



Doreen Ivy Gibbon

March 11, 1932 - August 1, 2020

Doreen Ivy Gibbon, 88 died peacefully with her husband at her side on August 1st, 2020

Doreen was born in Grays, Essex, England in 1932 during a trying time. Unfortunately, she lost her mother, Ivy Greenwood to tuberculosis when she was 5. Due to the worldwide depression she, along with her Father, Henry Greenwood and her half-sister, Milly, moved to South Africa where her father worked in Naval shipyards repairing boats. She spent a few years there and then returned to England just before the start of WWII. Her father remarried and this gave Doreen a new sister, Betty, and two brothers, Alan and Peter. Betty became not only a sister but a best friend.

During the war years she was evacuated to a sawmill in Wiltshire outside of the London area where she made some lifelong friends. She grew up as an avid Girl Guide and a committed student. When she finished secondary school, she went to Southampton University where she obtained her degree in Sociology. During this time, she also continued her hobbies of Country Dancing, Tennis and Girl Guides.

She started work as a social worker/teacher for disadvantaged girls in Nottingham and then moved to Birmingham to be a childcare officer. While attending a University Girl Guide/Boy Scout event in the New Forest, she was asked to sub in for the girl that was running the country dancing evening

entertainment. She was paired up with a young University student who later became her husband. John and Doreen were married in September of 1959. Immediately after they were married, John completed his thesis for his PhD. In fact, Doreen spent a portion of their Honeymoon at the typewriter, finishing his paper. They moved to Kent to start their married life and over the next 6 years they were blessed with two boys, David and Andrew. John's work then had them move to North Yorkshire where their daughter, Susan was born.

In 1967 John had the opportunity to work in the USA and Doreen reluctantly agreed to give it a try. They boarded the Queen Elizabeth with the family and sailed for America in August of 1967. John's company had moved them to Charlotte, NC. Doreen's American life had begun. Shortly after their arrival they purchased a house in the Stonehaven neighborhood where she would live and raise her family for the next 50 years.

John and Doreen joined Sardis Swim and Racquet Club as charter members and helped with the building of the club. As an avid tennis player Doreen was excited for the tennis courts to be built but after the asphalt was poured, nothing else was done. So, Doreen took it upon herself to hand paint the lines on the courts so play could begin. She also served on the board at Sardis and was a commissioner for Queen City Tennis for three years. She helped with the swim team for years, even after her own children were no longer on the team.

Doreen continued her love of scouts and was a den mother for Pack 33 and later became the first female Pack Leader in Mecklenburg County. She later became the Girl Scout leader of Troop 411 and continued in this role for about 20 years and then worked on the Hornet's Nest Council Gold Award committee for another 10 years before retiring from Girl Scouting with her 50 year award. For many years she was a member of the Landscapers Garden club. She loved her garden and spent many hours tending to her flowers and

feeding the birds. She loved the wildlife too, as long as they didn't eat her plants.

After Doreen had raised her children she returned to the workforce as a secretary for Belk's, a local CPA and then finally at the same company as John, Celanese. She retired early to take care of her first grandson as she did not want him to go to Daycare.

Doreen was a devoted Christian and was very involved at her Church, St. Michael's. She volunteered for 10 years as the church secretary was instrumental in starting the Michaelmas Fair that still continues. She hand sewed the children's costume for the Christmas pageant (including all the animals) and helped with numerous other events such as the dinner theater, British tea and special events.

Doreen was a wonderful lady and always strived to be a friend to anyone that needed one. She always kept the British side of her, knowing that all problems could be solved with a cup of tea. She loved her children and was always there for them, from mending a skinned knee to volunteering at school, sewing uniforms, driving to practices, to just being there for advice or a shoulder to cry on. She always made sure that birthdays were special, and holidays were wonderful. She taught her children to be good, honest and loving adults. She would often tell them "if you don't have anything good to say about someone, don't say anything at all." Doreen was the kind of woman that when she found a dollar bill in a parking lot would take it into the nearest store and turn it into the lost and found. She could not have set a better example for her children. She encouraged her children to be independent but always kept a close eye. Even into adulthood she was there for every special moment in her children's lives.

Her loving and caring nature was instrumental in her grandkids' lives. She

created wonderful memories with them that included playing on the floor with them with Winnie-the-Pooh toys to reading stories to them as they fell asleep at their sleepovers with Grandma. She helped them grow in their faith as she read Bible stories to them from a young age, answering every question they had time and time again. Every Christmas they were eager to get to Grandma's house where she prepared an amazing British Christmas that they would brag to their friends about when they returned to school in January. She was incredibly supportive of all her grandkids, attending every loud and scratchy lower school orchestra concert and still saying they sounded amazing. She was constantly willing to help in any way she could whether it was driving them to sporting events or simply being there when they needed her. She encouraged them to pursue a variety of activities and helped them grow in each of these areas, ranging from helping them read sheet music to feeding balls to them on the tennis court.

