

Marjorie Stoner 1/10/1941- 23/6/2022

We all know Marjorie as a people person. Always thinking of others, always giving and always full of kindness.

She was born Marjorie Sylvia Moon in 1941 in Kirkcaldy on the Firth of Forth, her father being in air sea rescue at Tayport. She was the middle of five children, three girls and two boys. They spent much of wartime on a farm near Banbury and then returned home to South Norwood, in the borough of Croydon.

Marjorie won a scholarship to Coloma Convent Girls' School; she also joined the youth club at South Norwood Methodist Church where she later became the youth club chairman. More importantly though, this is where she met Alan. Their friendship grew and in 1960, when she went off to train as a teacher at the City of Leicester Training College, Alan would hitch hike up to visit her and they began courting. After finishing college, she taught locally for a year, then returned home to where she and Alan were married in 1965.

She taught primary school in Croydon and then in neighbouring Sutton. There they had two children, Jim in 1969 and Jo in 1970. They moved to Coulsdon in 1972 where they raised their family and made many friends in the community. 21 The Grove was their home for over 40 years until they came to Cirencester in 2013.

Alan worked for IBM and the family spent a year in 1977 in Kingston, about 90 miles north of New York. While there Marjorie pursued her love of crafts and learned macrame and pottery. She also tried skiing and her love of travelling and exploring meant the family visited many parts of the US during that year. Teaching and raising her family took up most of her time after they returned, but she passed her love of travel on to her children and they enjoyed many happy holidays whether at St Mary's Bay in Kent or visiting IBM friends in Italy. When Jo and Jim went off to university, the opportunity to move back to the US came again and Alan and Marjorie moved to Raleigh North Carolina for their next adventure.

Marjorie spent her time exploring the local shops, bargain hunting was a favourite activity but she also volunteered as a presenter on the 24 hour classical music radio station WCPE, introducing the pieces, loading the CDs, and providing the weather forecasts and BBC news. The local listeners loved her accent and before long, she had a little fan base.

She also trained for two years to be a docent (a tour guide), at the North Carolina Museum of Art where she ran public tours for children and adults. As with everywhere she went, she made friends and formed relationships that lasted for the rest of her life.

Back in England, she enjoyed retirement, playing social badminton, joining the Caterham U3A, and a local art group, where she dabbled in watercolours and pastels. We were all very chuffed when she sold a painting at their annual display. She also enjoyed keep fit and pilates classes and loved swimming. She would regularly visit London to see art exhibitions, and continued to make trips from

Cirencester to London to visit the galleries and museums and meet up with Jim and his family.

Marjorie's interest in art, culture and travel meant that in addition to our family holidays, she made numerous European trips with the Whitgift Arts Society or with her great friend Pat Newey. Alan and Marjorie continued to travel up until the pandemic, sometimes with the IBM Retiree group or on their own, visiting ports and cities around the world. Often, they would combine a cruise with a visit to Jo and family in San Francisco exploring California and nearby states. Their last cruise was from Reading for afternoon tea on the Thames in celebration of Marjorie's 80th birthday last year.

Moving to Cirencester in 2013 meant leaving friends and her community behind but Marjorie jumped right in and got involved. She joined the Art Society, the U3A where she contributed talks at Brenda Wilson's History of Art group, and the Civic Society. She loved to garden, and as a member of the Phoenix Gardeners, her team of three planted, tended and watered the six tubs on South Way by the Forum car park in Cirencester. She volunteered at The Churn Project, including visiting elderly ladies in the Good Neighbours scheme and helping at the Friendship Cafe and other events. And she spent a few years as a Rotarian and got up very very early to help raise funds selling programmes at the annual Air Tattoo at Fairford. And she continued to stay active with keep fit, pilates, and swimming and with all her new local friends, and family. She lived a rich and busy life.

Life was not always straightforward. Over the years she fought against, and always won, several bouts of anxiety and depression. But she didn't allow them to affect her interest in, and concern for other people.

She loved colour, travel, art, flowers, reading and most of all, people. She loved spending time with her five grandchildren and has passed on many of those passions to her children and grandchildren. She was the best granny, always planning art or baking projects or day trips to visit London, or finding new books to read to them at bedtime.

The family are grateful for the many kind messages they have received, all of which remember Marjorie with repeated references to fun and laughter, chatting, art and colour, entertaining, enthusiasm, and thinking of and helping others.

One such card reads:

Dearest Marjorie, I am so lucky, having you, my very special friend, in my life. We have shared so much laughter and visits to exhibitions, galleries, films, cuppas and catch ups. I will always treasure these lovely memories.

In the nine years living in Cirencester, Marjorie met many people and became a valued member of the community. Socially - Alan is known to many as Marjorie's husband - and is proud to be so.

Marjorie was a people person and she will be much missed by many. *July 2022*