

Mum was born at Whitbourne on 9<sup>th</sup> September 1919 into a family of what would then have been described as 'landed gentry' a description typified by her marriage certificate which described her fathers occupation as 'Gentleman'.

Mum was the 6<sup>th</sup> of 7 children (Gwen, Rozi, Edward, John, Robin, mum & Pat)

In some notes I found she recalls early memories include lazy summer days around the lake swimming or in the punt and climbing trees – mum recalls one she called the 'ship tree' which she, John & Pat climbed and managed to tie a hankie to the top. After that they were forbidden by their mother ever to go that high again so the hankie remained up there for some time.

Her adventurous spirit also appears at the start of her years at boarding school. They were not enjoyed and mum recalls in her first year coming up with lots of quite detailed plots to escape and try to get home!

In 1930's mum and other members of the family came into contact with Moral Re-Armament (also known as The Oxford Group). Now known as Initiatives of change it became a life-long commitment.

During the second world war mum worked for about a year at Rover in Birmingham making parts for aircraft engines and even became a shop steward (not sure what union). What interest or understanding she ever had of football was probably kindled then and also detemind the team she nominally followed. One of her fellow workers was the then captain of Aston Villa.

After about a year at Rover mum caught TB and after a spell in hospital returned to Whitbourne to recuperate. I remember her saying that she learned to drive a tractor before she could drive a car!

MRA did however lead eventually to marriage and motherhood. She met my father, Ron, through the work of MRA. One story she often recalled in later years was when a 'campaign' was being planned in the USA. Dad was involved in the planning and a subject that came up was who should be involved in the trip to San Francisco. Someone suggested Mary Evans but dad was one who openly rejected the suggestion on the basis that she was 'too inexperienced'. When mum later found out about this she flew into a rage saying how dare he make such assumptions when he barely knew her.

Dad certainly knew after that and started to take notice of this otherwise fairly quiet country girl. They were married on 13<sup>th</sup> June 1953 at the parish church in Whitbourne. Mum often jokingly reminded dad that that she never has been to San Francisco.

They continued to travel together working with MRA in many parts of the world including back in the US and also a lot in Italy.

In 1964 they returned to England and settled here in the Wimbledon / Raynes Park area involving themselves in the work of MRA in the London area.

One major initiative that mum took on was when she had clear guidance to go and get to know community leaders on the Broadwater Farm estate in Tottenham where there had been a lot of rioting following the muder of a black youth. On that first visit mum was accompanied by Betty Rainbow who is here today ..... Betty would like to say a few words about that initial contact and what came of it .....

After a fairly major heart attack just after Xmas 2011 mum had a succession of carers at home before moving, in January 2013, to St Teresa's. This wonderful care home was to become mum's home for the last 2.5 years during which time she endeared herself and made many friends among the other residents and the staff (some of whom are here today). I am, as mum was, very grateful for their wonderful, exemplary and christian care.

Mum & dad, who died in 1998, were married for 45 years. Apart for 17 they are now back together forever.