

JEAN MORRIS (1942–2016)



Jean was born in Wigan, in August 1942, the only daughter of John and Elsie Plumpton. She attended Notre Dame Catholic School in Wigan. However, as the daughter of a Catholic father and a Protestant mother she attended both churches which led eventually to her great understanding of theology and her respect for all faiths. Her education continued at Salford Polytechnic where she attained her A Levels.

In addition to the family furniture business, her parents opened a chain of petrol stations. In 1962 the local Esso rep called at their home and thus began a relationship that would last 54 years. Jean got engaged to Raymond shortly before leaving for Christ Church College, Canterbury. Throughout her teacher training Raymond would drive to Kent most weekends where they would sit with other students and drink tea with the Archbishop of Canterbury and discuss theology and current affairs.

After graduating, Jean returned to the north and in August 1965 married Raymond. Prior to the wedding they had designed and built their first house in Bury. Here she began her lifelong love of teaching at Bolton Secondary School, pausing only briefly to give birth to two boys in 1967 and 1972. During the next eight years they ran a chain of petrol stations, car dealerships and an aviation group, all of which Jean was actively involved in. After a move to Bolton and then Cheshire in 1975, where Jean continued teaching, she found new roles as chairwoman of the local Save the Children branch and of the Ladies Section of Wilmslow Rugby Club. She continued until she moved to Deddington in 1991, raising many thousands of pounds for both.

In Deddington they were to own and run the Unicorn until 1995 but again the teacher came out and Jean worked at Drayton School, then Swalcliffe School. Here she ran the autistic and Asperger's unit and found a new niche in teaching. At nearly 60 years old, Jean attended Birmingham University two nights a week, attaining an advanced certificate in education specialising in autism. She continued with the unit until 2005 when she retired from mainstream teaching and went on to do home tutoring for special needs students until her eventual retirement in 2009.

During her time in Deddington Jean was a volunteer on projects such as the parking and traffic surveys, was a loyal member of the Deddington Branch of the Royal British Legion, eventually taking the role of secretary and proudly being able to help organise a number of services and, at the time of her death, the evensong for the Battle of the Somme which will take place on 3 July. Latterly Jean sat on the Friends of Deddington Library committee and was in regular communication with the National Autistic Society where she continued to act as a consultant at the age of 73.

She will be sorely missed by those who knew her. She was a loving (and at times ferocious and doggedly determined) flag-waving patriot, a Royalist and a true friend. She leaves her husband of 51 years, Raymond, and her two sons, Giles and Hugh. *Doce ut discas* ('teach in order to learn').

Hugh Morris

RAYMOND MORRIS (1937–2016)



Born in Bolton in 1937, Raymond Morris learned the values of honesty, integrity and hard work, helping his father fire the ovens up at the family bakery where there were always potatoes to be peeled for the pies, errands to run and cleaning up to be done. From Bolton School he went on to gain a degree in engineering from Loughborough University and began work in the petrol industry.

Through his job as an Esso rep he met his future wife, Jean, and, soon after marrying her in 1965, began a series of businesses, starting with a chain of petrol stations but expanding into whatever field looked promising, from car washes to construction and aviation. He was a wonderful employer who picked good staff, was always there to help them and treated them with respect. In return he gained their loyalty, virtually all his staff staying with him for over 30 years until he sold his businesses in the north before coming to Deddington.

At the age of 57 he was faced with starting again but none of his old business ideas provided the challenge he was looking for. Whilst continuing to do some airline consultancy work, he began driving a lorry for a local agency and decided to take his heavy goods test. In typical fashion he aced it and drove for Fine Lady Bakeries locally until his eventual retirement.

His desire to help led him to the British Legion where he served on club and branch committees, sometimes controversially but always with its best interests at heart, for 18 years.

In addition to his love of rugby, he loved cars, eventually buying a Rolls Royce as a companion to the family Granada. He was an accomplished pilot who would occasionally take a day out of the office to pilot one of his charter flights and checked the pilots' weather daily forecast for the rest of his life.

During his many years' airlines consultancy, he and Jean saw much of the Middle and Far East, although turning down offers to work over there. Being a sun worshipper at heart, for 20 years the family spent summer in Bermuda where Ray and Jean honeymooned and made friends for whose children at school in Britain they acted as guardians. They kept an open house for anyone in need, so long as they obeyed the house rule: if you want something go and get it.

Ray was diagnosed with cancer the day before Jean died and he refused treatment, not wishing to delay the inevitable. Throughout his short brave fight he remained one of the most humble and dignified of men and, whilst he may have needed more help than before, he never once complained.

Hugh Morris