

## **ANNETTE RAWSON**

Ross Trotter adds:

It was Annette who started me using lipspeakers. I used to attend the lipreading classes at the City Lit and met Annette there. We became friends and she knew that I was struggling to cope with my job at the British Library because I was unable to participate properly in any meetings. Colleagues would offer to take notes, but they were so far behind that I had no opportunity to make any contribution. Annette asked if I had considered using lipspeakers, and I had to confess I had never heard of them. I managed to persuade my boss to include £100 in my budget for a trial, and never looked back. Over the years the budget for lipspeakers increased to several thousands. One of Annette's regular lipspeakers and friends, Joyce Phillips, did a lot of those early meetings for me, as did Glenda Bateman. And when I moved to Yorkshire Ann Hebblethwaite became my regular lipspeaker and a valued friend. But none of this would have happened without Annette's encouragement.

I later became a lipspeaking examiner and worked with Annette as a colleague on several occasions. Annette had high standards and expected everyone to come up to them. This did not always make her easy to work with, but it certainly ensured that you only accepted the best. Both lipspeakers and lipreaders have much to thank her for.