifton House, Westgate Hill, Mary was the daughter of Norman Dosson Lowless and his wife, Alice. Most of her early life, however, was spent at Orierton House, 74 Main Street. Her initial schooling was at Barnard House, near East End Square, where she was taught by a Miss Sweet, then followed two years in Tenby before being sent to boarding school in Surrey. In this environment she flourished and developed a love of the arts which she maintained for the rest of her life. In July 1936 she married John Mendus, chemist and optician in the Main Street, and their daughter, Rosemary, was born the following year.

In 1946 her enthusiasm for the arts came to a head when she joined forces with Miss Violet Ellis and a few others to form a group known as **The Pembroke Arts Club**. This was a great success, and it meant that prominent lecturers and musicians were invited down to Pembroke to speak to the Club members and thus provide entertainment in an area of the country where little was to be found so soon after the War.



Mary was keen on amateur dramatics and became fascinated with the local street carnivals. Daughter Rosemary remembers - costumes were to be made, late nights spent steaming straw hats to make sombreros, but nothing beat the occasion when, to achieve greater authenticity, a goat was borrowed for the “Welsh women going to market” group. Rosemary had not realised in advance that she was to be the goat’s companion on the back seat of the car sent to collect it!

Mary also worked tirelessly for the RNLI. A founder member in 1949, she went on to be Chairman and Secretary, and claimed to know the best pubs in Pembroke; not for the usual reason but for the drinkers generosity when she came by rattling her lifeboat. *Thank you to Rosemary Bevan (nee Mendus) from the Pembroke Story*