

About Maureen.

Maureen was born in 1938 into a hard working family. Her Father was aged 29 and working as a Milk Rounds man. They owned their own house in Jacobs Well near Guildford.

Maureen was the middle of three children. Michael 18 Months older and Robert seven years younger.

Maureen's father became ill with TB and stayed for sometime on the Isle of Wight. Maureen at this time stayed with her Mother and grandparents. Grandfather was a gardener with the Brooks family (of Brook bond Tea fame) near Dorking.

Grandfather had to follow the family up north and the Barnes family followed.

Later on when Robert was older he became Maureen's charge she took him everywhere. Is this where the nursing instinct was started.

Working at Woolworth's, Cow and Gate and Home Counties was work that she did not enjoy but filled in the space between school and nursing.

She trained and worked at St. Luke's hospital in Guildford and became a staff nurse there.

She married John in 1961. John was a fireman. Times were hard with both working shift work and then along came the Children; Jonathan and twins Jackie and Jenny.

Oh, twins Maureen's Grandmother had twins, her Father was a twin, Maureen was a twin and Jenny has Ellen and Bradley, twins.

During her time in Stoughton Maureen helped with the Cubs and Friday swimmers a disabled swimming group. She also had a spell of synchronized swimming which she hated.

In 1978 she moved to Wantage to be with Terry who had just started his teaching career at Abingdon College. In Wantage she worked in the local dairy doing something with yogurt. Then later to Abingdon hospital looking after geriatric patients.

Rebecca was born in 1979 again times were hard, Terry was doing his teacher training one day a week plus teaching night school two nights.

I hope you get the picture. Maureen was hard working and very supportive all her life.

She enjoyed the simple things of life, walks by the Thames in Abingdon. Holidays in the caravan and the retreat to their flat in Somerset.

The move to Bracknell in 1982 was difficult. On the day Terry was too ill to do anything, she did it all.

The twenty one years in Bracknell were good times. Maureen again entered into the community helping with each stage of Rebecca's young life. She made new friends easily and volunteered for many things. She ended up working at Tree Tops a local playgroup.

Over time the grandchildren appeared. She loved them all and spoke about them many times. She always looked for toys and items when out shopping. Her grandchildren became a big part of her life.

The move to the Isle of Wight was a big one. Terry retired in September 2003 and they moved in April 2004 oh so much work again.

Again much hard work getting a wreck of a house up to scratch but she got stuck in and enjoyed the house the garden and the Island.

Her craft skills were many and varied from needle work, making soft toys, Calligraphy, Pottery, Cross stitch and Mosaics.

She was active in the community helping with crafts in the local school. She attended craft classes in Freshwater where she made many new friends.

Of the ten years on the Island six were lived to the full. For three more years she suffered with arthritis in the knees and found walking very hard.

Then from September 2013 until her death on Christmas day she coped but only just. The cancer in her spine restricted her to a life in her lounge chair 24 hours a day. For fifteen months she sat there watching TV, playing Sudoku and enjoying "her birds" in the garden.

There were her Crows (the baggies) who came each day and cheered her up. The Jays, Magpies, Pigeons and Robin. She never saw the Heron who ate the fish from the pond but was very cross when the crows did as well.

Her face lit up when the long lost Red Squirrel turned up in November.

Whilst the body was weak and getting weaker month by month. Her brain was still active she mastered the walkie talkie to call Terry. She slowly overcame her fear of the computer and became very good at a few games and the typing tutor on her new tablet.

Her wholehearted grasp of Loom bands and what you can make with them was a lifesaver. She made them for the two Cancer charities in Freshwater and each of the district nurses that visited had to have one.

The loom bands gave her something to work for.

It was about all she was able to do on her own and she did it well.

Until the end.

The Christmas tree you see before you was decorated by her during the last week of her life.

Please wear a bracelet and think of Maureen.

A kind, soft hearted, hard working and loving person whom we will all miss so so much.