**Jill Hackett**

I would like to thank Peggy Simson from SI Thames Valley for these moving words remembering Jill ~ a wonderful tribute to a true compassionate Soroptimist who we will all miss

Peggy recalls Jill was a unique person - highly educated, absolutely without "side" and such a good, caring friend to all the members of SI Thames Valley

She was always ready to help with anything the club wanted to do, often offering her home when members from the club Friendship Links from SI Val Brabant or SI Weston super Mare came to visit.

Peggy recalls she had been a friend for almost almost 40 years, going to keep fit together and afterwards socialising in various ways.

It was Jill who introduced Peggy to Soroptimism and although she admits she was a bit wary of joining a club that only admitted women, she urged her to give it a try, the rest is history ~ a huge thankyou needs to go to Jill for tempting Peggy to join, she was obviously a very intuitive lady!

Jill was also a stalwart friend to Peggy’s husband Bob when he was ill, often offering to sit with him or give him lunch if Peggy needed to be somewhere.  Peggy recalls he really liked Jill and they had a lot of interesting conversations ~ he had known her for a very long time and they had many conversations about wartime experiences. A caring compassionate lady and when Bob died she was the first person to offer to help at the funeral, asking Peggy if there was anyone who might need special care.  Naturally many soroptimist club members came along and helped too, but next day Peggy recalls there was Jill , suggesting a glass of something restorative and ready to chat!

Sue Fortescue, who was previously a member of SI Val Brabant and took part in many of the Missing Miles Walks, became a great friend to Jill and Jackie Paling in that enterprise.  Sue retired to Poole a couple of years ago and visits SI Poole occasionally, taking her knitted efforts to be picked up by Gill Curry for Kori still supporting SI Thames Valley and remembering Jill fondly.