

Tuddenham Tribute to Jo Kelm

In September we said goodbye to Parish councillor Jo Kelm when she lost her brave fight against cancer.

Jo and husband John moved to Tuddenham St Martin in 1983 and have lived in the village since then. Jo was never one to be in the spotlight –always keen to join in but happy to let others take centre stage, however she was very much part of the village – she was a Parish Councillor for over 10 years and she and John always supported village activities.

She was a founder member of the village Book Club, the swimming group and the Ladies Supper Club.

In addition to her village activities Jo had several hobbies and interests. She loved Notcutts Gardening Club and she and John were members. She particularly liked cultivating exotic plants and her favourite flowers were orchids, agapanthus and alstroemerias. Jo was modest – few folk knew how talented she was at sugar craft until they saw her fantastic decoration of George's Felgate's 90th birthday cake.

Jo loved her spaniel Ruby – they went each week to Woofers dog training club and won several prizes for agility & obedience.

Jo & John's great passions were travel & cricket which they often combined. Jo was a one of few women who understood the rules of cricket! She was a member of Essex Cricket Club and John says she didn't need a programme as she knew all the players & their form. They often combined holidays with cricket and have seen the England team play in South Africa, Caribbean, Sri Lanka & Australia

Jo had a quick sense of humour and ready smile. She had such a positive attitude and love of life that even when she was battling cancer she was never grumpy. She carried on with her life without complaint – so much so that many people were unaware just how ill she was. She was determined not to let cancer spoil her life and she lived and loved her life right to the end.

The two most common descriptions of Jo by people who knew her were “always smiling” and “a lovely lady”. She will be very much missed.