

Some tributes from friends

Gabrielle (Offcuts sewing group)

I have known Sandy for more than 20 years, and throughout that time it has been obvious that creativity and art in the form of textiles was a fundamental part of her being. No matter what was happening in her life, she was driven to create. She was always working on her art despite low energy, despite physical pain, and despite problems with her vision. At times it seemed like it was the thing that kept her going and positive.

This creativity expressed itself in many ways. She was an avid quilter, particularly in the realm of contemporary quilts, which allowed her to express her campaigning spirit. Her work has been exhibited in the UK, Europe, USA and Asia, including some 'juried' and prestigious exhibitions.

Sandy also designed and made garments, both for her own everyday wear and as something known as Wearable Art, that is garments that were meant to be viewed as something special and expressing an artistic vision. Here too, her work was of such high standard that she was twice invited to take part in a catwalk show at one of the largest quilt shows in Houston, USA. I went to the first of these with Sandy and was impressed with just how many contacts she had with other quilters across the world.

She was an active member of many quilting organisations including the Studio Art Quilt Associates, attending a number of UK quilting shows on their stand. She was an organiser of the Thames Valley Contemporary Textiles group, which met here in Birch Hill four times a year, most recently organising the speakers for their meetings.

Sandy was also generous in sharing her knowledge, teaching City & Guilds pattern drafting and dressmaking for several years at New Directions in Reading. And also sharing her techniques for machine embroidery and other aspects of textile art in many classes in various locations such as Lady Sew and Sew, the quilt shop in Henley.



She set up another local group with me, the Offcuts Sewing group, which comes together monthly to just sew (or indulge in another textile craft) and socialise. Sandy's input on how to tackle various tasks, and her input on design and fitting, as well as her warm welcome and open heart, will be sorely missed by the group members.

Sandy shared her artistic life for many years in her Blog and more recently in her Instagram account. Looking through those I am reminded just how creative and inventive she was. And seeing the comments from others on both of them, I know those sentiments are shared by many.

Jo (TVCT)

Sandy and I met in 2017 at a TVCT meeting in Birch Hill, Bracknell. From my first introduction to Sandy I was drawn to her inclusive personality and her creative energy. She was a natural public speaker and shared many interesting stories and experiences with the group.



When she decided to step down from her role as Coordinator to Programme Secretary and I took on the position of TVCT Coordinator, Sandy was such an inspiration and a brilliant mentor. She had an incredible connection with people and what mattered most to her was that everyone had the opportunity to be involved in the group and enjoyed the creative process. Sandy made this possible by inviting inspirational textile artists to talk about their work as well as running her own innovative workshop for our members

in recent months.

Sandy had a natural empathy for others. She knew when a hug was needed rather than words and would make a point of celebrating projects that our members had been involved in. Sandy's own textile projects demonstrated a deep devotion to her charity work.

Sandy has made a huge impact on our lives; she was a special person and our memories of her will never leave us.

Merete and Jane (TVCT)

The Thames Valley Contemporary Textiles was Sandy's brainchild. Her aim was to bring together people with an interest in textiles, to inspire each other and to celebrate their creativity. Everyone was welcome. This was the first contemporary textile group in the UK; it was such a success that many more soon followed across the country.



Sandy inspired and encouraged everyone; she took such pleasure in the achievements of others. This attitude was contagious, which is why all the groups she was involved in became a success. There is a huge heart-shaped hole where Sandy should be.

Sue (TVCT)

Sandy was such a special person. I came to the group about 3 years ago. Sandy was very welcoming and encouraging to me. She shared some of her thoughts about her more recent work which demonstrated her desire to show the pain in the world by making statements on society when she herself was becoming less well. Truly amazing!

Louise (church friend)

What I remember about Sandy is her beautiful welcoming smile and wonderful nature.

Naomi (church friend)

I have been trying to think of one thing that I remember about Sandy but there are so many things I can remember. She will be leaving a big hole in our lives. One thing I do remember is her entertaining by having things like craft and ladies bible study at her house, Also opening her house up to have people to stay for different church events and being there for everyone to chat to. And for help whenever needed. She loved to entertain even with her love for cooking. She was a lovely lady but now out of pain and with the Lord.



Debs (church)

My dear sister-in-Christ, Sandy, an absolute treasure, such a joy to be around; so supportive and understanding, trusting and always encouraging, both passionate of life and compassionate, caring, and very considerate, approachable and most hospitable – you had a great sense of humour too!

Keenly, you were very helpful at my Baptism, ‘meeting-and-greeting’ all the guests; so welcoming, you must have spoken to each and every special one, ensuring there was such a delightful atmosphere.

Having a shared love of old Christian poetry; the wording of several hymns, I greatly appreciated your suggestions of Christmas poems to be read out, to share. And I will always hold dear the sound of your voice as we’d all sung together in Church too.

I will also remember how we caught up on our Sermon notes together, checking and jotting down the wording or Bible reference we thought we might have missed.

An utter pleasure, and privilege to know you, Sandy. I know you’re safe now in the presence of our Lord, no longer in pain, and free of your many cares and concerns of this world. I will cherish all my precious memories of you, and am confident in the promised hope, I’ll see you again, for lots of hugs! Thank you for being you.

