

Margaret and Pat Lelliott

Pat was born at the 11th hour, on the 11th day, of the 11th month in 1936, during the two minute silence, and likes to think that everyone around the world remembers his birthday.

An only child, born in the pretty seaside town of Shoreham, Pat passed the 11+ and went to grammar school in Steyning. After GCEs, he left school at 16 to go and work for an engineering firm next to Shoreham Airport, where he worked, in a reserved occupation, until he took up his National Service place in 1958, when he was 22. Pat's responsibility during his National Service was the Queen's flight. He worked at a special air traffic control unit based at Benson, which had to



ensure that the route taken by the Queen's flight was clear of any potential hazards. A potential disaster was narrowly averted in 1960, when the Queen's flight flew through a Luftwaffe exercise that the Germans had failed to notify anyone about.

It was while he was doing his National Service that Pat met Margaret. Margaret and her friend had gone to a dance at Wembley Town Hall, where she met Pat. They got engaged in 1960 and married in 1962, living in north-west London, before moving 'south of the river' to Worcester Park. After National Service, Pat went to work in the Esso research laboratories by London Airport.

He then moved on to CAV Lucas in Acton, and finally went on to work as a Technical Service Manager for Duckhams, where he stayed for 30 years. Pat retired from Duckhams in 1996, but continued with them as a consultant for a further 18 months. Pat was Chairman of the Auriol School Parents Association, Chairman of the 2nd Cuddington Fundraising Committee, Chairman of Epsom and Ewell High PTA, and now is Chairman of the Military Collectors Society.

Pat's interest in planes and militaria in general did not begin in the town where he was born, which had an airport. Nor did he show any great interest in planes during his National Service. It was only several years after he had done his National Service that he began to get interested in military matters and civilian wartime experiences. He regrets not being more interested in these whilst doing his National Service, as there he encountered many people who had lived through

the War, whose experiences he would love to have explored.

Margaret was born in West London in 1938. She began her education in Chiswick, then went on to Ealing Grammar

School, and subsequently trained to be a teacher in Streatham. Margaret's mother refused to be evacuated with Margaret during the War because she herself had been brought up by a series of aunts, a grandmother, and then a father and stepmother, and she was determined that Margaret would be brought up by her own mother.



Margaret and Pat's wedding day in 1962

On leaving her teacher training college, Margaret worked for a time in Ealing before she had children. Pat and Margaret already had a son, David, when they moved to Worcester Park. They then went on to have another three children: David is a diplomat, currently Ambassador to El Salvador; Jonathan is a lecturer at Queensland University and a part-time journalist; Jo is a teacher of History at Glyn School; and Sarah was a first-class air stewardess for British Airways for fifteen years.

Margaret felt that it was important to be at home while the children were growing up but, when Sarah started school, a friend asked Margaret if she would step into the breach and do some English as a foreign language teaching starting immediately. This she did for a number of years, fitting it around her own children's school timetable. Margaret also taught as part of the YOPS training programme (Youth Opportunities

Training Programme) which encouraged 16-18 year olds into work. These students were often difficult, but Margaret found most of them to be wonderful to teach.

Although she had originally trained as a Junior School teacher, Margaret taught O' level English and basic English and Maths at night school, which she described as a "steep learning curve". Margaret did finally return to Junior School teaching at Cuddington Croft School, in West Ewell, where she stayed for about 20 years, but never full-time "because the passion for paperwork and recording had come in and there was no time to teach".

Although she officially retired at 60, Margaret continued teaching until well into her seventies. "Basically children have been my life, because of the teaching and having four children, then being a teacher again, I've never regretted it. I found it

very rewarding. I wasn't ambitious and didn't want to be a head or a deputy head, I just enjoyed teaching".

Margaret joined the student Christian Union at college, and was confirmed in St. Paul's Cathedral (where her eldest son was also married). She and Pat joined St. Mary's when they moved to Worcester Park and their children went to Sunday School and were confirmed there (Jo was also married there). Margaret was a member of the Young Wives and the Mothers' Union. She has been a PCC member three times, and is currently a serving member, with a special interest in mission giving. Pat would often accompany Margaret and his children to St. Mary's.

It was while his youngest daughter, Sarah, was about to attend confirmation classes that the Vicar, Harvey Pentreath, suggested that Pat might also like to also be confirmed, which he was.

Having brought up four children together, Margaret and Pat are now looking after their granddaughter Olivia. They did not anticipate having a teenager living with them now that they are in their eighties, but it is an arrangement that has benefits for both sides. The love that they have for Olivia, and the love that she, in turn, has for her grandparents, is plain for all to see. Olivia was confirmed by Bishop Jo three years ago – following in her family's footsteps.



Granddaughter Olivia with Bishop Jo and other confirmants at St Mary's in 2017