

Susan's Story

Susan Gill (nee Gardner) 03.05.44 – 28.02.18

Susan was born to Roland and Ada Gardner on 3rd May 1944 at Holt Mill near Worcester. Although she was an only child, she much enjoyed her early family life with her parents and two aunts. She attended Holt Infant School before the family moved to Malvern, where she continued her education.

After leaving school, Susan had various secretarial positions, including working with the MEP, which took her to Holland. She made some good friends there and thoroughly enjoyed the experience of working abroad. On returning to Worcester, Susan met up with Richard Alec Gill, an old acquaintance who had been recently widowed. Susan and Richard, affectionately known as Dick, married 1st May 1976 and lived at "Irena" in Ockeridge Lane, Holt, where their son Peter was born, bringing much joy and happiness to them both.

Susan continued to use her secretarial experience in a variety of ways. She worked for Michael Lowe Homes, a Worcestershire developer for some years. Following this, she took up an opportunity to work as a ward clerk in the Geriatric Department of Worcester Royal Hospital, where her friendly disposition and efficiency were much appreciated.

Along with attending to her family commitments, Susan also gave a large part of her time and energy to the community of Holt Heath and neighbouring areas. Susan became a Parish Councillor and later a District Councillor in Baldwin Ward. Many people will remember

assembling at St. Martin's, Holt for her splendid Civic Service when she was Chairman of the Council. Being such a bubbly and approachable lady, Susan was often sought out for advice and information that she always readily gave. Nothing was too much trouble for her.

Over the years, village events could count on her for unfailing support; she helped at the annual fete, sang on the stage at the village hall dressed in nurse's uniform when the village put on the production of War Time Years, and gave hilarious talks about her life as a District Councillor, demonstrating how her confidence grew by a series of hats she had worn for official functions – from a small demure headpiece to an amazing, wide-brimmed hat she wore for the Buckingham Palace Garden Party.

Susan was editor of the Benefice Magazine and oversaw the distribution of it for a number of years. Another of her interests was Holt WI, where she participated in the Resolution meetings with huge enthusiasm, her input always appreciated for the depth of her research and the knowledge she accumulated. She will also be remembered for her love and support for local theatre – young writers and actors appreciated her ready encouragement.

Susan's work on the District Council came to an end in 2013/14, when her health began to deteriorate as she waited for a hip replacement. In later years Dick had become housebound, but with the aid of a wheelchair they were still out and about in their specially adapted vehicle with Susan at the helm. Sadly, Dick died on 18th June 2015.

In July 2016, with pancreatic cancer diagnosed, she left Holt to live with her son Peter and his wife Catrina in Northwick, and for eighteen months enjoyed being part of family life there with her four

small grandsons. Susan died peacefully in hospital on Wednesday 28th February 2018.