

## OBITUARY

Monica Taylor 1922 – 2019

Stanley Arnold Taylor 1922 – 2003

Monica and Stan were both brought up in Hampton and spent the first 30 years of their married life in Kenton, Middlesex. They came to Suffolk in 1977 when the Post Office Research Station moved from Dollis Hill in London to Martlesham Heath. They moved into a new house in Otley, next to the church, on a snowy weekend in January. The house was large enough for them and two of their four children who were still at home, with a model aeroplane room for Stan, an art studio for Monica and a lovely large garden.

Monica was introduced to bell-ringing by one of her daughters, and became a regular member of the Otley team. She was a Catholic and would drive to Mass in Woodbridge or Ipswich, and be back in Otley in time for Sunday morning ringing.

Soon after the move Monica wrote: "I have always enjoyed drawing and attended art classes for many years. After winning second prize in a newspaper sketching competition I went to Harrow School of Art to study etching part-time under the guidance of Bill Ward. I also joined an evening course in drawing and painting with tutors Sam Marshall, Ken Ward and Charles Bartlett. Michael Carlo introduced me to screen printing."

"I was very fortunate to have been an evening student at Harrow during the 1960s and 1970s. Encouraged by the other students I had several pictures accepted for the Royal Society of Painter-Etchers' exhibitions in London, as well as for the Royal Academy Summer Exhibitions."

"Now here in East Anglia I am a member of Ipswich Art Society and work from home where I have facilities for etching, lino and silk-screen printing. I also run a few Simple Printmaking sessions for children at Christchurch Mansions during school holiday times."

Stan retired in 1982 and began making and flying model aeroplanes in earnest. They often holidayed in Wales – Stan flying planes and Monica sketching the hills. They were both keenly involved in encouraging young people to use tools and make things: balsa wood gliders by Stan, and printed pictures and cards by Monica.

They delighted in their new country life – Monica made bread and worked in the garden, while Stan kept the grass in check with a ride-on lawnmower. Having such a large property meant children and grandchildren could always come to stay – they have fond memories of fruit picking and watching the house martins, tree creepers and squirrels.

Stan died suddenly in December 2003 and a couple of years later Monica moved into a bungalow in the neighbouring village of Grundisburgh. The second garage was re-furbished as an art studio and the garden planted up with roses, lavender and fruit bushes. Monica joined the local art club and the local history society, entered the village shows and started to do more watercolours and oil-paintings.

In 2018 live-in carers were employed to help her with dressing and cooking, but she continued to paint birthday cards for all the family and knit small items such as cot blankets for her great grandchildren. She still remembered her basic secretarial skills, learnt at a commercial school in Kingston, occasionally making notes in shorthand. However, on Christmas Eve she fell at home and although no bones were broken she was admitted to Ipswich Hospital for X-rays and physiotherapy. From there she moved into Winesham Nursing Home where she spent a happy last few months, being cared for by the wonderful staff, enjoying activities such as sing-along sessions and still doing a bit of drawing.

From daughters Anne, Mary and Ros; grandchildren Lizzie, Kate, Ella and Victoria; and great grandchildren Sebastian and Emily.