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Lives remembered: Lorna Arnold



Lorna Arnold

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John Sandalls writes: Even when in her eighties and blind, Lorna Arnold (obituary, [Mar 31](#)) continued to lecture, write books and provide consultancy for TV and radio programme makers. Well into her nineties, her memory was still phenomenal.

I first had dealings with Lorna about 12 years ago when I had cause to delve into the history of atomic energy. Not only was she almost always able to answer my questions, she invariably added some interesting anecdotes. She was probably unique with her wide-ranging knowledge of the science and politics of the nuclear business.

Modest, gentle and quietly spoken, she was respected by many scientists. She succeeded in what was largely a “man’s world”. Many of those eminent scientists became her lifelong friends.

Like many of us who worked for the Atomic Energy Authority, Lorna took great pride in her work and that was what inspired her and kept her busy.

Kate O’Mara

Philip Martin writes: I directed Kate (obituary, [Mar 31](#)) in the BBC Radio 3 production of *Cupid and Psyche* in which she played Venus (who else?). During the three days of the recording I was struck by the inordinate number of male visitors to the studio, some with the flimsiest of excuses. After the read through, I made a few remarks about the adaptation and the style of the production we should aim for. As I was speaking, I became aware that Kate seemed to be making copious notes. Later I said that, although I found this flattering, it seemed rather puzzling. “Oh, darling, my publishers have asked me for an extra 20 pages of my autobiography and they need it by tomorrow.” Later that day Kate lost her voice but returned on the third day with husky tones that made her performance as the goddess Venus sublime.

Marilyn Butler

Tony Moreton writes: Your generous tribute to Marilyn Butler ([Mar 31](#)) did less than justice to her role in breaking one very

important glass ceiling. When she was appointed in 1993 as Rector of Exeter, Oxford, she became the first woman in seven and a half centuries at either Oxford or Cambridge to be appointed head of house. Exeter this weekend (April 4) celebrates the seventh centenary of its foundation and she will be much missed.

0 comments



 **Geoff Arnold** ▾

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