

Gloria Holmes

22nd March 1938 - 15th Sept 2022

by Gloria's Family

We were all saddened to learn that long term Speen resident Gloria Holmes passed away suddenly on the 15th of September 2022 following a short illness. She was at the heart of her family and will be sorely missed by her husband John, and son Tim, daughter Susanne and their families who she was so interested and involved in. Gloria touched many of our lives over her 84 years and brought much love, laughter, and generosity of spirit to whoever she met and in whatever she did.



She moved with John to Cherry Dell, Speen 55 years ago, after a time in Downley. Before this she lived in Stafford and Eastbourne. She studied nutrition at Queen Elizabeth College, London where she met John who was studying engineering. She admits in her life story (self-written 2 years ago) that "I definitely made the most of my time at University and made many friends, and lived life to the full! "

Her first job after graduating was to advise farmers on the state of their silage, which was a bold move for a 23 year blonde straight out of University! After marrying John she moved to Stafford, and had Tim and Susanne soon afterwards. She subsequently worked part time at Wycombe Hospital in the biochemistry department.

Moving to Speen and having a house in the country was a lifetime dream. She borrowed a white horse called Cloudy and spent much time riding with local friends, around bringing up the two teenagers. Through her interest in riding, she became involved in setting

up High Wycombe Riding for the Disabled, and for her commitment and long service (45 years) was recently awarded The President's Award by Princess Anne. She also loved dogs and used her passion and skill at puppy rearing to good use, breeding many pups for Guide Dogs for The Blind in the UK and abroad. These pups went on to transform the lives of many blind people.

Gloria was very involved in Speen and North Dean as you will all bear testament

to. I am sure many of you would hide when you saw her coming, in case she found you a job to do! She loved music and dancing and was always the first on the dance floor and the last to leave the party. She enthusiastically helped at the annual fetes, fun days, Hospices fund raisers, carol singing , school reading, knitting of charity blankets, litter clear ups and supporting WI and Speen Stores to name but a few. She was delighted and humbled to have her and John's name on the Pavilion in Speen playing fields in recognition of their contribution to the community.



Gloria in her Caravan with dogs Nessa and Joy

Gloria was a regular and devout worshipper at Speen and Hughenden Churches where for many years she was involved in doing teas with the help of her grandchildren. Her support for both churches has been hugely appreciated throughout her life in Bucks.

A Celebration of her Life was held on Friday 7th October in St Michaels All Angels Hughenden preceded by committal and burial at Speen Church.



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