She is survived by her devoted husband John Duncan Gibbon; her three children, David Phillip Gibbon of Melbourne FL., Andrew Michael Gibbon of Charlotte, NC, and Susan Gibbon Crosby of Matthews, NC; daughter-in-law, Natalie Trusdell Gibbon; son-in-law, Phillip William Crosby; and grandchildren, Allen William, Michael Ian, and Lara Elizabeth Crosby.

A memorial service to celebrate Doreen's life will take place at Saint Michael the Archangel Anglican Church, 2221 Margaret Wallace Rd, Matthews, NC 28105 with a graveside service to follow in the church cemetery gardens in which the announcement of date and time will be forthcoming.

Cemetery Details

St Michael Anglican Church Cemetery

2211 Margaret Wallace Road
Charlotte, NC 28105
<http://www.stmichaelsanglican.org/>

Previous Events

Funeral Mass

AUG 4. 11:00 AM (ET)

St Michael Anglican Church
2211 Margaret Wallace Road
Matthews, NC 28105
<http://www.stmichaelsanglican.org/>

Tribute Wall



“ *Doreen Ivy Gibbon*

October 05, 2023 at 07:26 AM



“ *Doreen Ivy Gibbon*

October 24, 2022 at 08:52 PM



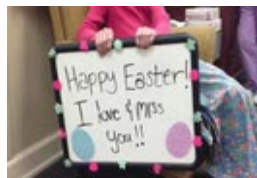
“ *Video of Doreen*



Susan Crosby - August 17, 2020 at 07:13 PM



“ *Video of Doreen*



Susan Crosby - August 17, 2020 at 06:41 PM



“ *Enchanted Cottage was purchased for the family of Doreen Ivy Gibbon.*



August 12, 2020 at 06:34 PM



“ *Doreen was a very special woman. She was like a second mom to me during my middle school years as I spent most of my free time at the Gibbon home with my best friend, Susan. Doreen was a joy to be around. I cherish many wonderful memories of her from being a member of her Girl Scout troop, camping trips, and vacations where the Gibbons graciously welcomed me and always treated me like a member of the family. I admired Doreen's determination and sense of humour. She personified kindness, wisdom, strength, and grace. She was truly a beautiful person with a charming spirit and heart of gold. Extending my deepest condolences to the Gibbon and Crosby families as well as the many others who knew and loved Doreen. She made a significant positive impact on so many people during her life.*



Dianne Stankiewicz - August 12, 2020 at 11:48 AM

CG

“ I always enjoyed dancing with Doreen (and John) at our Scottish Country Dancing and English Country Dancing weekly classes when they were visiting in Melbourne, Florida, and at our SCD weekend in Cocoa Beach. Doreen was such a lovely person and I loved talking to her. I will miss her very much. I hope that John and Doreen's family and friends will find peace and comfort in their happy memories of Doreen.

Catie Condran Geist, Palm Bay, FL

Catie Condran Geist - August 06, 2020 at 04:29 PM

TH

“ feel blest to have known this beautiful soul. I met Doreen in August of 2000 when I moved to Charlotte. She was the first person I met at St. Michael's and she gave me directions to the church. I spent a lot of time with her when she volunteered as the church secretary. I enjoyed her stories and her sense of humor. She worked hard every year organizing the church's Michaelmas fair. She helped me form the church's children's choir and made their choir robes. She also gave me great advice when I worked in the church garden. My prayers are with John, Susan, Phillip, Allen, Michael, and Lara. Well done, good and faithful servant. Enter into the joy of the Lord.

Tim Holden - August 06, 2020 at 12:54 PM

TH

“ Love and condolences to Uncle John and all the family. Love Tania and David and the boys. X

My memories of Aunty Doreen go back a fair way, from the Gibbon family vacations in the UK to making my USA vacations so special and welcoming. From cooking a special Mexican Family meal to organising some wonderful sight seeing trips. We also shared a like for tea. During my stays she would often put the kettle on the hob when she came in from work in order to share a pot of tea. TaniaX

Tania Hart - August 04, 2020 at 03:40 PM

CO

What a beautiful life she has led. We know she will be deeply missed. My favorite memory of her was her comment in the local news when she showed her feisty side by relaying that “we got screwed” in talking about a board decision she was unfavorable about. She was not afraid to stand up for what was right. What a great lady!

celest o'brien - August 04, 2020 at 07:12 PM

BB

Doreen was so welcoming and kind when I began learning Scottish Country dancing. She encouraged me when I thought I could never do it. I will always remember dancing with her and sharing a drink after class in the pub. She will be missed.

Barbara Berry - November 01, 2020 at 05:53 PM