



Monica Herring - a brave and tenacious lady

By Daphne Chamberlain

One of East Finchley's most well known residents, Monica Herring, passed away on 30 April at the age of 56. Familiar to many of us as the "lollipop lady" outside Martin School, she also worked for 14 years as meals supervisor in the Infant School.

Monica lived all her life in Richmond Road, in the house where she was born. Speaking to *THE ARCHER* a few years ago, she remembered roller-skating down the middle of Long Lane - typical for a tomboy and a sports-mad lady, who, only weeks before she died, completed the North London Hospice Walk in her wheelchair. Shortly before that, as a patient in the National Hospital for Neurological Diseases, she had done some brisk laps round Queen Square.

Smile - with pride

When Monica was in her teens, she contracted Hodgkin's Lymphoma and was given two years to live. She survived, but was told that she would be unable to have children. "Again, she was happy not to do as she was told", says her husband, Mike. Their son and daughter, Ian and Sharon, both contributed to her funeral service, when £1,500 was collected for the North London Hospice. Sharon wrote this tribute; - "You were a role model for me in every way. I was proud to call you my mum, and proud of everything you achieved".



Mike is proud of her tenacity. "She never gave up", he says, recounting her constant battle to have kerb-drops installed for wheelchair users, and her 20 years as a plot-holder in Pointall's Allotments despite initial male opposition. She loved gardening and was a

keen bird-watcher. As reported last month, Martin School will be planting a rosebush in her memory.

Monica herself attended Our Lady of Lourdes School. Her first job was at Williams sports shop in Church End, where she sold tennis balls to Cliff Richard. Then she moved on to Standard Telephones at New Southgate, where she met Mike.

The congregation at her humanist funeral service at Marylebone Crematorium heard this address; - "Hopefully you'll remember Monica for her giving and supportive nature, her positive and brave approach to life, the kindness she has shown you personally, and many happy memories you have of time spent with her. When you think of her, I'm sure she would want you to smile".

Monica, our Lollipop Lady

By Demi Wan and Rosie Livemore, Class 6M, Martin Junior School

M is for magical women,
O is for the only one,
N is for natural kindness,
I is for an intelligent lady,
C is for helping children cross the road,
A is for assisting us to be safe.

O is for our dinner lady,
U is for understanding us,
R is for really helping us.

L is for a lovely smile,
O is for our caring towards Monica,
L is for her love towards the children,
L is for helping us learn,
I is for including everyone,
P is for playing with us,
O is for our teachers' friendship with her,
P is for planning great games to play.

L is for a lively lady,
A is for her nice attitude,
D is for doing her job,
Y is for years of hard work.

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By Ricky Savage, the voice of social irresponsibility

All right, Mick?

There is something in me that hates seeing rebels embracing the establishment, but I guess it had to happen and for Mick Jagger the journey from dangerous rebel to acceptable face of rock'n'roll is now complete.

Jagger was the real thing, the surly, uninterested, hedonistic icon for those who reckoned that The Beatles were far too clean cut. Now I guess it's about time he got his knighthood and joined the Rock'n'Roll Has-Beens Club. The establishment are only going to give gongs to the established, no-rocking-the-boat brigade, the now-faded youths who have become pillars of the artistic establishment.

All the young dudes

So far the sainted Cliff Richard has got a knighthood for bothering God, being 'wholesome', celibate and so uncool he's cool. Dope smoker, newly re-married widower and grinning Liverpoolian, Paul McCartney got his when he'd become a musical irrelevance because he had a back catalogue to die for and was the most suitable surviving Beatle. Then there's Elton. Once, about 30 years ago, he was a halfway decent singer songwriter with a receding hairline and a strange taste in clothes. Now he's Sir Elton and best known for being a gay shopaholic who sang a lachrymose dirge at Princess Diana's funeral.

When The Beatles got their MBEs in the 60s, London was swinging, football had really come home and Harold Wilson wanted to show that he was in tune with what was called the younger generation. It sort of worked. Jagger has been given a gong because, once upon a time, the Reverend Blair was into The Stones and now that Blair has his own super parish he has nominated his former hero for a knighthood.

This is as uncool as the local vicar organising a youth club disco in the church hall. It's so sad that I can't wait for the next honours list. It might include an MBE for the likes of John Lydon or Ozzie Osborne, whose only claim to fame is inspiring a nostalgia for the times when they used to attract complaints from retired army officers in Tunbridge Wells.

Groan

Submitted by John Larimer

★ The short fortune-teller who escaped from prison was a small medium at large.

★ What's the definition of a will? (It's a dead giveaway).

★ A chicken crossing the road is poultry in motion.

★ If you don't pay your exorcist you get repossessed.

★ Every calendar's days are numbered.

★ A plateau is a high form of flattery.

★ He often broke into song because he couldn't find the key.

★ Show me a piano falling down a mineshaft and I'll show you A-flat minor.

★ A lot of money is tainted. It taint yours and it taint mine.

★ Those who get too big for their britches will be exposed in the end.

★ Santa's helpers are subordinate clauses.

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