

She travelled to Thailand on a P&O liner via Singapore, which must have been quite the adventure. Morag worked at the leprosy hospital in Manorom, two hours north of Bangkok. She spent a total of six years in Thailand, on two separate occasions (with one being cut short due to contracting malaria) in the 1960s, and made many more lifelong friends, including Margot Simpson, Jan Mason, John Hay, John and Edith Toop, Eileen Gordon, Jean Anderson, and many others.

Upon her return to Glasgow Morag met another young missionary (through lifelong family friends, Jim and Aileen McNeill and Bill and Margaret Cunningham) – a man by the name of Sam Hamilton (Sam Sr), who had just returned from Montana in America where he had been a Pastor and missionary to a number of Native American tribes. They married in 1970 and had two children – Rona and Samuel (Sam Jr).

Morag and Sam Sr first lived in a flat in Dunedin Terrace in Clydebank and then, in 1982, bought the house that was to become their family home, at 116 Yokermill Road. Morag worked nightshifts as a midwife while Sam Sr worked as a Pastor and engaged in a number of different ventures, including selling double glazing, and other sales activities. Rona and Sam Jr fondly remember a pre-Christmas period when they returned home to find their bedrooms full of soft toys to be sold; on another occasion, they returned to a house full of chocolate bars!

Sam Sr was particularly adept at purchasing cars in various states of repair, including such classics as the Morris Minor, Hilman Imp, Morris Marina and Austin Ambassador. Morag often recalled with laughter the story of them being stopped by a policeman outside the Kelvin Hall in the snow. The policeman looked inside to see Morag still pulling two strings that were operating the windscreen wipers.





At the age of 50, and despite being told that she was too old, Morag re-qualified as a health visitor. As part of her role she was entitled to a health board car and so promptly learned to drive, passing on her first attempt. However, Morag was initially too frightened to drive the new car and, during some uncharacteristically rainy weather, suggested that Rona use the car to get to work in her gap year job as a postwoman. Rona swiftly drove the brand new car into a bollard, and then, upon reversing from the bollard, tore the bumper off the car. Quite characteristically, Morag hardly blinked.

Morag practised as a health visitor in Drumchapel, where this mild-mannered woman from the Hebrides looked after the young children of various characters (some of a criminal leaning) who became very fond of her. Consequently, she was one of the safest women in Drumchapel and her little red fiesta was protected from theft and vandalism. She often recalled a highlight of this period, when, in recognition of her time as a health visitor, she attended a Garden Party at Buckingham Palace and met the Queen Mother.

The Hamilton family's usual holiday destination was Raasay, for a fortnight of rain during the Glasgow Fair. A notable exception was a holiday to Loch Eriboll, where, to everyone's amusement, it became apparent that a neighbour who had befriended the young family was drinking whisky during the day from her teacup, prompting her to fall into a ditch upon saying farewell. Equally, Morag particularly enjoyed recalling a moment when she and Sam Jr went to see if they could cut some peat for fun, only for a Wallace Arnold bus to show up with people frantically photographing the 'crofters' hard at work.

Morag enjoyed her holiday to Australia, to attend the wedding of Sam Jr and Susannah. One of the highlights of the trip was the night the Scottish contingent went to a Mexican restaurant. No-one mentioned to Morag that the very drinkable margaritas contained alcohol. Lots of giggling ensued. She also enjoyed spending time with Susannah's parents over the years, with a rather impressive exchange of wildlife calendars and crockery.

Following her retirement from health visiting, Morag spent time visiting extended family (especially in Raasay), and friends in and around Glasgow. She enjoyed tending to her garden, which always featured bountiful crops of blackberries and other fruit, and became an avid stamp collector, spending many happy hours moving stamps between albums with no apparent conclusion. She enjoyed welcoming people from around the world and locally into her home, and her knowledge of human-interest stories grew, probably helped with the discovery of various TV news channels, including that of Al Jazeera TV.





Perhaps most of all, Morag enjoyed spending time with her family, visiting and following the news of Patsy, Angus and Sheena, and their families: Fiona, Neil, John, Kate, Donald, Archie and Hamish, as well as her many cousins, including Gina and Morag. She was a great support to and very involved with Rona, Sam Jr and Susannah, and their children: Kirsty, Ruairidh, Fiona, Torran, Lochlann and Cameron, providing ample work for various dentists with a seemingly uninterrupted supply of sweets (often given behind their parents' backs).

Throughout her life, Morag enjoyed looking after others and was particularly fond of feeding people (and it wasn't just people, she never missed an opportunity to stop the car to feed horses mints from her handbag). As a Highland mother from the post-war period the biggest insult you could level against her was to suggest that her children were looking thin, and so, in this regard, Sam Jr must be one of her greatest achievements.

She was a Sunday lunch provider of some renown, receiving particular commendations for her roast potatoes and trifle. However, her time in Thailand led her to believe she could cook Thai food without actually using any Thai ingredients, a style of cooking best described as 'experimental'.

Morag was particularly focused on ensuring her children consumed a sufficient amount of vegetables, so much so that Rona became a vegetarian. It therefore came as some surprise to the family when, in her 80s, she declared that she had never liked vegetables and had a particular dislike for broccoli and carrots. The family had assumed all along that she had been inadvertently overcooking broccoli, but now understand she was probably just trying to kill it.