

JULIET FRANCIS ANNE MORSE

20 July 1976 - 1 January 2016



Juliet Francis Anne Morse was born on the 20th of July 1976 at West Hill Hospital, Dartford, in Kent. She spent the first six years of her life living in New Ash Green, Kent where she attended New Ash Green First School for two terms before her family moved to Sevenoaks in Kent. There she attended Lady Boswells Primary school until 1987 when she passed her 11 plus and moved on Tonbridge Grammar School for Girls.

Although Juliet was never that interested in competitive sports, she was a very keen horse rider. The outdoor life was always a huge priority for her, as will be seen in her later life. After successfully taking her GCSEs and A levels, Juliet came to the University of Bristol to study Zoology after deciding against pursuing Veterinary Science. Juliet was always a very keen cyclist, getting to most of her lectures that way. In her second year at Bristol, aged 19, Juliet joined the University of Bristol Spelaeological Society and soon became a keen and extremely competent caver. In her first term with the Society, she attended the students' Christmas Dinner party at the Hut in Burrington on Saturday 9th December 1995, and it was then that she started going out with Andrew Atkinson, who became her partner and later her husband.

In 1996 Juliet became one of the club's secretaries, starting her term in her characteristically non-conformist style by submitting her first 'Honorary Secretary's Message' in the newsletter in Morse code! During her time in Bristol she travelled the world extensively with Andrew, starting with her first caving expedition in 1995, to Austria. This was an impromptu decision, taken 20 minutes before she had been due to go to her brother Richard's graduation ceremony, for which, we are assured, she did apologise.

Juliet went on numerous caving expeditions and caving holidays. I spent many happy times with her in the Burren, in County Clare in Ireland, where Juliet's level of activities put nearly everyone else to shame. She would frequently go caving, walking and swimming on the same day. We also went on a memorable horse-riding trip there where Juliet turned up wearing her own jodhpurs and proceeded to wrestle a small and exceedingly lively horse into tame submission enabling her to gallop across the sands at Fanore, while the rest of us lumbered behind at an ungainly canter.

The list of Juliet's outdoor activities is a long and impressive one, and the list of her travels would be even longer. She travelled the UK and the wider world caving, climbing, walking (often using via ferratas), canyoning, snow-shoeing, kayaking, running (including

several half marathons), as well as horse-riding, cycling and swimming. Juliet was also a passionate advocate of sustainability and worked most of her life in that field.

Juliet sadly died of cancer on 1st January 2016 and her funeral was a testament to the values she had lived by during her life. She was buried at the natural burial ground in Usk, Monmouthshire, in a cardboard coffin decorated by a wreath of flowers made by her mother and carried by Andrew along with three other members of the Society, Si Flower, Jon Talling and John Bennetts, with numerous other members of UBSS present, along with her family and many other friends.

Juliet faced cancer with astounding courage. She was, without a doubt, one of the bravest, nicest, most considerate people I've had the pleasure and privilege of knowing. During her illness she retained her sense of humour and her care for others, as well as her strength of spirit. Juliet wanted to be remembered for the happy times in her life such as the time she spent with Andrew, Si Flower and others on their various canyoning trips during the preparation of Si's book on the subject where she can be seen in many of Andrew's photographs.

Juliet is survived by Andrew, her husband, as well as her mother Joan and father Tony, brother Richard and his wife Lucia.

LJW