



## **SHEPWAY & DISTRICT U3A**



**GINA DALE**

**1946-2021**

**FOUNDER MEMBER  
AND PAST CHAIRMAN**

**We will always remember you**

Oh, what a shock, I have to pull myself together. Please include me in U3A tribute. I am one of the early first members 1999 or 2000 with Patricia Hare, Chairman. It was Hythe and Romney Marsh U3A then. Gina has been great, supportive, loyal. Thank you for letting me know.

*Annette Armour*

Gina got me started with bridge, possibly her dimmest pupil. I shall remember her with gratitude and great fondness.

*Judy Norden*

The Shepway & District U3A has been a wonderful enhancement to our lives over the last few years and run and organised by people such as Gina to whom we are eternally grateful. When I recently sat with her at an Out & About lunch she said she liked cooking roasts for her friends. I suspect her close friends will miss her for more than a roast dinner. For myself she was just a reassuring face at most events and classes I belonged to; welcoming, friendly and the epitome of the U3A.

*Carolyn and Mike Worsley*

Thinking of dear Gina with fond memories, her early trip to Australia and subsequent travel, also a great contributor to u3a.

*Margaret Foster*



I first got to know Gina about 10 years ago. My husband died in 2000 and I had just joined the U3A. We found we had a love of cats and she advised me on a good cattery to take my Alfie when I went on holiday etc. Gina was also very kind to me with regard to the bird watching meetings taking me to places I had never heard of. She was a lovely person, someone I could rely on. I shall miss her at the cinema evenings. She will be missed by many people I am sure. May she rest in peace.

*Robbie Watkins*

Gina was the leader of the first group I joined and thereafter she was active and present in so many meetings and functions I attended. She will especially be remembered for her excellent management of our annual Christmas lunch parties and the promotion of the U3A on our behalf at all times. She will be greatly missed.

*U3A Member*

I am very sorry that Gina has passed away and that I will no longer be seeing her at U3A Bridge on Tuesdays. I always admired the way she persevered with her disabilities and of course, she was a very good Bridge player! We will all miss Gina.

*Pauline Green*



Gina was a stalwart of U3A, she was friendly, helpful and very kind. If you asked her a question and she didn't know the answer, she would always find the information for you. She will be greatly missed, she was a "presence". Bye bye Gina.

*Esmé Figg*

Meeting Gina, she was always welcoming and last I met her coming away from her vaccination jab. Always asked how are you and an exchange of conversation about her cats. She was going for a run round in her car. Belonged to U3A weekly Bridge Group at the United Reform Church Hall before lockdown. As a beginner in her tutor group 3 years ago she was so helpful and kind. Thank you so much Gina for all you have done for U3A. Cheers.

*Margaret Read*

I'm sorry this lovely lady has gone. My memories are of going to her house for beginner's bridge. She was so patient with us and her cats so entertaining! Goodbye Gina, we'll all miss you.

*Fran Turner*

Gina did not have a direct input to my local history group but I know she did a lot of work for the Shepway & District U3A and must have donated a lot of her time to thinking, planning and organising things. And I am very grateful to her for that. I know she will be missed by the Committee and the U3A. Unfortunately, I did not really know her. I only met her at general meetings when she was always far too busy organising things to chat. So I have not got anything special to put in the memorial document. I will leave that to people who knew her better than I but it goes without saying I am also grateful to you and the rest of the committee for the time and effort that you and the rest of the committee put in. I have been on committees for various organisations during my life and know how difficult and time consuming it can be.

*John Anstiss*

Gina was a lovely lady with a great sense of humour who made us very welcome when we first joined U3A in this area. We will miss her.

*Judith and Les Stephenson*



Although I didn't know Gina well she was a member of the Midweek Lunch Group that has recently become the Out and About Group. She often joined us for lunches and although it was clear that she sometimes struggled with disability she was always cheerful and always good company. I've also been aware of how hard Gina worked for Shepway U3A, taking on huge amounts of work that she approached with determination and good humour. Gina was something of a larger-than-life figure and she will be sadly missed.

*Jean Hatton*

Ever since my late wife and I have attended U3A events for many years, Gina was always there in some capacity, particularly being on the door collecting the coffee money. I know she was involved with many aspects of keeping our group running smoothly. She will be missed very much. God rest her soul.

*Patrick Edgar*

Gina was a very special person who was always approachable and friendly. Gina will be very much missed by those of us who knew her both inside and outside Shepway U3A, not least for her wonderful culinary skills! Words cannot express the sorrow her passing has caused.

*Helena Hampton*

When I saw Gina on Tuesday mornings in Hythe it was her dry and wry sense of humour that tickled me. She delivered it with a very straight facial expression and it sometimes took a while to sink in. She made me smile. A presence to be missed.

*Tina Cuminetti*



Like most U3A members I have very fond memories of Gina and am grateful for all the hard work she did to make our branch such a success. She also had a wicked sense of humour! Something members may not know - I sing with the Folkestone Choral Society and Gina came to all our performances over the last few years and even became a Patron. I was always so pleased to see her sitting in the audience. She will be much missed by us all.

*Nina Chislett*

I remember Gina for talking to me when I was new to U3A and making me feel welcome. In the years since then I have seen her work tirelessly and take an interest in so many groups. May she rest in peace knowing how valuable she was to the success of the organisation and that many people will miss her.

*Mary Russell*



I am sorry to hear Gina had passed away.

*Eileen Phillips*

Gina's offer to teach us bridge changed our lives. She welcomed us at her house and was always kind and encouraging. I will miss her presence at bridge and other activities, but most of all her well known sense of humour.

