

Tribute to Di Aulsebrook (1959 – 2018)

Tuddenham residents joined with husband Steve and her children Charlie, Gigi and Freya to say goodbye to our neighbour and friend, Di Aulsebrook, who lost her brave fight against cancer in December 2018.

Di was born in Doncaster in 1959 – later that year her father, who worked for an International Bank, was transferred to Ceylon (now Sri Lanka) and that is where Di and her 3 sisters spent their childhood. One of Di's earliest memories was of her and twin sister Debbie helping to decorate the elephants for the ceremonial processions and painting their toenails.

In 1978, Di followed her elder sister Philippa to Leeds University and it was there that she met her future husband Steve for the first time. She graduated in 1981 with a degree in English and History of Art. Following her graduation, Di undertook a secretarial course before moving to London to work in publishing. She became the Circulation Manager for the newly launched Wall Street Journal Europe. Her role involved promoting the new publication and also overseeing its distribution. As the paper was printed in Belgium, Di undertook many journeys across the Channel in small aircraft to ensure that the paper arrived in the UK on time. Looking for a new challenge, Di joined a PR company based in Hatton Garden promoting new publications Prima and Best magazines. She introduced and organised the Best Magazine "Teacher of the Year Award".

Whilst living in London she bumped into Stephen outside a Tube Station and invited him to a party that she and her flatmate were throwing the following weekend. He went to the party and romance blossomed. In the early 90s Steve was posted to New York and Di, having recently been made redundant, decided to go with him. They had a wonderful time living in "The Big Apple", following which, they returned to the UK, married in 1993 and spent 3 weeks honeymooning in Australia.

They initially lived in London but Di was keen to move to the Country. As Di's twin sister Debbie was living in Suffolk, they began house hunting in the area. They found Old Glebe House in Tuddenham and moved in in May 1994. Di was a great cook and loved to organise social events – within 2 weeks of moving in she hosted a huge party for her father Neville's 70th birthday.

Within a year of arriving in Tuddenham, son Charlie was born followed by daughters Gigi & Freya. Baby son Harry was born in 1999 but sadly did not survive. The family, with Di at the fore, became very much involved in village life. They were part of the village dog walking fraternity with dogs Max, Kofi and more recently Mojo, and could be found each year at the Village Fete manning the Toy Stall.

Di was involved in village social activities for many years. She regularly provided beautiful flower arrangements for the Church and also spent some time as Clerk to the Parish Council.

Although she was good fun, with a dry sense of humour, Di was never one to be in the limelight. If you've ever attended a village social event, you probably wouldn't have seen Di – but she would have been there (usually in the kitchen) preparing the delicious Ploughman's Supper for the Quiz, dishing up one of her tasty soups for the Soup & Sweet Lunch or serving up her famous Sausage Casserole at the Harvest Lunch.

Di's funeral at Seven Hills Crematorium was "standing room only", a testament to her popularity. Her ashes will be interred in Tuddenham Churchyard with baby Harry.

Di was kind, generous and reliable, a good neighbour and friend to the Village. She will be much missed.