

Pam Turner

Obituary



By Victoria Turner (niece)

Pam was born in February 1938 on The Wirral in Cheshire, to her parents Florence and Charles Turner and the family moved to Wembley Park during the early part of the war. Charles was a manager with Post Office Communications (a predecessor to BT) and his experience in establishing communications across Liverpool after the bombing raids there, meant that he was much needed in London when the bombing started in earnest.

Both Pam and her younger brother Michael attended Buxlow Prep School in Wembley, and in 1949 she was offered a place at North London Collegiate School in Canons Park. She was incredibly happy at the school, was a passionate “Old North Londoner” - attending alumni events and reunions whenever possible – and kept up with school news and the achievements of pupils (past and present). She went on to read History at Westfield College and after receiving her degree, she took her DipEd at Cambridge.

Her teaching career saw positions at Sarah Siddons, Bentley Wood (then Heriots Wood), and finally as Headmistress of Sir William Collins in Somers Town, before taking retirement in 1988. Sir William Collins was an extremely large boys school in Kings Cross, with many pupils living in bed and breakfast accommodation and speaking multiple languages. In the end however, it was the politics surrounding the workings of the Inner London Education Authority (ILEA) that finally saw her leaving the teaching profession that she loved.

After living in Hampstead for all of her working life, Pam moved with her father to Sarratt in 1995 and quickly became part of village life. She was a member of the Parish Council and local WI and - as a passionate medieval historian – in 1996 was one of the founding members of the Sarratt Local History Society. Pam travelled extensively through Europe and the Far East during the course of her life - independently and on tours as a member of NADFAS - and was

also an avid reader – particularly enjoying poetry, historical fact and fiction. Woe betide anyone who implied that Shakespeare's portrayal of Richard III was based on anything other than Tudor propaganda!

Ours is a small and close family, and Pam will be very much missed by us all. She took immense pride in the achievements of her brother, sister-in-law, nephew, nieces and great nephews and nieces – and adored Charlie her Shih Tzu. Pam never missed a birthday, or Christmas, and always had a book recommendation or an interesting story from around the village when you called. Phone calls or visits were rarely quick, but were always lively and generally involved a good debate on recent world events.

Pam died on 28th May after a short illness and is buried in Sarratt churchyard. As a family it brings us much happiness to know that she'll forever remain in the village where she made her home and was so happy.
