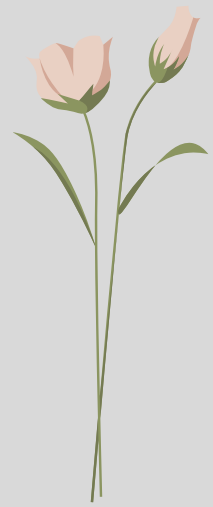
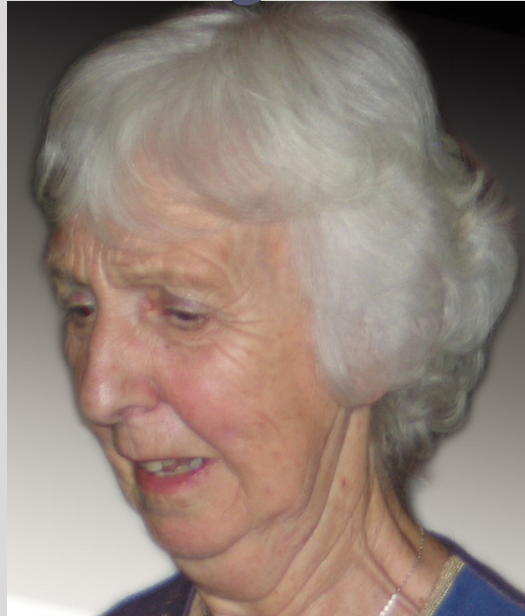


# Celebrating the life of



## DOREEN BOWEN

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Doreen Bowen's passing, just as the Global Retreat Centre prepares to reopen, brings back wonderful memories of her contribution in the early days at GRC, and over subsequent years in which so many thousands of guests were hosted.

Doreen was one of a handful of people who attended the first public event, just after the opening in June 1993, and she became a pillar of support in both service and within the GRC family over the next 25 years. She took the Raja Yoga course soon after the opening and was a steadfast, daily morning class student until her health began to deteriorate.

Dadi Janki had brought together a team of Brahmins from many different backgrounds, most of whom had never experienced centre life before. Doreen was married, with one son, and her maturity, acceptance and sweetness earned her the title of 'Queen Mother' from Dadi, who also told her teasingly that she was "an expensive child of Baba" because of GRC having to be acquired in order to find her.

She was regal, well-bred, gracious, gentle, and motherly – warm, and genuinely interested in residents and their welfare, but never intrusive. She carries with her the fortune of having played an invaluable role at a key time in service.

Doreen passed away peacefully at home on the 24th June after a long illness with Alzheimers. Her husband Peter and son Roger lovingly cared for her till the end.

The funeral will take place at South Oxfordshire Crematorium (South Oxford Chapel) near Abingdon, OX135PA, on 23rd August at 12 noon.

If you wish to join the family for refreshments afterwards at the La Fontana restaurant near Wantage (OX12OP), please let Peter know (07947870040)