

Ridgeway u3a

We were privileged in January for Joanna Bogle to give us her talk on Sue Ryder. She gave a magnificent presentation, without slides but freely from memory, talking at length on Sue Ryder's amazing life.

Sue Ryder CMG OBE



Sue Ryder became a household name in the UK in the 1950s thanks to the Homes she founded and the help she gave to survivors of the concentration camps, the disabled and anyone in need of long-term care whom she brought to Britain. This work expanded to people living in Britain and was funded by various methods and in no small part by the well-known high street charity shops, which still operate today under her name. However her full story involves so much more – service with SOE during World War 2, prison visiting in Germany in the immediate post-war years, long-haul relief work in countries all around the world and a life driven by a commitment to care for those in need. Her life is a story of courage, dedication and adventure which Joanna related to us with enthusiasm. Sue Ryder travelled to many countries, establishing homes, hospitals and initiatives to support the sick and disabled.

In 1959 Sue Ryder married Leonard Cheshire, a pilot, who had established the Cheshire Homes using his RAF pension. They married in India where Leonard started a Leper Colony, where they even spent their honeymoon. They made their home in the Suffolk village of Cavendish where Sue was brought up. They lived austere, even frugally and working extremely hard. Both spent much of the year away visiting humanitarian projects around the world. Leonard was made a life peer in 1991 as Baron Cheshire. Sue was made a Member of Lords and took 'Warsaw' as her special place, becoming Lady Ryder of Warsaw, and then Baroness Cheshire. Leonard Cheshire died in July 1992 aged 74 and is buried in the graveyard at St Mary's Church in Cavendish. Sue Ryder was interred in the same grave after her death in 2000 aged 76.

Joanna Bogle is an author and the first to write the full account of Sue Ryder's life in one publication 'A Life Lived for Others'. It was initiated by the Lady Ryder of Warsaw Memorial Trust to mark the centenary in 2024 of Sue Ryder's birth. This is a fabulous read on an amazing person. Our thanks went to Joanna for bringing Sue Ryder's life to our attention, so vividly and with such enthusiasm. This is a brief synopsis of her talk, in the hope that you will want to learn more.

Our speaker on 19th March will be Jeff Evans, who will be talking on 'The Questionable History of The TV Quiz'. This starts at 2.30pm in St Leonard's Church, followed by refreshments. Guests are welcome (with £4 fee to pay).

**Our website for further information can be found at: <https://u3asites.org.uk/ridgeway>
Any queries please phone Annette on 07771 992724**