

IN MEMORIAM

MRS THELMA MARY HILL (STAFF 1965-85)

Thelma Hill, who has died aged 97, joined the Reading School Staff as assistant to the Bursar Col L R C Watson M.I.E.E. When she left, twenty years later, her post was styled Bursar's Secretary and she had served two further Bursars in the form of Mr R W Walker, OBE., FCA., and Major J W Fyfe, and three Headmasters Messrs. C E Kemp, A T Davis and H E Bristow.

Thelma approached the myriad duties her job entailed with cheerfulness and calm. She was the very model of efficiency. Many also, will remember her compassion which was often called for in the pastoral role with the boys that she fulfilled as necessary.

She played a very full part in the activities of the School especially drama and music and, above all perhaps, natural history.

The latter interest and, indeed, her passion for history per se, had fired her early involvement with the National Trust that continued apace in her retirement. That overlapped with her love of theatre of all kinds as she organised such trips for the Reading Branch of the National Trust into her 90s.

Gardening and bird watching were further interests, growing vegetables in a double sized allotment at Twyford and cultivating flowers in her gardens at home with unflagging enthusiasm.

She was a loyal and generous lady, and took the greatest pride in her family. She had the great sadness of her husband John and daughter Bridget pre-deceasing her and she is survived by her other daughter, Jennifer, granddaughter Alison, and grandson Andrew.

A Memorial Service was held for Thelma at St Andrew's Church, Sonning and amongst the congregation was Mrs Joan Bristow, widow of John Bristow, late Headmaster of Reading School, and representatives of the OR Association.

KCB

Mrs T M Hill, born 8 August 1920, died 27 November 2017, aged 97.

