

Isabel in Saxthorpe and Corpusty

Robert Smith

In the 1970s Isabel and her first husband Francois, with their two boys Roman and Blaise, moved to a house in Saxthorpe, a few miles north-west of Aylsham. There she got to know many of the woodworkers and furniture makers who trained with Rob Corbett at his workshop in neighbouring Corpusty. Among them were Robert Smith and Julia Willey both of whom became lifelong friends. Both are among the mourners here today.

Robert writes

I have many cherished memories of Isabel, or "Lofty" as Rob Corbett christened her.

She was an enormous comfort to me when I was off work for 9 weeks, back in the late seventies. We would drink tea and talk for many an hour, with much laughter.

She was not only a great photographer, but a patron of my arts too! Many items of woodwork she commissioned me to undertake and that work continued when she and Tim moved to Aylsham and jobs were done on Holman House.

It was great to have them both in Norfolk and many more cups of tea and chuckles carried on.

She achieved so much in her life, so many art projects and installations are due to her persistence and drive.

My partner Aud and I will miss her and that great sense of humour. What a good friend she has been.