

CRANBROOK & SISSINGHURST PARISH COUNCIL

BIOPIC

## **PATRICIA E.A. FERMOR**

Although I have lived in Sissinghurst for only nine years, I was privileged to cover the whole of the Weald area when I worked for many years as a journalist for the Kent and Sussex Courier. My career spanned 40 years, first with a freelance agency and then with the Courier. I made many friends and helpful contacts while reporting in one of the most beautiful parts of England. The highlight of my career was being judged Shepherd Neame Kent Journalist of the Year in 2003 by a panel headed by Lord "Bill" Deedes.

Since retiring from newspapers, I am pursuing my second love, plants and garden design and putting my qualifications to good use tending the plants at Hartley Farm Shop. Indeed my love of all flora has led to my being the council's Tree Warden. We also open our garden annually for the Cranbrook in Bloom Garden Safari.

I feel privileged to represent the people of Cranbrook on the parish council and do my utmost to help preserve and enhance the unique features of the town and those of Sissinghurst. My main interest is planning and while agreeing that we must move with the times and allow more homes to be built, especially affordable ones, the end product must not compromise or detract from the inherent beauty of both places. My current concern is the threat to our architectural heritage of people demolishing perfectly good properties to build 21st century-style homes. While supporting good, well thought out new-builds these should not rid us of our past. I am also among the many people who regret the poor state of the listed Providence Chapel which is falling further and further into a state of decay.

Serving on the environmental management committee goes hand in hand with my views on planning and it is important we retain our truly beautiful rural landscape for generations to come.

I am passionate about the success of the community centre and feel the actions by some to block building on Wilkes' Field have badly let down townspeople.

We have so much to be proud of in Cranbrook and Sissinghurst and I am delighted to be involved in forming the history of both places.

Trisha Fermor