

OBITUARY

ROSEMARY GILL, 1939-2020

Many MLS members will remember Rosemary Gill who was a very active member of the Society, encouraged many of us in our magic lantern and related endeavours, and gave the magic lantern its due prominence at the Bethnal Green Museum of Childhood (part of the V&A Museum). Sadly Rosemary passed away this summer and is here remembered by her daughter Georgia Gill and long-time friends of Rosemary and MLS members Pat and Ray Gilbert.

Georgia Gill writes:

"Life was certainly never boring being brought up by my Mum, Rosemary Gill. A mum who somehow made ends meet by doing 'a little bit of this and a little bit of that' – she was always the entrepreneur with creativity in her DNA. She made our curtains out of left-over material from theatrical productions she'd been in, toured with her partner round the schools putting on *Curly the Caterpillar* puppet shows, took me to antique markets in the depth of winter at 5am and turned the house over to 'Bed and Breakfast' tourists (giving up her bedroom and sleeping on the sofa whilst putting me in a tent in the garden). I'd regularly visit her later on and find the living room turned upside down whilst she rehearsed her latest magic lantern show – with slides everywhere and a white sheet pinned up over the window to project onto. She kept countless diaries of how each show went and the feedback she had received from her audiences.



"How I loved her quirkiness and 'can do' attitude and I feel eternally blessed to have come from such a wacky family!"

Pat and Ray Gilbert write:

"We have become aware of the death of Rosemary Gill in June of this year. She was an enthusiastic member of the Society for many years, often arriving only in the nick of time for the start of a meeting but bringing her own bubbly and dynamic personality to the Society. She was educated at St Mary's School for girls in Abbots Bromley near Burton upon Trent, something that she often recollected to us as we were so local. Perhaps she will be best remembered for her interest in the Bethnal Green Museum where she put on magic lantern shows and exhibitions."