

## **Judi Ayre**

Judi passed away peacefully on 22<sup>nd</sup> April and Tuddenham is now a gloomier place without her bright smile and sense of fun. She had lived in Tuddenham for the last fifteen years and where she made a huge impact and was a valued member of the village community.

I heard a quote the other day, which I think is very appropriate - "A life should be judged not on its length but on the way it has been lived and the way it touches those around it." I have spoken to a lot of friends and neighbours from the village. They all had different stories and recollections but the things everyone mentioned were Judi's sense of humour and fun, and above all her warmth & kindness.

Judi was one of those in the community who was a real do-er. She could always be relied on to roll up her sleeves and get stuck in whether it was the fete, a fund raiser at the hall or some other village event. She always went the extra mile for people without making a fuss or expecting any special recognition.

She was tremendously kind to neighbours and others who were going through tough times. She was a skilled and experienced physiotherapist and after her retirement Judi helped several people in the village with her skills and healing touch.

But it was her sense of humour that we will particularly remember. Many of us can recall the very funny speech she made at the Burns night supper a few years ago on behalf of the ladies and her enthusiastic dancing on the "Jive Night" she organised. She was also as a stalwart of the village pantomime, both on stage, delivering her cameo performances and as wardrobe mistress.

Now, it has to be said that Judi was rubbish at remembering her lines but she more than made up for it in the way she delivered them, always adding a quirk or twist to make it them more amusing. Whether in a sowester and overalls as the character 'Wendy Windblows', or as the voice of the mirror in Snow White, delivered with a heavy Geordie accent, she could always be relied on to raise a laugh.

As wardrobe mistress she was inspired in her choice of costumes, tailoring them to match the personality of the characters. She particularly went out of her way to help and cajole the younger, quieter or shy members of the cast.

Paul Jennings was often given the role of the Dame in the Panto and Judy was determined to do something a bit different from the standard costume. He says that he will always carry a vivid memory of one afternoon being dragged around the ladies department of Primark by Judi, as she searched out the most garish animal printed leggings and tops and held outsize lacy bras against him for size. They got some very funny looks from the staff!

We are all so sad to lose Judi. We are going to really miss her in Tuddenham but she has left us with some very happy, life enhancing memories.

*Jean Ellinor & Paul Jennings*