

## Obituary



**Jenny Almond, 1948–2005**

Jenny Almond (née Jones) was copy editor on the *JLO* from 1996 until her sad death from disseminated breast cancer in November 2005. She joined us on return to the UK from a 16-year stay in Hong Kong where her husband Brian had worked for Cathay Pacific.

Jenny was born on 14 November 1948 and shared her birthday with Prince Charles. In a patriotic moment her parents christened her Jennifer Elizabeth Philippa after the Princess Elizabeth and her husband the Duke of Edinburgh. Brought up by the seaside at Porthcawl, Jenny learnt Welsh and attended secondary school in Bridgend at the Girls Grammar School where she was head girl. Two key individuals came to a party given by Jenny to celebrate her 17th birthday; one was J P R Williams and the other, who gate-crashed, was Brian Almond her future husband. On leaving school

Jenny read microbiology at Cardiff University during which time she married Brian.

Brian left the RAF to join BOAC and on graduation Jenny secured a research post at King's College Medical School where she looked into the connection between certain viruses and cancer. After having her family, Kate (1973) and Tom (1977), and teaching chemistry and biology at St Maur's Convent, Jenny and the family left for Hong Kong in 1979.

Jenny volunteered to teach English to Vietnamese boat children. This was followed by teaching English and biology to Chinese girls at The Good Hope Convent School. A temporary lectureship in applied biology at the Hong Kong Polytechnic lasted for four years. She joined the Hong Kong Microbiological Society and on the strength of her work at King's College Medical School was offered a research post at Hong Kong University coupled with a demonstratorsip at the medical school. During this time she was awarded an MPhil.

Later Jenny joined *Excerpta Medica* where she wrote medical articles and reported on medical symposia and conferences throughout the Far East. She was also eligible to join the celebrated Hong Kong Foreign Correspondents Club where Brian was delighted to hold a 'Spouse Member' card.

On their return to the UK in 1996 the Almonds settled in Farley Green near Guildford and apart from her work on the *JLO* Jenny became involved in the church and village.

Always an enthusiastic, cheerful person, Jenny refused to allow her terminal illness to get the better of her and during her courses of radiotherapy and chemotherapy she nobly copy-edited the 30th *JLO* supplement entitled *Otorhinolaryngology (ORL) in Europe Between 1880 and 1920*.

We at the *JLO* all miss her and send our condolences to Brian, Kate and Tom.

NEIL WEIR