

Louanne Tranchell

1937-2025

Born in the Gorbals - made in Hammersmith. From 1948, when she started at Sacred Heart High School, Louanne was a passionate and purposeful part of our Borough. She and Chris married in Holy Trinity Church in Brook Green in 1963. Throughout her life, she held in her heart the spirit of fellow local socialist William Morris - "I do not want art for a few, anymore than education for a few or freedom for a few". She dramatised Letters from Nicaragua and wrote a play about the Spanish war against fascism for the Lyric. She was tireless and nimble in her work to give people in the community a voice in the future of our spaces, culture and lives. With People Before Profit Louanne imagined an alternative vision for the Hammersmith Broadway site and won improvements for the area. She set up Hammersmith Community Trust - working for community involvement in planning decisions; running the Emerald Centre (and later Emerald 2) as vibrant and diverse cultural and social spaces; and opening the Information Centre as a hub for visitors and locals at the heart of Hammersmith. For many years Louanne was active in the H&F Urban Studies Centre, she served as a school governor and as a local councillor for Broadway ward from 1994 to 1998. She always made connections and built bridges, sharing our stories with community campaigns across London with the Campaign for Homes in Central London and around the world with the International Network for Urban Research & Action. She stood in solidarity with liberation movements for justice and peace for the planet and its people in Ireland, Nicaragua, South Africa, Venezuela and Palestine. Louanne attended Our Lady of Fatima church in White City. Her death leaves a huge hole for those who loved her but also a legacy of creativity, challenge and hope.