

## **Councillor Pauline Edwards**

Trained as a schoolteacher, Pauline Edwards left her native Essex – she was born in Chigwell - and came to Kenilworth 51 years ago in the days of the Urban District Council and with education under the control of the Warwickshire County Council local authority. The fact that since that time she has taken a deep and lasting interest in the town is illustrated by the fact that she has lived in the same house in Tulip Tree Avenue ever since.

Her arrival in the district began a total of 33 years in the teaching profession including positions at Kenilworth's Thorn Infant and Parkhill Junior Schools and ending with the headship of Budbrooke Primary School in Hampton Magna.

As well as teaching, Pauline has always taken a close interest in local government. She successfully stood as a Conservative on the local Council in May 1983 and retained a seat for 24 years at present representing St. John's Ward and incidentally having the longest unbroken service of the present members.

She has served on several committees on both the local and Warwick District Council, co-ordinated the town's Neighbourhood Watch Scheme, for several years was chairman of the Kenilworth Safety Committee and since the formation of the Warwick District Council has been one of Kenilworth's representatives on that body.

She is also a Trustee of the Edwards Charity and an active member of the Royal Leamington Spa Bowling Club.

Perhaps her value as a town councillor is demonstrated by the fact that she has been Kenilworth Mayor on three occasions 1990/1, 1998/9 and most recently in 2004/5, when she demonstrated the service the town mayor is called upon to undertake by making over 150 official civic visits in just twelve months.

Crowning her year of office three years ago was the highly acclaimed Kenilworth Town Festival which provided four days of entertainment and enjoyment for thousands of local people, and was followed the next year by a second such event. Pauline Edwards is acknowledged to have been a prime mover in the Festival's reinstatement after a gap of 70 years and its success provided a fitting tribute to her endeavours on behalf of her adopted town.