

Tuesday 31 December 2024



Jean Bolton 19/09/1920 - 12/09/2019

Born 19 September 1920 in what is now Slovakia, Jean came to England in the late 1930s to join her brother who was already studying at university. She met and married John and enjoyed 72 years of marriage until John's death in 2012. Jean died just one week short of her 99th birthday.

Jean was a member of the New Forest Society, but she also sat on the Hampshire and Isle of Wight Area Committee, where she held the roles of NADFAS Volunteers Area Representative from March 1991 until the new role of Area Education Representative

(AER) took her interest in 1994. This role was to provide support to societies running their own study days or courses, which Jean fulfilled for 3 years.

Jean will be most remembered within The Arts Society for her own excellent autumn Study Courses at the Southampton City Art Gallery, which she started when acting as AER, but continued independently after standing down from the post. She ran her first course as an Art Foundation Course in November 1994 and it was an immediate sell-out. So successful that for several years she ran 2 courses per year. The courses, which comprised 5 full-day study days over a 5-week period, have continued every year, this year being the 30th annual study course. The proceeds from Jean's study courses have always been donated to the Hampshire and Isle of Wight Area funds, where they have been made wholly available to support local art initiatives. Over her life Jean's courses will have made an outstanding contribution to arts initiatives in our area.

Jean continued running the courses until 2018 when ill health at the age of 98 meant that she could no longer attend. Art was truly Jean's passion, enriching her life as well as the lives of many others. She played a significant role in The Arts Society throughout her time in Hampshire and we will remember her with great affection for her contribution.