

## **ANN AMANDA DAVIS (1934-2018)**



The Wokingham Society is mourning the death of one of its most stalwart members. Ann Davis died on 4 September 2018 after a series of illnesses.

Ann twice served as Mayor of Wokingham Town, in 1984-85 and again in 1995-6. She was born in Chichester, West Sussex, and her early experience was of spending time during WW2 with her mother in North America before returning to England in 1945.

She married Peter Davis in 1959 and the couple moved to Wokingham, where they brought up their three children. Disappointed by the lack of nursery education in the area Ann set up The Arthur Road Nursery School in her house in 1967. This led to the establishment in 1978 of Meadow Nursery School, which Ann served as trustee for 25 years.

Ann returned to full-time employment in 1977, first as the manager of a Hall of Residence at Reading University and latterly, until her retirement in 1994, as the manager of a medical practice. She was elected to the Town Council, and indeed served her first term as Mayor, while still at work. She was honoured by her fellow Councillors for organising the Mayoral Centenary Celebration in November 1985.

Ann was chairman of the local Crime Prevention Panel for two years until 1998, and chief executive of the Chamber of Trade and Commerce for three years. She was also secretary of the Wokingham District Sports Council for over ten years. Not surprisingly Ann was an early recipient, in 2002, of the Town Council's Civic Award for service to the community.

For three years from 2003 Ann worked tirelessly to save the Old Police Station in Rectory Road for community use, and was greatly disappointed when the building was sold to a local developer for conversion into apartments.

Ann served on the Wokingham Society Committee from November 1993 until she stepped down in 2014. During this time she served as Membership Secretary and as Vice-Chairman, pouring her energies into ways in which the Society could assist the local community. Her last role was as organiser of the annual Society coach trip, an undertaking so complex that it did not survive her departure from the Committee.

It is hard to think of anyone to whom the people of Wokingham owe more for her tireless efforts to improve the lives of its citizens, Ann Davis will be sorely missed.