

## Jane Kellett, 1926–2022

Lady Kellett, known to us all as Jane, was born Janet Lesly Street in Havant. Her father owned an ironmongery shop in the town centre whilst her mother spent much of her life involved with the British Red Cross Society. Jane had one elder brother, Peter.



Jane was 13 at the outbreak of the Second World War and she and Peter were evacuated to Petersfield where they lived with their Auntie Gert. Jane was very happy living with Auntie Gert and attended Petersfield High School whilst Peter went to Churcher's College.

But life was not straightforward as two London schools were evacuated to Petersfield: Churcher's College had to share its buildings with Emmanuel School, whilst Petersfield High School had to share with Battersea Central School. The London pupils and teachers had to be accommodated locally and Auntie Gert took in two boys and a Latin master who helped Jane with her Latin. The local children, including Peter and Jane, had the use of the buildings in the mornings while the London schools had the afternoons.

A further complication for Jane was that she fell and broke her left arm shortly before her School Certificate exams. The school 'helpfully' suggested that Jane, a left-hander, could write her exams using her right hand. After Jane's father took issue with them, it was agreed that her exams should be postponed. But her school did not enter candidates at Christmas, so Jane had the traumatic experience of travelling alone to Guildford and staying for ten days with complete strangers whilst attending Guildford High School to take her exams.

After leaving school Jane did secretarial training at Miss Sprules Secretarial Academy which was evacuated from Victoria, London, to Carfax in Oxford. Being wartime, the government then decided she should work for the Admiralty in Emsworth, close to Havant. Towards the end of the war, two young men, Brian and Joe, arrived at the Street's' house, asking whether they could be accommodated. The Street's names were on a list of people with spare rooms and, as such, they were expected to take in lodgers if required. Jane's father told them to come back later and imagined they would not see them again; but they did come back and their fate was decided with the toss of a coin. As a consequence Jane met Brian and so began their relationship which led to marriage two years after the end of the war.

Throughout their nearly 47 years' marriage, Jane faithfully supported Brian as his career developed and the need arose to move house a number of times so that he could be close to his workplace, with spells in Surbiton, St Helens, Sutton Coldfield, Edgbaston, Harpenden and Hampstead. As Brian rose to the top of the TI Group, so Jane rose to the challenges expected and ably put on dinner parties for important company guests. Jane's ability in the kitchen was something which stood her in good stead for many years.

After moving to Deddington in 1978 she became heavily involved in village and church life: hosting the church fair in the garden of the Old Malt House in 1984, a stalwart of the church flower arrangers, on the sidesmen rota, baking

scones and cakes for church teas and other village events. Even after Brian died in 1994, Jane continued with her generous entertaining, bringing great pleasure to friends. She helped collate the DN. She gave lunch parties for friends and anyone she knew of who might need a bit of TLC. She took old ladies out for a drive or lunch and visited them in Featherton House and Godswell ... but had difficulty accepting her limitations when she became one of these old ladies. She was a patron of the Adderbury Ensemble. After Brian's death, Jane sold the Old Malt House and moved into Tays House, and for the last three-and-a-half years of her life Jane lived at Featherton House.

Jane continued throughout her life to support her three daughters, Elizabeth, Hilary and Susan. She will be sorely missed by the whole family, including her six grandchildren and three great grandchildren.

***From material supplied by Jane's three daughters***