

## **Gillian Margaret Tetley (Mrs Neil Thomson) (1929-2013)**

Gillian was brought up in Guernsey but the family, with the exception of her father who remained on the family farm on the island, spent the war in Dorking. Gillian spent two years with family members in South Africa, after the war, before entering Dartford College of Physical Education in 1948. After completing her course in 1951, she taught at Reigate Grammar School and then met her future husband at her sister's wedding in 1953. She married in 1954.

In an era when the Government refused to accept the existence of dyslexia, Gillian realised all her four children suffered from it, to some degree.

She founded the Scottish Association for the Study of Dyslexia and threw herself into fund-raising for the group. She became Chair and Secretary for over thirty years and, in her early 70s, helped to start the British Dyslexia Association and was Vice Chair for a number of years. She initiated and organised the prestigious Annual Scottish Dyslexia National Conference which included a number of international speakers.

In 1994 she relinquished her roles with the parent organisation and set up local branches to create local points of contact for anxious parents. In 2004 the Scottish Dyslexic Trust merged with the Scottish Association to form Dyslexia Scotland.

In 1993 Gillian's tireless work was recognised and she was awarded an MBE.