

It is with great sadness that we must confirm our mum Julia Cherrett passed away unexpectedly this week after suffering an extensive bleed on her brain while at home on Thursday evening. She had spent the afternoon doing what she loved doing, helping the vulnerable residents of Bishopsgarth and Elm Tree who she served for many years as a dedicated, hard-working councillor. Her passing will be a loss not just to those residents, but Stockton as a whole.

Our mum dedicated her life to helping others. Whether that was her involvement with Eastern Ravens and Respond, or the idea that came out of those organisations, and probably her career achievement, the creation in 1990 of FRADE, initially operating out of our garage at home. On more than one occasion we came home from school to find mum had given away our fridge to somebody who needed it for insulin. That more than anything sums up who our mum was, and we would like to think her example has shaped the people we have become.

That FRADE grew and thrived even now 30 years on is something mum remained immensely proud of even after she left the charity to explore other opportunities to help those in need. This was reflected and recognised in the community when she was named Citizen of the Year by Stockton Rotary Club.

Years of service at Stockton Shopmobility as manager then followed. Throughout both her time at FRADE and at Shopmobility her commitment to giving people a second chance always shone through, working with HMP Kirklevington to provide numerous opportunities for offenders to rehabilitate and find gainful employment on their release.

When she left Shopmobility she turned to supporting the residents of the ward she came to represent, initially with Suzanne Fletcher MBE, and then latterly with Elliot Kennedy and then David Minchella, working tirelessly any time day or night for the people she served right up to her passing.

But our mum wasn't just about her work. A dedicated mother to both of us, and more recently a very proud and loving Grandma and Step-Grandma. It is a terrible sadness that the events of 2020 meant she was unable to spend as much time with her Grandchildren who were such a source of joy to her as she would have liked. The happiness in her voice when she was able to hug her granddaughter earlier this week for the first time in months is a memory that will live forever.

She leaves behind her loving husband of many years, Mike who was with her right to the end, and 3 brothers, Dave, Geoff and Steve, as well as her children and grandchildren. She will be missed and loved by us all.

We ask at this difficult time that our privacy be respected as we come to terms with the loss of our mother and the best role model we could have ever asked for. No further statement will be made.

Allyd and Hannah