

OBITUARY FOR ANN HARTLEY, 21/6/1942 to 19/9/2021

It is with great sadness that I am writing about the death of Ann Hartley and on behalf of Rotherham u3a, I send our sincere condolences to her family and friends. Ann gave so much of her time to Ru3a as a Trustee and Membership Secretary as well as a Co-ordinator and belonging to several groups. Ann was a busy lady but always had time to support and advise others. On a personal note, when I became a Trustee, Ann was very welcoming, encouraging and supportive to me and I will remember her as a kind and generous lady and a wonderful ambassador and asset to Ru3a.



We will all miss her enormously.

Lesley White, Chair of Rotherham u3a

As Mrs Ann Dawson at Oakwood school, Ann not only taught our daughter the fundamentals of domestic science but also the skills of planning and paying attention to detail - so important in all aspects of life.

Those skills that Ann instilled in her pupils were diligently applied to all aspects of her own life and nowhere was it more obvious than when she took over the role of Membership Secretary and Ru3a Trustee. For so many years she refined and perfected the compiling and refining of her database that it earned her reputation (richly deserved) of being our Ru3a Walking Encyclopaedia, a fount of all knowledge.

Ann was instrumental in introducing us to Ru3a some 12 years ago and also for encouraging (persuading and brow-beating) me to become a Trustee and take over the role as Chairman when John Carter stepped down. For all my time in that role Ann Hartley was always there to advise, discuss, review, question and debate on any matter or issue that might arise. In Yorkshire terms she was a great 'prop and cop'. Through her time in Ru3a Ann came to know so many people and her kindness, warmth and friendliness was extended to all, she will be missed but lovingly remembered.

Jim Walker (past Chair and current Vice Chair) and Ann Walker

I first came to know Ann well when I joined the Come Dancing group. I started dancing with Marian because we both started on the same day. Ann was so supportive of both of us. She and Frank showed us the steps to lots of dances over the first few weeks. She even took the trouble to write down the sequence of steps to some of the dances so we could study them and practise at home. She made us feel really welcome and part of the group.

Then, four years ago, Ann retired from her role as Membership Secretary and I took on the role in her place. She was a hard act to follow! She was so efficient and well organised with everything. We worked together for the first few months while I was learning the ropes. She helped me to understand all aspects of the role and we became friends. Ann had a very thorough knowledge of all things u3a and could always be relied upon to have the answer if I had a question about it. She was a wonderful lady and will be greatly missed by all of us who knew her.

Sylvia Duncan, Membership Secretary

What a wonderful ambassador Rotherham u3a had for many years in Ann. She was the rock of Rotherham u3a, the fount of all knowledge. She was a meticulous, well organised lady, skilled in administration. She worked with Denise Young and myself to set up the new Rotherham u3a website and develop it to a high standard.

Five years ago, Ann and I were discussing how difficult it could be for single people on Sundays, when friends and family were not always available. We therefore went out for Sunday lunch together, others found out and joined us and within no time Rotherham u3a's Singles on Sunday group was founded and has flourished ever since.

Ann was the first person who greeted me in 2014 when I joined the Opera group. She made me so welcome and we have been firm friends ever since. I have subsequently seen her welcome many new members to our u3a, with her lovely smile and warm personality.

Goodbye my dear friend, I and many others will miss you very much. Our sincere condolences to Philip and Diane, Alison and Christian and family and Brian.

***Rosalind Duckmanton,
Deputy Co-ordinator, Singles on Sunday group and Website Administrator***



When I joined Rotherham U3A early in 2007, it was at a Lifestyle meeting, where one week, Harold Badger set us all a task. We were to write an article about ourselves to read out at the next meeting. Ann's piece was about her life in Cumbria, and her first job as a teacher, at a school some miles down the coast. When the weather was bad, the journey could be treacherous, with waves breaking over the road. Her story was interesting, well written and entertained us all. She had even brought a newspaper cutting to illustrate it, and we were all fascinated.

Ann was the kind of person who would see a job that needed doing, and pitch in and do it, without being asked. Over the years, we found we had quite a lot in common, and we worked well together, first with Hedley Walter on Rotherham u3a's first website, and later with Rosalind on the present one. When we needed a new Membership Secretary, Ann took it on, and expanded the role, implementing new methods and producing our first brochure as well.

