

## Anna Mendelssohn (1948-2009)

We are saddened to report the death of Anna Mendelssohn. Anna was one of the defendants in the "Stoke Newington Eight" ("Angry Brigade") trial of 1972. After her release from prison in 1977 she devoted herself to poetry and family life, publishing her work under the nom de plume 'Grace Lake'.



John Barker, one of her co-defendants, paid her this tribute: "Anna was such a dynamo... [She made] a commitment to the life of a poet and mother in which I'm sure she put the same wholehearted conviction she gave to everything. She had shown this to a 'public audience' when defending herself at the Old Bailey trial which could not be forgotten by anyone who witnessed a political passion without cliches."

Having been unwell for a long time, Anna collapsed in February, and was found to have an inoperable brain tumour on the cerebellum. After that she was in hospital, then in a care home for a long time, and then back in hospital. Her friends in Cambridge visited her regularly, but there was little anyone could do for her. She was comfortable most of the time, but disabled by the effects of the tumour, which were rather like having a stroke, and she was unable to do most things without assistance. Her condition deteriorated and for the last two or three weeks she was barely conscious. She had three children and her two daughters who lived in Australia flew in to be at her bedside at the end. Anna died on 15 November and her remains were cremated at Cambridge Crematorium on 20 November 2009.

Anna's friends in Cambridge hope to preserve the large quantity of unpublished manuscripts she left behind — along with her library — and have set up a fund to pay for storage. For further details please contact Peter Riley at [priley@waitrose.com](mailto:priley@waitrose.com)