

Worcestershire M.E. Support Group  
for people affected by ME, CFS, and FMS

Group Friend of ME Research UK  
Partner Group of Tymes Trust (The Young ME Sufferers).  
member of the West Midlands ME Groups Consortium (WMMEG)

**Annual General Meeting - September 2012**

**Betty Hughes MBE,**

Worcestershire ME Support Group President 2002 - 2012

Betty was a friend to many people, and gave her time to many causes.

She was a marvellous lady and will be greatly missed.

She did a tremendous amount for the ME community, and will be very deeply missed.

I was very impressed by her amazing vitality and determination.

Betty Hughes was a truly remarkable lady.

Betty Hughes MBE became involved with supporting people affected by ME when she attended the first meeting of the "Vale of Evesham ME Support Group" in May 1993, hosted at Bernard Speakman's home when he lived in Defford. This Evesham local group was part of the then Hereford and Worcester ME Support Group.

At the time, Betty Hughes was Mayor of Pershore, but she had a very close family connection with ME as her granddaughter, Naomi, was (and still is) severely affected by ME. Betty Hughes was delighted to act as President of the "Vale of Evesham ME Group", and in 2002 became President of the "Worcestershire ME Support Group".

Over nineteen years, Betty raised thousands of pounds for local ME support. Betty was constantly fundraising (or attracting donations) for her favourite local charities, including our ME Support Group. Many members supported Betty at the Garden Parties she held in her own back garden. She had contacts in the Pershore area who would organise fundraising events on her behalf, and because Betty was so well-known, she had a "captive audience" who she could guarantee would support her fundraising efforts.

An extract from "**Pershore remembers Betty**"

Evesham Observer By Gary Smee 14/06

[www.eveshamobserver.co.uk/2012/06/14/news-Pershore-remembers-Betty-42529.html](http://www.eveshamobserver.co.uk/2012/06/14/news-Pershore-remembers-Betty-42529.html)

Betty stood down from Pershore Town Council after 28 years, including a two year stint as mayor, last May. She was the first ever woman to become Pershore Mayor when she took on the role in 1991.

Outside of her council work and involvement with St John Ambulance Mrs Hughes was a key part of a number of other organisations including Worcestershire M.E. Support Group, where she was honorary president, a life member of the Friends of Pershore Abbey, president of the Avonvale Organ Club and associate member of Cherry Orchard First School governors association. She was also involved with the Friends of St Marys Church in Wick, Friends of Pershore Baptist Church and Friends of Pershore Hospital.

She was awarded an MBE in 1999.