

MARJORIE HOULSTON 1930-2021.

Everyone who knew Marjorie will be sad to hear of her death, at the age of 91. She had lived almost her entire life in the village and had been a stalwart of village life.



Marjorie (centre) at the ceremony at the copper beech tree, November 2019

In the 1940s the Read family (Read was Marjorie's maiden name) lived in a cottage on the site of 'Foxgloves' which was pulled down in the 1950s. She attended the village school till she was 11 and then the grammar school at Clipston till she was 14. Her lively account of life in Farndon during the war is on another page on this website. She lost two uncles in or just after the war, one of whom, David Allen, is buried in Farndon churchyard. She married Len Houlston, who was in the army and stationed at the prisoner-of-war camp on the Farndon Road.



Marjorie clearing her stall after the village fete

In 1950 Marjorie and Len moved into one of the new council houses in The Lealand and Marjorie remained there after Len died in 2001, making it over seventy years in the same house. Over that long period she was a tower of strength in so many aspects of village life. She was a long-time member of the W.I., becoming secretary in 1990 and continuing in that office for over thirty years. She served on the Parish Council from 1985 to 1991. She was a member of the Village Hall Committee for over twenty years and one of the committee of Age UK. At any fete or jumble sale, you would find her behind a stall, doing her bit for the village. After an event in the old village hall, you'd find her helping with the washing-up. Like her mother and grandmother before her, she was on the rota for cleaning the church and setting out the flowers in front of the pulpit. She would always be ready to take part in revues and other village entertainments.



Marjorie (second from left) helping clear up after an event in the old village hall



A village revue in the 1980s. Marjorie seated left

In short, she was what every community wants – someone to participate and do their stint to keep things going. Inevitably she will be sorely missed.

Marjorie and Len had five daughters – Cynthia, Suzanne, Valerie, Julie and Sara – and two sons – Steven and Glyn. Sue and Glyn still live in the village. Marjorie leaves fourteen grandchildren and twenty great-grandchildren, so her memory will surely live on.



A revue from the 1970s. Marjorie in black seated second from right

Written by Alan Langley – November 2021