

JEAN FLUX (1936–2013)



Jean was born in Southwark on 28 April 1936. During the war she was evacuated to Oxford where she started school. On the family's return to London they lived in Wimbledon. She eventually returned to Oxford to attend the university, reading English on a state scholarship, graduating with a first and a distinction in her PGCE. This cemented a lifelong love of literature and teaching which was a clear thread throughout Jean's life. It was also while at Oxford that she met Jim. They married in 1959. With typical practicality Jean wore blue so she could wear her dress more than once.

Married life resulted in a peripatetic life moving from the UK to Germany, back to the UK, again to Germany, then to Canada, Morocco, Switzerland and finally, with retirement, back to the UK and Deddington. Along the way, Jean was involved in amateur dramatics, both producing and directing; helping to run expat English language libraries; tutoring English to many students, entertaining, despite the challenges of getting the right ingredients and always finding practical solutions to 'interesting' challenges, like how to clean sand from every surface inside the house following a sand storm in Morocco.

Once in Deddington, Jean got involved in village life and once again found ways to feed her passions for literature, amateur dramatics and people. She was involved with the *Deddington News* and the library. For 12 years she collaborated with Molly Neild to write and produce the village pantomime full of 'in' jokes and fun puns. Jean was also a stalwart of the parish: 15 years as treasurer of the PCC as well as treasurer of the Holly Tree club right up to her death. The last few years she took part in the butterfly audit. She also loved to walk and was a constant around the village normally accompanied by one or two faithful Cavaliers.

Jean was devoted to her family and especially her grandchildren, Oscar and Constance. She wrote long entertaining letters and worked hard to keep close contact with family, including her two brothers and two sisters, and friends from around the world. She was always a source of strength and humour. Jean learned of her terminal cancer in March 2012. She confronted the news with typical bravery and practicality, ensuring her affairs were in order, and providing clear instructions of her wishes at the end. She died on 5 January 2013 at home with her family around her as she had requested. Her ashes will be buried in Deddington church cemetery. We will miss her.

Jim, Rowena and Meriel

JIM FLUX (1934–2017)

Jim was one of the foundation stones of this community. He died, suddenly, surrounded by friends, doing something he loved almost exactly four years after Jean, passed away. Jim will be an impossible act to follow and his death is a great loss to the parish as Jim filled his retirement serving this community in many ways both seen and unseen.



He was chairman of the Parish Council three times for a total of 12 years and sat as a councillor for 23. If ever there was a parish project, you could be sure that Jim would be the first to volunteer for it.

He was also a trustee of the Holly Tree Club, the treasurer of the Windmill Centre, trustee and treasurer of the Thursday Club and treasurer of the Friends of Deddington Library. With the recent changes to the library service, Jim's contribution helped to form the current Community Library Model and led to the formation of a robust and secure arrangement that earned him great praise from Oxfordshire County Council's Community Library team.

He was involved in the production of the 1994 parish appraisal, the 2007 parish plan and was an important contributor to the emerging Deddington Neighbourhood Plan. Jim sat as a member of the Independent Remuneration Panel for Cherwell District Council for a number of years and help to forge strong links between the Parish Council and our District and County colleagues.

He helped in securing and delivering superfast broadband for this community and always turned out for speed watch events with Thames Valley Police. He contributed to numerous teams, clubs and societies within the parish. His support, advice and fundraising abilities were well received and well regarded especially by the Cricket Club.

As a member of the Deddington Players Jim was a familiar figure on the boards and he thoroughly enjoyed his time entertaining us all. Jim had several strong guiding aims for the Players – that it should be as professional as possible, that ticket and membership prices should be set low and that all members, whatever their age or ability should be encouraged to take part and have an active role. Supportive and nurturing as always. This year would have been his 25th appearance as a dame but that was not to be and he would have been first to insist that the show must go on.

He was also active further afield. Jim helped to set up the first care centre in the country for the Princess Royal's Trust for Carers. He invested a lot of time with the Cherwell Community and Voluntary Service and helped to run a furniture recycling store in Banbury.

His efforts were justly recognised in 2007, when he was granted an MBE and he was also a recipient of the High Sheriffs award.

A scout, a bell ringer, a military man and a business manager. He loved his family dearly and spoke caringly of them often.

Jim's door was always open, no task was too small, no hour of the day too early or too late. His memory was both sharp and prodigious, his wit was rapier and he held true to his values. He was dogged, fought for what was right, supported those who needed it, stood by his principles and was a true and honourable man. We were stronger with him and we are weaker without him. Both a polymath and a polyglot he was our champion and our servant.

So, on behalf of the Parish Council and of all in Deddington, Clifton and Hempton, thank you Jim for your enormous contribution to all our lives. You will be sorely missed.

David Rogers, PC Chairman 2017