

Laraine Poulter, née Osborne

Laraine, who passed away on 24th January 2009, was born in Horsham and lived in Sussex and Kent until her father tragically died - when she was two years old.

After King Edward's, where she gained excellent academic qualifications and developed her consideration for others in need of care and assistance, Laraine went on to King Alfred's Teacher Training College in Winchester, where she gained teaching qualifications, specialising in French and Religious Education.

She then went to Besancon University in France where she obtained a Bilangue or Bilingual Diploma, before commencing her probationary teaching year at Wood Street Primary School in Aldershot. At this time she was living in Guildford with her mother who was providing accommodation for students from the Guildford Law College. It was one of these who one evening took Laraine to a public house where they met up with another law student from the New Forest, one Nigel Poulter, her husband to be - leading to their wedding in October 1972!

Laraine's long career in teaching included being employed by Surrey Education as a troubleshooting head-teacher and holding various other senior posts. Her aptitude for assisting schools in difficulty was eventually formally recognised, and for the last two years she had been working with the Kent Schools Advisory Service as a head-teacher adviser.

Then what seemed at first in June 2008 to be a minor backache, developed into a more serious debility and eventually turned out to be the only initially detectable symptom of her terminal illness. Even in the wonderful Cranmer Court Nursing Home, Laraine brought happiness and laughter to staff and other residents during her final weeks. She is deeply missed by husband Nigel, her children, her mother and many friends, relations, colleagues and former pupils.

[Laraine was at King Edward's from 1958-65 and in Queen's House.]