

Susan Margaret Stapledon.

Little did we realise when Sue, accompanied by her brother Richard, played a set of tunes at their mother's funeral, that we were witnessing her last public performance. It was such a shock, when still only 58 years old, Sue died in late March this year.

Sue, who spent most of her life living at Heswall on the Wirral, will always be remembered for her music. She was a brilliant multi instrumentalist who became a member of her father's West Kirby Band at an early age and went on to form partnerships with many other musical groups and performers. She taught music for a number of years and also ran successful music groups including an Irish music class in Liverpool.

Sue featured on the many CDs produced by the West Kirby Band and also on many other CDs in collaboration with her many musical friends.

Sue composed music and also produced CDs of her own. Most notably " Fiddler Round the Fairy Tree " which features traditional Irish music from Liverpool; and more recently "Not quite the 2 of us", a tribute to her father in which she transcribed unpublished tune fragments from her father's notebook and created twenty new tunes. Dances were composed for each tune which makes it a unique compilation.

During her final months Sue had been working on a double CD of her favourite Pat Shaw tunes. Her family are endeavouring to complete the project and hope to publish the CD in the near future. Details of this and other West Kirby Band CDs can be obtained from richard@stapledon.co.uk

Sue was modest and a little shy but she had a great sense of humour and loved to dance in her earlier years. She never pushed herself to

the front even though, in my opinion, she was the best all round folk musician we have had on Mersey and Deeside.

My abiding memory of Sue is of her sitting at her keyboard with the lovely smile she had making sure the West Kirby Band gave yet another memorable performance.

Chris Warrington. Mersey and Deeside.