*Mary Stevens*

Fond memories of many happy hours around the Bridge table with you.  
Rest in peace Gina.

*Eileen Peak*



My memory of Gina was being welcomed by her when I first joined U3A. She was a warm and kind lady and I shall miss her.

*Marilyn Edey*

Gina was a kind welcoming face when I came along to my very first U3A meeting. Thank you Gina.

*Christine Fleming*

My memories of Gina are that of a very generous lady who gave her time to help others, whether it be teaching new games to beginners or steering the U3A as Chairman. She will be missed.

*Mary Wall.*

Gina, you were a wonderful person. I remember when you lived in Hythe and we used to have Committee meetings there. You made us so welcome and we had a very social gathering. I miss you.

*Roger Curd*

I was so upset to hear about Gina, she was such a lovely gentle woman who was such an asset to anyone who wanted to talk about almost anything. She will be missed greatly.

*Jean Clare*

Very sad news that Gina has died. She was a lovely lady who for many years was a central figure in the U3A. When I first joined she made me welcome and for many years she supported the fundraising activities for animal charities with which I am involved. As a member of the Book Circle she always made lively and informed contribution to the discussion. When dining out Gina was a delightful companion and I shall always have fond memories of our last meeting at The Clifton Hotel on 30th May. We not only shared good food but also good conversation with many jokes and laughter. Her death leaves a gap at the core of the U3A which will be almost impossible to fill.

Goodbye dear friend

*Mary Burgon-Miller*





Gina was one of the first people I met, when as a total stranger to U3A, I tentatively walked into a coffee morning at the Burlington hoping to become a fully fledged member. That was way back in 2012. You greeted me like a long lost friend and, from that moment, I felt part of U3A. You were always there to answer any queries and point me in the right direction. I will miss your wisdom.

*Pat Beatty*

My main contacts with Gina were through serving on the committee. She took her roles seriously and proved an efficient and understanding chairman. She always could see a sensible way out of any situation that was likely to prove contentious. We all valued her wise guidance. When she took the Chair and committee meetings were held at her house we were always greeted with offers of wine, beer, coffee, tea and soft drinks as well as a range of nibbles! She certainly helped to make committee meetings a pleasurable experience. Gina was always willing to take a lead at our promotional events and would usually be found in the gazebo wherever the events were held. The U3A has lost an effective and dedicated member and we will miss her.

*Tony Scofield*



I will always have very fond memories of Gina. She was a very sociable and glass-full person who glowed with goodwill. Until recently, I hadn't realised that she was one of the founding members of our U3A. As a leader of the Committee several times I found her leadership supportive, encouraging and inclusive. She had a way of managing people which left them feeling listened to and cared for. She found the energy to support many of our events with enthusiasm. Her determination to live life to its fullest was a model philosophy. I have learned much from her and I will miss her.

*Katherine Robinson*



When I first joined the U3A several years ago I thought I'd try learning a totally new skill, that of "Bridge". I joined Gina's "beginners group" at her home (cats safely seconded away in a separate room...allergic to cats!). I quickly realised that I had absolutely no aptitude for this rather complex (to me..!) card game. Other "beginners" (seemingly much more practised!).. began to get rather irritated with my decisions and lack of understanding... (SO many rules!). Gina pointed out to the group that I was a complete novice and patience was a supportive strength of character. I subsequently lasted a term and decided that this new skill was not my forte. Gina will be missed.

*Cherie Cole*

Two years after losing my husband, I joined the U3A. Gina was the first person to greet me and she has been a great friend for over ten years. I will miss her so much. May you rest in peace, Gina.

*Eileen Presland*

It was so sad to hear the news about Gina. I have known her as a friend and colleague on the committee for over 10 years. She will be greatly missed both in the U3A and as a friend. We worked together in the U3A, firstly as Chair and me as vice chair and then vice versa, always supporting each other. Other than the business side of managing our U3A, she loved food and a chat and meetings not only dealt with the subjects on hand but socially made it a pleasure. She will be sadly missed and her legacy should be a great U3A continuing on into the future.

*John Hubbard*

I was shocked and upset to learn of Gina's death. She was such an important and active member of the Shepway U3A and will be sorely missed. I remember being in a team with her at one of your quizzes and she was such fun and knowledgeable, especially on the food questions. I have Covid to thank for seeing more of Gina than before both in Shepway and National U3A events on Zoom. I hope she did not suffer and that her cat is being cared for.

*Barbara Tate*

Gina was kind, thoughtful and generous. Over the short period that I got to know her she was my chauffeur, bodyguard and Priest. As a chauffeur she was fearless; sometimes we would be out in the most dreadful weather and both end up giggling as it was so bad. As a bodyguard she would fend off those that were loud, speak a lot and say nothing. As a priest for absolute discretion and sound advice. Wherever she is, for whoever she is with, please take care of her, for us that knew her we were honoured. May she rest in peace.

*Paul Summers*

Gina was so friendly and it was always a pleasure to meet up at groups, presentations and meetings. She will be greatly missed by all in u3a.

*Janet Bottrell*

Thanks, Gina, just for being you. You were a great chair of the U3A, a good friend, always encouraging, and a pleasure to work with. We shall miss you.

*Steve O'Neill*

So sorry to hear the sad loss of Gina. Always very hard working. I send my condolences to her family and friends.

*Beryl Hill*

We were really surprised and upset to hear of the passing of Gina. She was a stalwart in U3A and no doubt in other circles. We will always remember her unending patience with all and especially in attempting to teach us the secrets of bridge. She was well travelled, a really calm, broad-minded bundle of fun and tolerant to the extreme. She was an uncomplaining example to us all and will be sorely missed.

*Pete & Sue Julian*