

# OBITUARY

## Miss Joan Wakeford

Miss Joan Wakeford, a member of the Society since 1971, died at Kingston Hospital on 15 May. She was a much loved and highly respected local historian of Kingston upon Thames. Her knowledge of the records of the Royal Borough was unparalleled and she gave freely of it to many people and organisations. As a founder member of Kingston upon Thames Archaeological Society whose familiarity with the recorded evidence of Kingston's topography was invaluable to archaeologists of Kingston, she was a frequent and welcome visitor to local excavations helping archaeologists to interpret their sites; similarly she played a major part in drawing together the evidence which helped to ensure that Picton House was rescued from the bulldozer.

Joan published her work in both Kingston and Surrey Archaeological Society volumes but, less well-known, are the notes she handed to individuals on particular sites and buildings. Her contribution was not limited to academic research. As a lawyer, she was well qualified to assist the Societies in matters such as Public Inquiries, and one of her last services was to attend the Wanborough coin trials. Her full notes on each case were deposited with the President.

Joan became a life member of Surrey Record Society in 1977 and often spoke of the early days of research when she would be left alone in the basement strong-room at Kingston Guildhall to rummage among the Borough Archives, fully trusted by the Borough Librarian. Her contribution to documentary research is unmatched in Kingston, and her enthusiastic but disciplined approach to the legal complexities of records will be much missed by the Archivists of Kingston and Surrey.

Joan was loved for herself as well as her knowledge. She was a friend to many and will indeed be missed.

MARION SHIPLEY and MARGARET VAUGHAN-LEWIS