

Ascension by Luke Jerram

23rd March 2024, Bristol, UK.

Artist Luke Jerram created a project in memory of those who lost their lives during the Covid-19 pandemic. Luke asked people to send in a photo of someone they lost during the pandemic and wanted to remember. He then worked with a tailor to sew the portraits onto specially made kites which were flown in a special memorial event.



The event allowed the participants an opportunity to remember their loved ones, celebrate their lives and grieve their loss at a time when much of the world is moving on from the effects of the Covid-19 pandemic.

Thank you to Marie Curie for providing funding as part of Day of Reflection 2024.

Here are some of the people we remembered on the day:

Barbara Guy, 1953 - 2021.



My mother was known for being a fiery Welsh woman, but with a heart of gold, who would do anything to help those less fortunate than herself. She accepted and respected people from all walks of life. My mother also loved being a Nanny to all her Grandchildren, literally kidnapping them away and spoiling them rotten. We miss her love, kindness and crazy sense of humour!

Brian Keable, 1937 - 2020.



We lost my great grandad during the lockdown to Covid. He had been unwell and had been in hospital for a short time. He was then taken to a nursing home where he contracted Covid and deteriorated very quickly. My great aunt and uncle were able to visit the grounds, but only communicating through the closed window. They were able to have one last tot of rum with him in his last few days. Before falling ill, he was a keen hiker and was walking mountains well into his retirement. His favourite walks were the Three Peaks Walk and Coast to Coast Walk. It will be wonderful to walk with him up another hill. One last climb.

Chris Scott, 1946 - 2020.



Scotty was a much loved Husband, Father, Papa, Brother, Friend & Business man, he was the life and soul of any party, the most generous, fun loving man with a passion for rugby and horse racing, he is so deeply missed by everyone who knew him, the thought of him dying alone in hospital is something that will haunt us for the rest of our lives. Missed beyond belief, our hearts are broken.

David Johnson, 1956 - 2020.



David loved kites, starting with a visit to Bristol kite festival in 1989. Little did we know then it would take over our lives! He travelled all over the world and eventually helped organise the Bristol festival until its demise in 2015. He was chairman and organiser of Avon kite flyers for many years. All that and working full time as a Building Control Officer!

Gilbert Smith, 1942 - 2020.



Gilbert Smith was born on 12 December 1942 in St George, Bristol. He sadly lost a hard-fought fight with Covid on 20 November 2020. Gilbert was a kind, loving and hardworking man, a gentle giant, with an infectious sense of humour. He was deeply devoted to his wife Margaret. As well as being a devoted husband Gilbert was a great Dad, Grandpa, Great-Grandpa, father-in-law, brother, uncle and friend to many.

Gilbert is missed so very much by everyone who knew him.

Jerry Appleyard, 1958 - 2021.



Jerry spent the last 20 years of his life dealing with chronic illness but never lost his free spirit or dapper dress sense. As children we would talk about our adult aspirations; I wanted to be a cowboy, he wanted to be an aeroplane. We hope he flies high on the 23 March!

Joan Whitcombe, 1934 - 2020.



Joan was a brilliant Mother and Grandmother... A very friendly lady, who had lots of friends, she loved animals. I am proud to have had her as my Mum, and I miss her so much.

Les Fryatt, 1924 – 2020.



My grandad was very family-orientated and loved family reunions – particularly ones where he got to hold court! Like many in his generation, Les served in the Second World War. He was in the Royal Artillery and was involved in the Allied invasion of Normandy during June 1944. He was subsequently appointed Chevalier de la Légion d'honneur for the role he played in the liberation of France. We lost him very early on in the pandemic when lockdown was still at its strictest. I never got to go to London to see him and had to watch his funeral on my mobile phone. I submitted his photo for the "Ascension" Project both to remember him, and to say a proper goodbye.

Nick Bryant, 1968 - 2021.



Nick was a wonderful husband, father to Cole and Livia and son. He was very fit so it was a complete shock when he passed with Covid. He truly was a kind, funny man and was loved by everyone who knew him. Our pain is still raw, we miss him every day.

Pearl Drinkwater, 1934 - 2020.



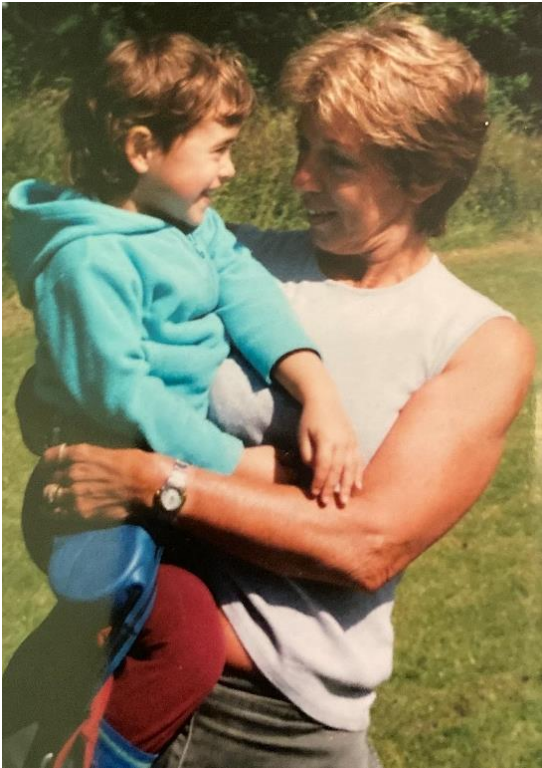
Nanny Pearl was an absolute legend, everyone who met her instantly loved her, she was the kindest lady with a wicked sense of humour, known for organising community coach trips back in her day. She had the saddest upbringing, but she always had a "heart of gold" and is still painfully missed by all her children, grandchildren, and great grandchildren.

Rickie Attwood, 1963 - 2020.



Rickie was the life and soul of the party, with a great sense of humour. He was always willing to offer a helping hand and a listening ear! We all miss him very much.

Sandra Chapman, 1945 - 2020.



Sandra loved travel, particularly throughout India, she went on many trips, and her house was covered with photos and elephants from her travels. Unfortunately, she had a lot more travelling to do before she died. One dream was to ride in a hot air balloon, and she would have loved to come to Bristol to do this.

Steve McQueen, 1957 – 2020.



Steve adored his family and was enchanted by his grandchildren. He loved fast cars, real ale, telling long-winded, crappy jokes, travelling, futzing in his garage, the sea and hanging out with his friends. He was always laughing and made life's mundanities interesting and fun.

The world is a duller place without Steve.

Twink Bibbington, 1924 - 2021.



Twink was a sociable, independent 96-year-old living in her own home with an active social life. She was a social worker, teacher and secretary in our father's textile company as well kept sailor. She enjoyed life to the full. She had many friends and is very much missed by them all and her family.

William Owen, 1924 - 2021.



William was a much-loved father, grandfather, great grandfather, and husband. He was an artist, architect, amateur magician, and marmalade lover. He was also a proud Welshman, from farming stock and served in the navy during the war.

He loved kites!!!