

# Muriel Robinson

## Founder and President of Knutsford u3a

### October 1931 - January 2022



Left to right: Margaret Weltman, Monica Beswick and Muriel Robinson  
at the Knutsford u3a 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary tea in May 2015

Muriel's family, like those of many other Jews in Britain, originated in Lithuania from where her ancestors emigrated in the middle of the 19th century-moving to Glasgow which at that stage was a magnet for many similar emigrants. She was born and brought up in Glasgow, moving to Edinburgh after her marriage and the birth of her two children.

She had always regretted not receiving a university education and after they moved to Southport she qualified as a teacher at what was then Edge Hill teachers' college. Subsequently she moved on to social work for the local authority before becoming involved in the world of personnel management (HR).

Travel was always a big part of her life and even when the family were in Edinburgh, she travelled by car with a close friend and both families' children through France to Spain in the days before motorways and modern ferries.

Following the breakdown of her marriage in 1986 she moved to Knutsford where she stayed to the end of her life.

It was in Knutsford that she met and married Jim Robinson and had six happy years with him before his sudden death in 2003.

In 2005, Muriel learned about u3a, and she asked 2 of her neighbours, Monica Beswick and Margie Weltman, to help her to launch u3a in Knutsford. They set up an inaugural meeting, wondering if perhaps half a dozen people might turn up. Over a hundred arrived and the rest is history. Today we have around 720 members and about 55 interest groups.

In 2015, our tenth anniversary year, Muriel was given a local award for her outstanding contribution to the community in Knutsford. She was justly proud of this and received the award from George Osbourne.

Her son said at the funeral that what stands out was her determination to seize life, not to be a passenger but to make her own mark on the world.

She made a huge impact on the lives of older people in Knutsford, and we are aware that we owe her a debt of gratitude for her pioneering spirit and inspiration that has transformed so many lives.

**Margaret Joscelyne**  
**January 2022**