

*Jean Mabel Fostekew nee Nelmes.*

*Jean was born February 7th 1931 in a gentlemen's outfitters at No ? market place Wokingham. Later Jean moved to 95, Wokingham Road, Reading with her parents, another gentlemen's outfitters and attended the Alfred Sutton School, Jean then passed the Scholarship to attend the Abbey School in Reading.*

*After leaving the Abbey School Jean then became a student at The Miles Aeronautical Technical School, one of few girls at that time to attend such an establishment. Founded by Mrs Maxine (Blossom) Miles and Dr Tibor Csato an Hungarian scientist and humanitarian. This unique method of education enabled students to experience many aspects of education to include all the fields of engineering relating to aeronautics. Jean qualified as an aerodynamicist and became an Associate Fellow of the Royal Aeronautical Society.*

*Jean, always interested in sport, especially cricket and was scorer for Wokingham and her Father's team and was with the team when they went on tour, mainly to the West Country. When the Test Matches were broadcast on radio and then Televised Jean would then have TV sound off and listen to the radio....the commentaries were that much better, Rugby Union was another of Jean's passions and attended several major matches with son Raymond. I often jokingly said she would watch "Tiddlywinks" if it was Televised !*

*After Tech college Jean joined the Fairey Aviation Company at White Waltham near Maidenhead, later in her career Jean transferred to the Fairey Survey Co and using her mathematical skills became the "computer" transferring the surveyors figures and calculations to paper.*

*With her late first husband and two small boys Jean spent four years in the United States living in San Antonio, Texas and later Los Angeles, California.*

*On Jean's return to the UK she settled down to raise her family before starting work again. Moving to Maidenhead*

*Jean then again commenced work for Fairey Survey Co using her mathematical skills working closely with surveyors. Jean became involved with the Maidenhead Archaeological Society and took part in “digs” locally and attended lectures at Oxford and elsewhere in the country.*

*Family history was another of her passions and she traced her family back as far as the 1500s.*

*The Forest of Dean has always been her spiritual home and from childhood she would be put on a train at Reading and then from Gloucester take the train to her Grandmothers at Ruardean.*

*Jean was quite a remarkable lady in so many ways and was inspired to write the biography of another remarkable lady, the late Mrs Maxine “Blossom” Miles (published in 1998 ) one of the founders of the Miles Tech School another biography written by Jean is about Miss Beatrice “Tilly” Shilling, as yet unpublished, “Tilly” was another very clever lady.*

*Jean’s involvement with the Museum of Berkshire Aviation commenced over thirty years ago, inspired by Mr Julian Temple himself an industrial archaeologist and historian, author of “Wings over Woodley”. Jean then took on numerous tasks to include management Committee Chairman, Treasurer, Archivist, Librarian, Presentations for various History organisations, speakers for the monthly Aviation Society meetings, fundraising sales stalls at Vintage Aircraft rallies around the country.*

*Jean also spent time organising re-unions for ex Tech school students all over UK and on Continental Europe and in our home, some of whom had been working in the US and major organisations in UK and Europe.*

*So we bid a final farewell to a lovely lady, Jean will be sadly missed by so many people along with her entertaining and her sense of humour at our little home and in her garden.*

