

# In Memory of Dianne Savage

by Bruce Cowan, Edinburgh U3A Chairman

Edinburgh University of the Third Age (U3A) is a charity based on members getting together in interest groups to learn and socialise together. There are 2000 members and 190 interest groups. This requires a lot of work by our volunteer committee and others.

Dianne was a major influence on our U3A. She joined Edinburgh U3A in January 2014. I looked this up and couldn't believe it!

I thought she must have been around much longer to achieve all that she did, all the people she knew and all the groups she was involved in starting and running. She was well known to many members, bouncing around enthusiastically at events.

She came almost straight in as Treasurer, promptly changed the accounting system to cope with the ever-increasing membership and suggested we should apply for Gift Aid. She successfully achieved that and, together with the Membership Secretary, put in a huge number of hours sending out 1700 forms and updating the database with the replies. This put our finances on a firm basis.

She was a major instigator of the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration event, which turned out to be a major success, confounding some doubters.

She organised workshops so that Group Leaders could get together and compare thoughts and experiences.

As Groups Coordinator she started, or got others to start, many groups.

She also improved the way New Members Meetings operate, collecting their views on what groups they would like to see and inspiring them as to which they might lead.

She wrote many documents - committee job descriptions, group leaders' booklet, new committee members guidance, annual plans, annual reports, and so on.

There's a lot more I could say about what she did.

She could tread on a few toes in her enthusiasm to get things done, but generally in the end was well justified.

She should have been Chair but refused the job saying that 'she was only as good as her next scan'. And she turned out to be right there. She bounced back from treatments so often that we somehow believed that she would always be there. But sadly not.