

Theresa Anne Elsome, May 1940 - June 2023

It is with great sadness that we share the news that Theresa died unexpectedly but peacefully at home on Sunday 18th June, aged 83. She leaves a hole that can never be filled in the lives of her family, Nick (son) and Maz Elsome of Crays Pond and Amanda Elsome (daughter) and Mark Sullivan of Melbourne, Australia, and her much loved grandchildren Ben, Ned, Hector, Maud and Nellie.



Theresa was one of our Parish's most devoted community members, and loved the village she lived in and its people. If you were a member of a society or club, used Goring Heath Parish Hall, visited St John's Church in Whitchurch Hill or attended the Whitchurch Hill village fete, you will have either met her or benefitted from her many contributions. Her dedication to the wellbeing of the community, and her selflessness to help others were an inspiration.

All her involvements were long term, from being a member of the WI (including a period as chair) for nearly 40 years, organising the Whitchurch Hill village fete for over 30 years and managing the Goring Heath Parish Hall. She was still fund-raising on its behalf by organising quizzes, film nights and music concerts. She had been a member of the Parish Council and still attended and contributed to the AGMs; she was a highly active member of the History Society and the Friends of St Mary's & St John's; she was a constant supporter of the church, cleaning and providing the floral displays with the other volunteers. She was also on the organising committee of the Spring and Autumn Flower and Produce Shows, which she was hoping to restart this autumn. As an illustration of her passion for the Parish, she had been working on this on her last day, before she died peacefully in her sleep.

Theresa was selfless to a fault, and this extended to so many other significant contributions. For decades, Theresa was a Woodcote Volunteer; she was still an active member of CPRE Oxfordshire; she distributed and delivered the village magazines and she collected for the Lifeboats and for the Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal. For those who needed extra support, she would always offer a meal, a lift, or lend an ear. Something she was still doing in her 80s despite her own health challenges.

Theresa was born in Aden in 1940 while her family were outrunning the invasion of North Africa in World War 2, eventually arriving in Britain to live at Yeomanry House in Reading. The family settled in Whitchurch Hill in 1956, starting an association with the area spanning nearly 80 years. She trained as a nurse at the John Radcliffe in Oxford and practised at Flint House police convalescence home in the later stages of her career. Her husband Bernard Elsome served in the RAF, which meant her young family lived around Britain, the Netherlands and Cyprus. Theresa loved her garden, her cats, dogs (including all those she looked after for others), cooking, her friends and family, and her community.

All who knew her are welcome to join friends and family for the funeral service to be held at 2pm on Friday 7th July 2023 at St John the Baptist in Whitchurch Hill (RG8 7PU), followed by afternoon tea at the Goring Heath Parish Hall. Flowers or donations welcome. For donations, we suggest the [Campaign for the Protection of Rural England, Oxfordshire](#), as she was passionate about her village, the Chilterns and South Oxfordshire countryside, and preserving the beauty of our area and the heritage of our villages. These can also be made, along with any dedications, at a [Much-Loved webpage](#) set up in her memory.

We know she will be missed as a friend to so many of you in the Parish. Farewell Theresa. You were an inspiration and irreplaceable force for good.

Tribute from Theresa's family, 30th June 2023