

## Val Allport – A True Village Person

On Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> October, around 80 people gathered at The Thorpeness Dolphin to celebrate the life of Val Allport, who died suddenly in August whilst on holiday in Australia visiting her Nephews. Many people spoke about Val's time in London as a teacher and early campaigner for, amongst other things, racial equality.

The words below were spoken by Roger Searle on behalf of the various Parish organisations that Val was actively involved in.

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As I am sure many of you know Val was very involved in the Village and the Parish and the associated organisations. She was a founder member of the Parish Good Neighbours Scheme, an active member of its Steering Group and, as a volunteer, was always willing to give people lifts and help with various tasks. Sometimes it seemed that she took more people out of the village than the Number 521 bus!

The Thorpeness Social Club benefited from her attention to detail in her role as Treasurer and by being a Trustee for several years. She personally contributed to the Ogilvie Hall itself. She also became known as the "Fete Tsar", spending many hours organising the annual event. Meanwhile she was an avid quiz contestant and even an occasional quiz "mistress".

She became a Trustee of the Ogilvie Almshouses Charity, where she was trying to help establish sheltered homes to the north of the existing site, with provision for sheltered single story accommodation.

She will of course be remembered as a Parish Councillor, a role that she carried out with tenacity for seven years, although she believed the pairing of Aldringham with Thorpeness was inappropriate for

both villages and occasionally threatened UDI! She championed the Christmas Tree by The Meare, which has now become a regular feature, oversaw the installation of the “Meareside” grit bin and even filled it herself if necessary. She struggled for two years to get the village sign overhauled, and was in the throes of formulating a Parish Emergency Plan – a considerable undertaking on its own. She was passionately keen to see a Co-op sponsored defibrillator installed near the Meare, and it is to be hoped this will come to fruition once all the red tape has been unravelled.

Val was a real enthusiast about the value of Thorpeness heritage as "the original holiday village". She was typically reticent about becoming the first Chairperson of the Heritage Group, but overwhelmingly Val was the candidate of choice. She only agreed in order to get the ball rolling, something we shall be forever grateful for. We will find an appropriate way in the future of remembering Val's contribution.

As a mark of all her efforts for the village and the affection in which Val was held - funding from various sources will provide for a tree in her name to be placed near The Meare.

I am sure that there are numerous stories of Val helping individuals in many different ways.

So as you can see, Val was a true “Village Person”, who will, without doubt, be greatly and truly missed by a lot of people.

***Val Allport: 28th May 1945 - 21st Aug 2014***