

Having not long expressed our appreciation of Member Ken Bowler, it is with great sadness that we again are writing about a very dear Branch Member and Volunteer, Heather Robertson, who died in November, age 78, not long after a diagnosis of cancer. Many will have benefitted from Heather's caring and diligent approach in her various volunteering roles but what many of us miss most of all is her warm smile and the bright spark she became in our Branch lives.

We're also missing that gentle Rhodesian twang. Heather was born in Rhodesia as it was known then (now Zimbabwe) but ultimately settled in the UK with Rhodesian husband, John, who many years later was diagnosed with Parkinson's. John died thirteen years ago. Then Heather joined the Edinburgh Branch Committee having been encouraged to do so by fellow Bellevue Chapel member, Cathie Quinn. Committee Members marvelled at Heather's shorthand capability when she took on the role of Minutes Secretary, making much appreciated use of the skill acquired during her days working in legal medical administration.



Heather worked closely with Cathie to support the running of the Singing4Fun Group while contributing her dulcet tones to the soprano harmonies. Here are the pair (Heather on the right) cutting the 10th Singing4Fun Birthday cake in 2019. Heather was also fundamental to the running of the Side by Side course and the monthly Carers' Support Group set up by Cathie. Both activities brought to the fore Heather's sensitive empathetic approach to the plight of others. When Branch Get-togethers were established



at Bellevue Chapel, Heather became a key player in helping these to run smoothly, especially with the supply of tea/coffee and biscuits for attendees while diligently remembering people's names when making a note of those present.

Together with Cathie, Heather's outstanding and unstinting volunteering work for the Branch was duly recognised when they both received personal certificates as part of the Lord Provost's Inspiring Volunteer Award in 2017. The photo above shows Heather and Cathie on the day, with Hon Chair, David Adams.

Heather was a truly inspiring and deeply appreciated volunteer and is being sorely missed.