

Janice Marion Harding (nee Brooks)

30/04/1925- 05/11/2020

Mum was very gentle, loving and selfless throughout her whole life. Her family meant everything to her, and she meant the world to us. Mum had many great qualities which have inspired us, truly so giving of her love, time, and compassion. She made each of us feel special and loved us unconditionally through good and bad times.

Mum was born at Woodborough Mill, near Compton Dando and stayed there until she was 5 when she moved to Marksbury with her siblings, Joan and John and her mother Sybil, following the tragic death of her father Harry Brooks aged 37. She lived at the Cottage for most of her life. She was fortunate to obtain a place at LWC for families with agricultural links who had financial difficulties and enjoyed many happy years there. Mum trained in secretarial work and nursing.

She moved to Plymouth following a promotion for her husband, where she continued nursing, meeting her lifelong friend June, and having 2 of her 4 children, returning with her family to look after her mother in 1955 who was suffering from ill health Mum enjoyed gardening and was able to get back to tending her garden after her hip fracture in June 2019. She was so motivated to return to her previous good health that she always practised her physio exercises daily with her goal reached of climbing the steep spiral staircase in January 2020!

She showed such courage in February 2020 following the tragic loss of Peter, her eldest farming son. Mums' passion for gardening made sure Pete's green fingered legacy continued and the garden in Springtime is a joy to behold. When days were chillier, she enjoyed the comforts of a Lock down Summer house.

Mum enjoyed many family holidays - coastal walking or soaking up the sun. We have wonderful, happy memories of our holiday in Thurlestone in May 2019 which was on her wish list with Pete as well and then In August 2020 in the escape from Lockdown in Woolacombe , Devon Mum was a fantastic baker and was renowned for her fruit cakes and coffee sponges- always a treat for visitors and a race to the larder for her grandchildren. Reading and playing cards were also a favourite pastime. She learnt sign language to be able to communicate with her grandson Archie. She was so independent and loved, even in her 90s catching a bus into Keynsham, every fortnight for a hair appointment, do some shopping and return.

Her 95th Birthday on April 30th, 2020 was so different, when family had to sit in their car boots outside whilst Mum sat by the kitchen window. Despite having lockdown, it was made very special by all the Happy Birthday What's App video messages she received from her family and friends from as far away as Australia. She loved watching this again and again.!

Despite all the setbacks, Mums positive attitude always shone through. She always put the needs of others before herself and was so appreciative of the help and support she received. She was sanguine , always smiling and welcoming to others. She never complained and made the most of everyday of her life. She was so proud of her 4 children and 6 grandchildren.

Finally Mum would love us all to remember a national treasure Vera Lynn , who was a true inspiration for our country and in the words of her book " Keep Smiling Through".









