

Carole Pack

The December issue of the Kidlington News included a tribute to Carole and her work with Kidlington Guides. This was just one of the many aspects of village life where she will be remembered and missed.

Carole's life in Kidlington began in the summer of 1968 when she and husband Chris moved here from Essex. Chris was taking up his new job as Head of Humanities at Gosford Hill School, and Carole was expecting their first child. Living in Lock Crescent Carole was quick to make many friends and join several community groups. She continued in these for her next 52 years of life in the village.

Carole was a regular worshipper at St Thomas More RC Church. She supported the various priests and members of the congregation: Flower rotas, soup lunches and many fundraising events followed. Carole also served as a Governor of St Thomas More Primary School which her two daughters, Emma and Sara, attended.

With daughters of school age Carole picked up her career as a lab technician, working at Gosford Hill in a lively Science Department. In due course Carole moved across the school and was librarian for many years at Gosford and then at the Marlborough School, Woodstock. Throughout her working life in schools Carole was a caring and welcoming face to many students. She enjoyed sharing her interests in science, nature, crafts, music and the joys of reading fiction. She also made it her mission to provide a place and a role for many young people.

When 'The Lifeboat Players' became the seed for Kidlington Amateur Operatic Society, Carole was a founder member. Over the next 40 years Carole performed on stage and in concerts with KAOS as well as serving as Chair of the society and overseeing costumes for many years. Carole enjoyed being part of the choir both musically and socially.

Carole was also a member of the 'Roundabout Quilters' group. This gave her a chance to share her passion for quilting and a range of craftwork. The development of the group brought much pleasure, and Carole was always keen to get involved in projects supporting local groups and hospitals.

For much of the last 20 years Carole served as a Parish Councillor. It was always her aim to give back to the village she had made home, and to ensure that it remained a friendly, welcoming and caring place to live. Carole developed expertise on the Planning Committee and kept a close eye on developments throughout Kidlington. Her great passions were focused in her work on the Community, Events and Kidlington-in-Bloom committees. During the many years of Carole's involvement with 'in-Bloom' judges have repeatedly praised the planting and cleanliness of the village. Even more pleasing to Carole was the recognition of projects involving local organisations and schools, along with the environmental programmes at Stratfield Brake, St Mary's Fields and across the village. She loved the chance to meet with local gardeners and was always so proud of the way Kidlington really bloomed each year.

Carole will also have been known to many people as a friendly face at the market on a Saturday morning; a fellow-swimmer up at Gosford Sports Centre; a welcoming presence at Parish Council events; a forty-year resident of Mead Way, and someone who knew and remembered so many Kidlington residents.

In the last year Carole bore illness with dignity and bravery. She never lost her interest and concern for the people of Kidlington. Her family look forward to seeing the village she loved 'in-Bloom' once again.

Carole's family are very grateful for the many kind messages and remembrances we have received in the last few weeks. After a private family funeral in November, we are beginning to plan a larger memorial event later in 2021.