

## Transcript of commemorative impact video statement about Angela Ling

This pen portrait of Angela Ling is spoken on behalf of her mother, Christine Pitt.

My daughter, Angela, was born on the 12<sup>th</sup> of October 1972. A baby sister to her older brother Martin, she was a happy baby who grew into a happy little girl. She enjoyed playgroup and later school. She did well at primary school and had lots of friends, was always enthusiastic to join activities. She played netball, sang in the choir, did swimming, country dancing and played Nancy in the school production of Oliver. She later learned disco dancing, gaining many medals. She had a happy secure childhood with both parents and always enjoyed her time spent with much loved grandparents. She was very able at school and did well at primary school, however, her time at secondary school was not so productive. Although very able, she lost interest in school during her teenage years. She did gain some qualifications though. A few GCSEs and a couple of A levels.

She didn't want to go to uni, and instead worked in the care sector with adults with learning difficulties. She then decided that she would gain some further education and completed an open university degree in social sciences.

During her studies she became very unwell with a neurological condition. After a couple of years and many hospital appointments she was referred to the national neurological hospital in London and eventually diagnosed with a severe vitamin B12 deficiency causing total fatigue, vertigo, and right sided weakness. She even had to take her final degree exam at home with an invigilator present as she needed rest breaks. Such was her determination to pass. Her health did improve to a degree with lifelong B12 injections, although she did have periodic ongoing related problems.

She continued her career working at a secure unit with children and young people who had come to the attention of the law and were very damaged. The work was often challenging and harrowing. She also worked at a probation service.

It was around this time that she met and later married her husband Andy, and it wasn't long before they started a family. She had 4 beautiful children, Jack, Abbie, William and Ethan. They were all very close in age and they were her absolute world. As she had young children, she decided

to embark on a teaching career as she felt this would be more family friendly. She did a post graduate degree in teaching, only completing her final school placement when her youngest baby was just a few months old.

She went on to teach in a primary school for some years, eventually making the move to become a specialist educator advisor for the youth offending team for the Essex County Council, teaching young people who had made, for a variety of reasons, not fared well in the main stream schools. She was an excellent teacher and well-liked by her students and colleagues.

There is so much to tell about my dear Angie. She was kind, generous, clever, bubbly and fun. She was feisty, tenacious, and held strong opinions and was well educated entirely by her own determination. Following on from previous qualifications she went on to get a masters in law and a masters in psychology. She was still studying the further qualifications in education at the time of her death. She was also very empathetic, especially to those worse off than herself. She would always speak to the homeless, give money, food or a blanket, whatever she had at the time, and she was friendly and hospitable and a number of friends of her own and would always welcome many of the children's friends into their family home, sometimes for extended periods.

She was a great animal lover and had been a vegetarian since she was 13 and the last few years a voracious vegan. She had many pets. The children of course had the usual hamsters, rabbits etc. My daughter loved her dogs and at one time had 11 dogs and 5 cats.

As you could tell she could be quite extreme at times. She had a full-time job, additional private tutoring, running the home and looking after 4 children did take its toll on her. All this whilst studying for further qualifications. So life for her was extremely busy. She did get very stressed, understandably so, and had periods of depression. She always made light of this, and I didn't think she was ever seriously depressed, although I did constantly advise her to ease back, but she went her own way. Angela was never a person to do things by halves. In her own words 'you know me mum, I'm all or nothing'.

She was a loving mum and fiercely protective of her children, her family, her home, but most of all her children were everything to her. She had in

the past talked of looking ahead to her retirement years. She told me she just wanted to potter in her home, tend to her garden, grow herbs and vegetables. She had talked of wanting to extend the family home so that her children could bring their children to family events. She recently said she wanted to travel and have family holidays. However, tragically this future was not meant to be.

All above she was our beautiful, precious, irreplaceable daughter and we loved her beyond measure. Our hearts have been shattered into a thousand pieces because she deserved better and so much longer.