

## REMEMBERING JDA MEMBER MAUREEN WINTERFLOOD

By her sister Barbara Cohen

17.12.1946-02.12.2023

My dearest Maureen — what a lovely caring gentle soul. Especially of others.

Born 17 December 1946 in a nursing home in St John's Wood, Maureen was very ill as a baby. The doctors were not sure how her deafness developed, because she had convulsions and gastroenteritis in the first year of her life. Maureen was very upset about being deaf but, as time moved on, she accepted her deafness.

Maureen had ups and downs like all of us. She had good schooling at the Residential School for Jewish Deaf Children (RSJDC). She was there from 5 to 16 years old and she was very happy at school. Whilst there she made many friends and they remained her friends throughout her life until the present day.

She got married in 1971 to Roy Winterflood. They had one son, Simon, who grew up to be a nice polite person and loved his mum. He managed to overcome some difficult health problems and lives quietly with his dad Roy. Both Roy and Simon visited Maureen regularly, right up until the final week of her life.

After my husband Ralph died, I took Maureen to Tenerife and both Leslie and Maureen to Bournemouth. Maureen loved her laptop and tablet. She booked many holidays on them. We also had wonderful cruises together. Maureen loved the beach and warm places.

We used to meet up regularly, thanks to Janet at JDA, who arranged bringing us together, along with Leslie and his cousin Sheila. We shared lots of nice times together catching up on all our news.

Maureen and Leslie enjoyed a lovely life together and made a strong bond, doing everything together.

Maureen loved reading... her favourite was Hello Magazine! She was diagnosed with Dementia in 2013 and, as her Dementia progressed, she received care at home from her beautiful carers, who loved and respected Maureen right up to her last day. My heartfelt thanks go to Tonic TLC, Toni Cox and her Angels.

Maureen loved JDA. She attended the Wednesday Deaf Club week after week, meeting up with her friends as JDA was a big part of her life. She organised Leslie's 70th birthday at JDA, attended by a lot of people, including Leslie's daughters, Debbie and Rachel from America.

Maureen got so much help, guidance and support over the years from Sue Cipin, Janet and the JDA support team and staff. I am forever grateful for that!

Farewell, and love to my beloved Maureen.

"Lehitraot" — Till we meet again

Your loving sister Barbara



*Barbara and Maureen earlier this year*



### ▲ Janet with Maureen and Leslie enjoying the fantastic Spurs stadium outing

#### Janet Coombs writes:

Our lovely Maureen passed away peacefully at home on Saturday 2 December 2023. She was a beautiful soul and I feel so sad inside that she will no longer be a part of my life.

I was blessed to work closely with Maureen. We built up 14 years of close friendship, and I was happy and privileged to be a part of her world, supporting her through the challenges of being a Deaf woman in her later years.

Maureen had been living with progressive Dementia for ten years. It escalated significantly over the past two years and she needed more help and support.

JDA enhanced her life in every way — keeping her safe, looked after, enjoying the things she liked to do as much as possible, keeping in touch with her family and friends, managing her health and ensuring she never had to worry about a thing — because she had the comfort of knowing that we had her back.

I want to say special thanks to all the people who gave Maureen love, care and friendship through her life's journey:

- ♥ Her amazing doctors who, with JDA's support, responded to all her needs and concerns.
- ♥ Her phenomenal carers from Tonic TLC, whose dedication, trust and love carried her through. They too were her strength, guidance and security blanket and they truly loved and respected her.
- ♥ Her son Simon and her ex-husband Roy, who she loved dearly and never stopped talking about.

- ♥ Her dedicated sister Barbara, who Maureen loved with all her might as a mother figure as well as a beloved sister.
- ♥ Her long-time partner Leslie, who is also going through a difficult health journey. This romance was tight and they did nothing without each other; even through sickness they were bound together. I'm not sure I will ever see another couple like this!
- ♥ All her friends — the Deaf community is so strong that their friendships are lifelong and they stick together, no matter the distance. This community has taught me a lot about relationships and the importance of having a strong network of people in your life.
- ♥ Last but not least — the JDA family — who will so miss Maureen's presence and smiles.

JDA is a place that gives a true sense of family and friendship to people who have little or no family of their own. Under JDA's wings, you will always have people who love you, advocate for you and battle for you.

God bless you all!

