



Memories of

&

Reflections on

our colleague and friend

SHEENA GILLIES

Sheena had been a Board and Council member of Evangelical Alliance since 1992 and was a great supporter and ambassador for the Alliance's work. She chaired the Membership Committee for a number of years and her wide knowledge of the evangelical world was immensely valuable as membership applications were considered and membership issues were addressed.

She was part of the appointments committee when Joel Edwards was recruited as General Director in 1997 and was a speaker at the 1996 and 2001 Assemblies of Evangelicals.

In 2007 she undertook some of the preliminary work for the programme now known as Biblefresh which draws together over 40 Christian agencies to encourage Christians across the UK to a deeper level of engagement with the Bible.

Sheena was an amazing networker for the Alliance in her many other roles around the evangelical world, as speaker, author, Christian worker and trustee.

She was also a wonderful role model of a female Christian leader for many other women and her death is a huge loss to the evangelical world.

I first met Sheena when I joined Council and have enjoyed many times together discussing the work of the Alliance and our own respective ministries. She will be a huge loss to us and we pray her family will be comforted, blessed and encouraged by the way she was honoured and valued among us.

Rob James
Council member

Sheena was a wonderful person and will be greatly missed. Our thoughts and prayers are with her family.

Paul Woolley
Director of Theos & Council member

Sheena was the Chair of the Alliance's Membership Committee which I serviced for several years. Apart from her excellent chairmanship I always enjoyed her wry sense of humour and skill in steering the Committee through some really contentious issues. I know she will be greatly missed.

Rich Nelmes
Former staff member

Sheena was one of the few people I knew when I joined Council and she was a model of a Christian woman leader in every respect. I will keep her family and close friends in my prayers.

Tricia Marnham
Council member

Meeting Sheena since her days at Capernwray right through to the EA Board has always been a pleasure and inspiration, not least in the consistency of her walk before God and her finishing her course so well, while still serving on the front line for our Lord.

Roger Forster
Chair, Evangelical Alliance Council

Sheena was a key supporter and help to us all at the Evangelical Alliance and was so personable. We will miss her a great deal.

Lucy Cooper
Press Officer
Evangelical Alliance

I am so sad to hear of Sheena's death. I was only just getting to know her and felt that she was a great role model for younger women. Her death was so sudden and Jason and I will certainly keep her sisters and wider family in our thoughts and prayers.

Rachel Gardner, Council member

Sheena was a good friend and colleague, a beautiful woman of God who had great wisdom, a wonderful sense of humour and who was an incredible role model.

**Bev Thomas
Former Council member**

I was always really pleased when Sheena was at Council or Board meetings as she was so easy to talk to and had a great sense of humour. We were part of the same quiz team at the most recent Council retreat and shared in an unexpected but brilliant victory – it's nice to have that fun memory of her. Sheena will be really missed by everyone she knew and worked with.

**Jenny Fraser
Staff member**

I first met Sheena when we both worked at All Souls, Langham Place and it was great to have her on the Alliance Board when I moved to work there in 1999. She was not only a loyal friend but a challenging co-worker with a great sense of humour and a great ability to make you think deeply. Sheena's knowledge of scripture and her commitment to its authority always impressed me. She was a good listener who could ask incisive questions and I so appreciated those opportunities to talk things over with a meal or a glass of wine!

Helen Calder
Executive Director, Finance & Operations

Sheena was someone who was very warm and friendly. When staff were invited to join the Board for lunch, or at Council gatherings, I often gravitated towards Sheena because she was so easy to talk to and always took a genuine interest in what was going on in your life. She had a lovely pastoral concern for others. She will be hugely missed.

Alexandra Lilley
Staff member

Sheena was a lady whose presence brought calm and smiles to the people around her. Her face was one you don't forget.

Sella Jeyakumar
Staff member

We have known Sheena from the early days of Spring Harvest in Prestatyn when she was a member of the speaker team, and more so because of her experience working out of London Bible College at that time. Sheena was a lovely member of the team and with such a pleasant personality, always so willing to play her part in any area required within the teaching team and great fun.

For a number of years we saw Sheena as a good representative of the EA Board and there were very few meetings when she was not present. It was during this time that she was a member of the EA team which went to KL in Malaysia for the WEF International Conference. Most evenings in KL she joined us in Starbucks for her evening 'Iced frappuccino' and to mix this with her fabulous Scottish accent we were always assured of an entertaining time together.

