



### **Cllr Sandra Gould**

It is my sad duty to inform you that Sandra passed away at 5am 4th September in Maidstone Hospital surrounded by her family. She has suffered considerable ill health in recent years but remained cheerful and involved in the community until the very end.

She leaves her husband, Richard, three children, Kevin, Martin and Tessa, and six grandchildren.

She was a dedicated Mum and Gran, but always found time for her community and friends, in a quiet unassuming way, largely unnoticed.

We have no clear records of when the Christmas Lights began, but it was at least 36 years ago, and Sandra was one of the first volunteers when the idea was hatched in the Fox & Hounds, and she slowly grew into a mainstay of the Christmas Lights serving many years as Chair. She was the one arranging the Stalls and the Fairground, selling raffle tickets, and cooking the Lights Crew breakfasts, buzzing about behind the scenes keeping everyone on track.

She joined the Parish Council in 2011, and even during her illnesses and absences was crucial to keeping the finances on track. She dearly wanted to attend one last meeting to resign in person, but that was sadly denied.

She was one of the first volunteers for the Drop-in Youth Club in 2002, and never missed a week until it closed in 2009.

Every year she would be out selling Poppies for Remembrance Day, collecting door to door for the British Legion and the Red Cross, and even found time to pound the pavements for the "Sponsor a Bulb" Christmas Lights fund.

Sandra was never without a smile, a quiet and self-effacing lady, whose loss will hit this community very hard.

Jackie and I are proud to have known Sandra, and proud to be able to call her our friend.