

# EAST ANGLIAN DAILY TIMES

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## **Tributes to Millennium Mayor**

TRIBUTES have been paid to Margaret Horbury, St Edmundsbury's Millennium mayor, who has died aged 83.

SHE stood for election following the death of her devoted husband and will be remembered as a Suffolk borough's Millennium mayor.

Margaret Horbury, who represented Great Barton for 18 years on St Edmundsbury Borough Council, has died at the age of 83 after a two-year battle with a form of Parkinson's disease.

Presented with her long service award by the council just weeks ago, Mrs Horbury was actively engaged in council business until earlier this year.

Fellow political figures last night told of her forthright belief in doing good deeds for others. For family members, she was a loving mother who got to see her first great-grandchild, Jed.

Her daughter, Jean Fox, said: "When she was fit and healthy, she would go out and help others. She loved people and she loved life. She was a battler and she made everyone laugh."

Mrs Fox, who lives in Gloucester, told how her mother was born in Paisley before moving to Ipswich as a teenager. During the Second World War she was stationed in Alexandria where she met her husband, a flight lieutenant in the RAF, Arthur Horbury. Eventually they returned to Suffolk and settled in Great Barton.

But it was only after the death of Mr Horbury from cancer, that Mrs Horbury entered the fray of local politics. She stood for the Conservative party in Great Barton and won the seat.

Years later and Mrs Horbury found herself being made mayor of St Edmundsbury for 1999-2000, a fact of which she was deeply proud, said her daughter.

Council leader John Griffiths said: "Margaret was a wonderful lady and a dedicated councillor who devoted most of her time to serving other people. She will be very sadly missed and fondly remembered."

Margaret Charlesworth, the current mayor, said: "Margaret was a highly dedicated councillor who committed 18 years of her life to serving the people of the borough.

"As mayor, Margaret was immensely proud to serve the borough during the Millennium year and always acted as a great ambassador for St Edmundsbury throughout her time as a councillor."

Her funeral will take place at the Parish Church of Holy Innocents in Great Barton next Tuesday at 1pm followed by cremation.

Mrs Horbury leaves behind her two daughters, Jean Fox and Patsy Mitchell-Innes, her grandchildren and great grandchild.