

# Joan Oxenham



Joan was one of our lifelong scouters, achieving over 56 years of continuous service, 54 of them in leadership roles, most recently the former GSL of 9th Roxeth Scout Group, who died on 15th September 2023.

Joan's mobility took its toll on her in her later years, and I fondly remember her telephone conversations that were so full of life and emotions, good and bad! Even if it was a quick "hello" or a request for a small piece of information, Joan still managed to keep you on the line for two hours plus! Perhaps at times it left me thinking if she could have had a career

as a telephone sales person, but what it absolutely left me feeling was that she cared immensely about the organisation we all dedicate so much of our lives to – I held such respect for her – she had us laughing and crying at many moments.

In the early days Joan was instrumental in the programme ideas for Cubs and the other sections and contributed as the most senior level at Gillwell in the various iterations of the programme. Mainly involved in the Cub section at 9th Roxeth, she kept the group stable for decades, many of those years alongside her husband Peter who she held so dearly in all that he did for her. Programme is what we are here to deliver for our young people, and Joan could not be more aligned to that – that's where many of us connected with her due to her selfless dedication to providing young people with Skills for Life. Joan held many roles with us throughout her time, mainly section leader with 9th Roxeth Cubs however she spent a generous proportion of her years with the District, initially Roxeth District then Harrow & Wealdstone District as ADC Cub Scouts before we then became Harrow. She also had a huge interest in training new leaders, fulfilling the role of County Training Adviser for 15 years – her long service also included being involved in Scout Fellowship (now Scout Active Support) for probably in excess of 30 years.

Joan was a trailblazer, a maverick, a kind and dedicated person; impassioned for local Scouting in Harrow who in her life delivered so much for not only her group, but the UK.

Tyler Skerton  
District Commissioner