Finding the time to care

Margaret Gill was born on 24th October 1913 in Alexander St, Collyhurst.

She was a keen cyclist from a very early age and she met George, her husband-to-be, on a local bicycle ride. In Collyhurst in the early 1930s, money was very scarce and George had managed to ‘cobble’ a bicycle together out of bits and pieces of broken bikes so they could ride together.

They married in 1930 at Albert Memorial Church in Collyhurst, but they couldn’t afford their own house straightaway, so went to live with George’s mother for a few months. In 1937 they moved into a rented house on Bishopton Street, Newton Heath, a small dark 2 up 2 down that was infested with cockroaches. Her rent was 7s 6d weekly. On Christmas Eve she went into labour and having no other way of getting to the hospital, Margaret walked from her home in Newton Heath to North Manchester General Hospital in Crumpsall. Baby Eileen was born very shortly after she got there! Then, in March 1940, Margaret and George finally managed to obtain a council house - in the Garden City of Wythenshawe on Melderston where she still lives today. In 1940, her rent was 12s 9d per week.

Margaret loved being outdoors, bicycling or rambling in the Lake District and in Wales with friends. She was a member of her local dance group at St Andrews, Wythenshawe, until she was 95. She was also very active in her local community, being secretary of her local scout group, a member of the Mothers Union and even forming her own branch of the ‘Ladies Guild’ in the 1970’s with her friends, ending up with over 100 members. Margaret also fundraised for The Children’s Society for over 25 years and received a special award for her efforts.

Margaret’s son Graham, 70, said his mum, with eight grandchildren and 12 great grandchildren, has never ceased to amaze him with her zest for life. “She is still very independent, with lots of get up and go.”

Margaret’s favourite meal is Tripe; she still eats it with George’s mother for a few months. In 1937 they moved into a rented house on Bishopton Street, Newton Heath, a small dark 2 up 2 down that was infested with cockroaches. Her rent was 7s 6d weekly. On Christmas Eve she went into labour and having no other way of getting to the hospital, Margaret walked from her home in Newton Heath to North Manchester General Hospital in Crumpsall. Baby Eileen was born very shortly after she got there! Then, in March 1940, Margaret and George finally managed to obtain a council house - in the Garden City of Wythenshawe on Melderston where she still lives today. In 1940, her rent was 12s 9d per week.

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George sadly passed away in 1974, only 64 years old. But Margaret needed to keep herself busy, so she started working at John Lewis in Cheadle at the age of 61, retiring 6 years later. She is now a regular attender at Age Concern Manchester’s Crossacres Resource Centre.

The farm that made way for Crossacres Resource Centre.

We must all do better

It is now ten years since the Silver Service newspaper published life expectancy figures for England and Wales, saying “We must do better” and quoting the late All Morris, Lord Morris of Manchester: “Mancunians live in a place of sharp contrasts. The City Centre is one of the most exciting places in the world but some of Manchester’s inner city neighbourhoods are amongst the most deprived in the country.”

Those words still ring true. The latest figures for England from the Office of National Statistics show Manchester right at the bottom for both overall life expectancy and for healthy life expectancy (see below). The low healthy life expectancy for men is a particular shock – just 55 years on average. For those whose slogan has always been “party ‘til you drop” this is particularly bad news that must encourage us all to get out more, enjoying a healthy lifestyle, and supporting others to do the same.

Home Care from Age Concern Manchester

Age Concern Manchester’s home care workers are trained to make all the difference to bathing, washing, dressing, cooking, shopping, cleaning, laundry, companionship, person collection, managing medication, incontinence care and much more. Visits last at least half an hour and if it needed care is available around the clock, 365 days a year.

We ensure whenever possible that the same trained and checked care staff visit each time so that you get to know them and they understand your needs. Care arrangements are flexible to cope with changing circumstances and different budgets.

• For North and Central Manchester ring Pam Bryan on 0161 205 3851, email: pam.bryan@silverservice.org.uk
• For South Manchester it is Debbie Meek on 0161 437 0177, email: debbie.meek@silverservice.org.uk

We specialise in providing intensive support at the end of someone’s life.
The Liverpool edition of the Argus, which was a popular newspaper in the 19th century, contains a review of the Manchester Ship Canal published in 1887. The review highlights the excitement and anticipation generated by the canal's opening on 11 November 1887. It describes the scene on the quayside in Salford docks, where a long queue formed as passengers prepared to board the first trips on the canal. The article suggests that the excitement of a day out on the Manchester Ship Canal really begins when the passengers arrive in Manchester, and it notes that people from over 10 different countries and a variety of backgrounds joined them for the opening. The article also mentions that refreshments are available throughout the cruise.

The Polymer Pound

Barry Taylor and Charlotte Burton, both volunteers at the 70s Long Shop Museum, talk about why the “Polymer Pound” is a success. They explain that it has a number of benefits, including increased durability and security, and that it is a cost-effective way to produce notes.

Manchester Cathedral

The article includes a picture of the Manchester Cathedral, which is known for its stunning architecture and rich history. It notes that the cathedral is open to the public and features a new organ planned for installation in a second phase of work. It also mentions that the cathedral has a number of birdwatchers who enjoy the wildlife and scenery around the Manchester Ship Canal.

