

In the week when the Queen enjoyed her 91st birthday at Newbury racecourse, The Arts Society Runnymede member Alice Moller celebrated her 105th partying with 43 friends and family, and completing five lengths of a Warwick Country Club's Olympic size pool.

In the past she was keen on aqua aerobics, petite Alice remembers 'I had to work harder than the rest, at 4'7" my head was always under water!' Alice reached championship heights in skiing and gymnastics and still exercises every morning.

Born in Vienna, the only child of a Jewish family she managed through sheer determination to get her husband released from Dachau concentration camp in 1939, acquire relevant paperwork and escape to England with their baby daughter.

'If you don't like it, do something about it' is Alice's motto and this has served her well through so many challenging times. 'Don't expect anything and you will never be disappointed,' she adds, stoically.

She has so many memories to recall, and sees the humour in every one. As the oldest member of the Anglo-Austrian Society, Alice was introduced to Nelson Mandela, who with a cheeky smile asked her to send his best wishes to the Queen.

Her opportunity came when she met her Majesty at the Golden Jubilee. As instructed Alice waited until the Queen spoke first then took her cue to relay the message.

When she moved to Egham over 10 years ago, Alice quickly found Runnymede NADFAS. She is interested in everything; music was her first love and 'art came later'. She was first attracted to art lectures as 'an evening out' when she and her husband were living and working in the rag trade.

Currently Alice is busy organising her programme of visits to concerts and opera in London with friends. Her apartment displays an eclectic collection of art, mostly personal gifts from old friends to sketches by her great granddaughter studying as a textile designer at Hull University. 'Every picture tells a story,' she says – and she has many stories to tell.

ENDS

Pic caption

Chairman Barbara Thornton presenting Alice with flowers