

JO MACE

From her arrival in Deddington in 1982, Jo Mace was involved in activities that stretched right across the community. Year after year Jo designed and made theatrical costumes and ingenious props for the Deddington Players. With the Playreading Group she gave many fine performances – from Shakespeare to Victoria Wood. A founder member of the Holly Tree Artists, she exhibited her landscapes, still-lifes and flower portraits in Deddington and beyond. Her illustrations for the Map Group and *the Deddington News* were charming and to the point. Jo hosted the weekly Craft Group meetings, and examples of her work can be seen in the health centre, library and private houses. Though with reservations about the Church, she was a friend of the church, happy to clean, polish and decorate the oldest and most most beautiful building in the parish. Jo was friendly and convivial, truly a Good Neighbour, and creative to the end of her life.

Norman Stone

Do you have any idea how bereft we are feeling?
We loved you so much it has left us all reeling
There's a hole in our lives that no one can fill
Oh, how wretched to find you'd given the slip
To family dear and on Deddington hill
You were always so full of mischievous fun
With designing and colour we hadn't a clue
How to start on a collage or plan something new
Your pencil would fly and in no time at all
We had, lo and behold, a new project begun
When we brought you a drawing – 'Oh no that won't do,
I'll rough something out to give you a start,
You do the sewing and I'll do the art.'
In spite of arthritis you could still sew a patch
To fashion great gifts for your grandchildren too
We're out of your home where we kept all our stuff
And wondering however our group will re-form
Now that tea round your table's no longer the norm
Since you're not here to help us, and telling us how
To get our ideas drawn when starting was tough
'Please use my house was always the cry
'It's really too big for me here all alone'
So craft group, conservatives, friends, one and all
Will have to find refuge with backs to the wall
'cos while you were with us, on you we'd rely
Wherever you are I hope still your chuckle
Will echo around giving angels great pleasure
As you gave to us all in your life. What a treasure!
Rest easy dear Jo, you gave us all of your best
Because you were here, we are mightily blest.

Stella Marmion