



Connie Mae Ford 1912-1998

Vet and Poet

Connie was born in south east London, the youngest of 3 sisters, she was educated at the Haberdasher's School for Girls. She was encouraged to study to be a vet, by her science teacher. She qualified in 1933 at the Royal Veterinary college in London, and then had her own practice. She moved to Nottingham in 1943 and was employed at Sutton Bonington as part of the government's veterinary investigation service specialising in cattle fertility for which she received an MBE in 1970. In 1966, she was elected President of the East Midlands Branch of the British Veterinary Association. In retirement she researched the life and work of Aleen Cust, Britain's first recognised female vet and a biography about her was posthumously published. She also wrote poetry throughout her life and was published under various names eg Olive Pugh, Connie Rivers; in various magazines and publications. She was an active member of the Nottm Poetry Society from 1951 and its chair in the 1980s. Her poem 'The Great Eastern', based on her grandfather's journal, won the John Masefield Prize in 1968. She published 4 books of her own poetry which can be found in Nottingham University's Manuscripts and Special collections along with much other material. She was a lifelong supporter of women's rights and communism. *She is currently the subject of a special study by Elizabeth Ingham for her BA dissertation*