Moore Nature Reserve

Moore Nature Reserve is described as a 203-acre reserve in Warrington that is home to the Manchester Ship Canal. It is accessed by the de-watered course of the Runcorn to Latchford Canal, and it offers opportunities to explore nature and wildlife. The reserve is a popular destination for birdwatchers and nature lovers.

The Manchester Ship Canal

The Manchester Ship Canal is described as a significant transport route that connects the River Mersey with the Manchester Ship Canal. It has been in operation since 1887 and remains an important part of the UK's transport network.

Manchester Ship Canal Cruises

Manchester Ship Canal Cruises offer a range of guided tours, including historical, birdwatching, and wildlife tours. They are available for sale throughout the year for a cost of just over £15 million. It is still the most unusual feature is a transparent section, on the mock-ups (although no-one is being encouraged to launder them). They are stronger (expected to last about two and a half times as long) and waterproof (although they don't fold up quite as tightly as the existing notes, but then the £10 note will be slightly larger than the £5 note, and so on.

Manchester Cathedral – Hello and Welcome!

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North from Victoria Station

“When you have just arrived at Victoria Station with nothing except what you can carry, there is only so far you can walk,” Laura Valins, volunteer guide at the Manchester Jewish Museum, tells visitors. That’s why Cheetham Hill Road has such a long history as the starting place for many of the communities that settled here whose energy and commitment to Manchester make it what it is today.

The former synagogue that houses the Museum was originally built by Spanish and Portuguese Jews known as ‘Sephardi Jews’ escaping from persecution, and their distinctly Mediterranean style of decoration is evident on pillars and wall decorations.

Laura started as a volunteer only a few months ago, but she is fascinated by the history of this part of Manchester. “It is amazing,” she says, “that Karl Marx and Michael Marks both stood overlooking Red Bank. One wrote the Communist Manifesto and the other started Marks and Spencer.”

“Take your choice,” she suggests.

Within the Museum one of the permanent exhibits is particularly poignant. It shows the dining table, set for Sabbath, of a young widowed mother whose husband planned to send for when he got to America, travelling on the Titanic! This is just one of the five human stories told to depict life in 1912 Manchester.

The Museum also contains a small gallery that has hosted some great exhibitions including, in 2013, ‘Jack & Maureen’ A creative Partnership’ celebrating the work and careers of Manchester born dramatist Jack Rosenthal and award winning actresses Maureen Lipman and ‘The School of Paris’ which explores the unique works of 20th Century Jewish Artists Marc Chagall and Chaim Soutine.

Several events are also held at the Museum, ranging from talks, demonstrations, plays and book launches; September 2013 saw the book launch and signing of author and historian Simon Schama’s book ‘The Story of the Jews’, which was also a fornight television series aired on BBC2 chronicling the story of the Jewish experience from ancient times to the present day.

A popular event is the ‘Heritage Trail’, a two-hour walking tour around the old Jewish quarter that takes place eight times a year between spring and autumn.

Visitors are given the chance to take to the streets and discover what life was like in Jewish Manchester over 100 years ago and experience first-hand how the past and present combine.

Ageing Well Clubs

Ageing Well clubs arrange activities for older people who are looking for new friends and/or new social interests. A small weekly subscription is charged. Ring: North – 0161 205 3851; Central – 0161 833 3944; South – 0161 437 0717.

Counselling FREE

Counsellors approved by Age Concern Manchester are available to help people to explore and understand problems such as loneliness, bereavement, sexual and marital difficulties, general fears and anxieties. Counselling courses are paid for by the NHS. Ring: 0161 833 3944

Information and Advice FREE

Try our help desk for information about the address and telephone number of your nearest community group or how to apply for an attendance allowance, and much more. Ring: 08000 27 57 87

Advocacy FREE

We offer independent advocacy to people in residential and nursing care. Ring: 0161 833 3944

Day Centre Support

Our Care Centres in Openshaw, Gorton and Wythenshawe offer a stimulating and enjoyable day out for older people who would otherwise have to stop at home all day. Sometimes Adult Social Care at Manchester City Council or the NHS will contribute towards the cost. Ring: Openshaw: 0161 205 3851; Gorton: 0161 223 6062; or Crossacres: 0161 437 0717.

Volunteers

If you can offer some of your time on a regular basis, ring: 0161 833 3944

Out in the City

Out in the City is an Ageing Well club for members of the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender community. Ring: 0161 833 3944

‘I’m a business owner but I was duped; I feel stupid; I can’t believe I fell for it’ says a 79 year old fraud victim from South Manchester.

More than 200 incidents of card fraud have been reported within Manchester with all the victims being aged 74 years old and above. Organised crime groups are tricking their victims into handing over their bank cards and pin numbers.

They call the victims and pretend to be a police officer, making the victim feel it is a genuine call. They will pretend that they have arrested someone who has a ‘clone’ of the victims bank card and ask the victim if they still have the card.

The second stage is for the fraudster to ask the victim to call the number on the back of the card and tell them it was stolen and to ask for it to be cancelled straight away. However, if the victim puts the phone down, the fraudster stays on the line and answers the call to the bank asking for the full card details, and getting the victim to enter their pin using the phones keypad.

The fraudsters use a device that is attached to the phone that blocks them to see the pin number that is being entered. The victim is assured that the card will be cancelled, putting the victim’s mind at ease.

In some cases, the fraudsters have used a different method, sending a so-called ‘taxi’ to the victim having asked for the bank cards to be put into an envelope and given to the driver.