She was always pleasant and friendly, and easy to talk to. I remember her telling me of Frank's unorthodox proposal, but I won't go into that here! They were a devoted couple, and wonderful ambassadors for the u3a in general, and the Rotherham branch in particular, wearing their lapel badges wherever they went. They met members from many different countries on their travels, and also introduced new members to u3a. When Frank died, part of his legacy was to provide every Rotherham u3a member with a lapel badge, to carry on their good work. Recently Ann had a special friend in Brian. They had been good friends for just under 2 years when covid-19 struck and from then on they were not able to spend as much time together.

Ann was a friendly, cheerful, articulate, outgoing and hardworking member of our u3a, working tirelessly for the good of the members, and she will be sorely missed.

- Goodbye, dear friend.

Denise Young, Co-ordinator, Singing for Fun

Ann had a generous and caring manner which endeared her to all who met her. When I took over her role as Publicity Officer she offered her help and support should I need it, and also handed over several pages of useful names and organisations plus contact details, which gave me an invaluable start. This, at a time when she was coping with Frank's illness and later, his death.

I have known Ann for more than 50 years, and have nothing but admiration for her resourcefulness, friendliness and pragmatic approach to life. I'll certainly miss her. She was a most devoted and active member of Ru3a. Our organisation owes her a great deal. Our sympathy and love go to Philip and Alison, and to all her many friends within and outside of the u3a.

Tricia Macredie, Publicity Officer

Ann was so lovely and welcoming to me when I joined the Trustees, gently pointing me in the right direction. I learned that she had a lovely warm sense of humour and her generosity and commitment to Rotherham u3a was inspirational. Ann will be greatly missed.

Ellen Bartley, Business Secretary

We are all deeply shocked at the death of Ann. She was loved by all and couldn't do enough to help everyone. She was so kind and did all the administration work for me – enrolments, menus and paperwork that she was so much better at than I was. She would come with me to vet eating places for the Luncheon Club and she was a good friend to all. Ann will be sorely missed.

Margaret McHugh, Co-ordinator, Luncheon group

Ann was a quiet, unassuming person who got on with things. Years ago she told me that u3a had a lot of people wanting a ride on the bus but only a few wanted to be the driver. Ann was a driver and served as Membership secretary for years. The Come Dancing group benefitted in many ways from Ann and she always welcomed new members. She joined the group with her husband Frank when it started around 2005. In the early days detailed notes of the steps for each dance were taken to help learn them for the next week. Ann was a regular attender and danced with us the day before she was taken into hospital. It will seem strange without her. Thanks Ann for all you did.

Tony Carver, Deputy Co-ordinator, Come Dancing group

I shall miss Ann. We shall all miss Ann. Not just because she did such a lot for the U3A Opera Group but because she was such a nice, considerate person. She would send digital greeting cards to cheer us up during the isolation of Covid lockdown. She would also phone people to reassure them they were not forgotten or alone.

Without Ann, there would not now be a functioning Opera Group. Without Ann's help, I would not have been able to keep the group going. Without Ann's encouragement I might not have bothered. In all my dealings with Ann she was kind and courteous and had an easy-going charm; she always radiated a calm assurance; she was always willing to help and she was never rude or abusive about anyone. She was a role model for us all on how to enjoy life in our later years. She was active, interesting and above all interested.

Ann will be missed by me, by the Opera Group and by many more.

Gordon Fyffe, Co-ordinator, Opera group

I remember Ann as one of the most efficient and kindest people I have met. She was always a lady who you could rely upon to offer advice and help. I found this especially so when I was Chairman and Deputy. She would always put me on the right path. It was as though she put her arm around everyone.

What a sad loss, not only for her family, but for all her friends and especially for the members. Ann is remembered with gratitude for having known her.

Barbara Riley, past Chair and Co-ordinator, Out and About group

When Pauline and I moved to Wickersley we looked at a u3a leaflet and noticed there was a vacancy for a Gardening Coordinator. We had not been in the u3a before. We made enquiries and Ann came to see us and gave us lots of useful information and encouragement about taking over a group and was a great supporter of all our efforts. From then onwards Ann has been a good friend and she and Pauline went out regularly for lunches.

Since moving away from Wickersley Pauline and Ann have remained in touch regularly by telephone and keeping up to date with members and u3a news. We consider ourselves extremely lucky to have known Ann and are deeply sorry that she will not be there to help and support people as she has for so long.

***Pauline and Martin Ford
(past Membership Deputy and past Gardening group Co-ordinator)***