Sheena was one of those sincere Godly christian persons with a living faith in Christ, coupled together with the ability to communicate with anybody and make them feel totally relaxed.

Norah and Colin Saunders
Former staff member

For the short time I have known Sheena, first from working on Reception at Whitefield House and then working as Executive Assistant to Helen Calder, I can say that she was very pleasant and always had a smile for me. Sheena will definitely be missed.

Sade Kaffo
Staff member

What I really appreciated about Sheena was that she took her role within the EA as being really important and it wasn't something that only occurred at certain times like Council or Board, but she was EA 24/7. I remember a while back, I was planning a Major Donor dinner in Kent and needed a few more people to act as table hosts. I was getting a bit desperate and I asked her to help me at really short notice, and she did really graciously, she had to juggle some other commitments, but was just so willing to drop everything because it was to our benefit.

Trudy Adjrah
Staff member

It has been an absolute privilege over the years to work alongside Sheena in so many different settings across the evangelical world. Whether on the Council, Board or Membership Committee of the Evangelical Alliance or on the speaking team of Spring Harvest, there was Sheena, making her unique contribution. It is only recently that I realised that she was involved in so many other areas of the evangelical community. What a wonderful gift she has been to the body of Christ.

Steve Clifford
General Director

I first met Sheena in the Book Room at Swanwick in the late 70s when we were both on the UCCF staff together. Our paths diverged over the years, so it was a joy to renew acquaintance when I joined the Evangelical Alliance Council 12 years ago. She was a wise, thoughtful Board member, who was cautious about offering an opinion – but when she did, it was always worth hearing. Rightly held in high esteem by those who knew her, what shone through was her commitment to her Lord, and her readiness to be used in His service as He directed. She will be greatly missed, but in the knowledge that it is only for a time.

Mike Talbot Chair of Board

I so appreciated Sheena's warm, gentle and calm disposition as well as her ready sense of humour in all circumstances.

She was a blessing to me personally as well as to the many activities she participated in as a result of her links with the Evangelical Alliance. Her deep love of our Lord and His Word were evident at every turn yet her great sensitivity to individuals and to the ministry of encouragement made her a truly special person.

She will be greatly missed and my prayers are with all of her family.

Sheila Jones
Former staff member

I was always impressed greatly by Sheena's calm and considered contributions to the Alliance's Board and Council meetings. Her compassion, wisdom and insights will be sorely missed. My condolences to the family at this time of sad loss.

Elfed Godding,
National Director, EA Wales

I met Sheena through working with the EAUK Board, facilitating meetings and doing the admin that went with it. My experience of her from the start was that she was really down to earth and I appreciated the fact that she didn't seem to let hierarchy get in the way of getting to know someone. She always treated me as her equal, was kind and hilariously funny with a dry wit and seemed very perceptive and insightful in asking the right questions. I admired her honesty, transparency and integrity, and the fact that she just seemed to enjoy people and relationships.

I was so sad to hear of her death and EAUK is one of many that is poorer for it.

Anna Lloyd
Former staff member

Sheena was someone you would always be glad to meet. Whatever was happening in her life, she had time for you and shared a smile that stemmed from her joy in the Lord. She could contribute timely and wise words without ever being pushy. A very special lady.

John Earwicker
Former staff member

I recall Sheena and I visiting the leadership team of a major denomination to try and persuade them why they might become members of Evangelical Alliance. We had to play croquet on the lawn before our presentation – perhaps we should have let them win – they still haven't joined.

In Kuala Lumpur at a WEA event, having bailed out of a particularly tedious 'celebration' Sheena and I waited patiently outside a taxi while the other member of our group was talking to the driver – we thought he was witnessing – he was actually being propositioned – no names no pack drill!

Seriously, I really appreciated Sheena's warmth and wisdom when she chaired the EA membership committee – we had to deliberate on some bizarre situations and site visits revealed facets of evangelicalism we would rather not have encountered – we really are a peculiar people. Sheena's sense of humour lightened the tension of such situations.

My life is richer having known her as a colleague and friend.

Rev John S Smith
Formerly UK Director, Evangelical Alliance

*For her genuine warmth, calm nature and smile
For her heart for unity and going the extra mile
For her clear communication and strength of
belief*

For her gift of our friendship, albeit brief

*For our meaningful conversations and emails too
For her timely invitation to explore something
new*

*For her example of commitment for the
Kingdom's increase*

*I thank God for Sheena ... may her soul rest
in peace*

**Rev Katei Kirby
Former CEO of the African and Caribbean
Evangelical Alliance**