

Bookshop owner dies, aged 62

A WELL-KNOWN businesswoman in the world of books has passed away aged 62, after a long battle with cancer.

Prudence de Villiers was co-owner of one of Plymouth's last remaining independent bookshops 'In Other Words', which closed down in 2007 after 25 years.

A New Zealander by origin, and proud of her Kiwi roots, Prudence was a well-known figure in her adopted city. She is survived by her younger brother, Fraser, who was with her when she died on Sunday, January 17, at St Luke's Hospice.

She met her partner, Gay Jones, in Manchester in 1979. They moved to Plymouth in the Spring of 1982, opening In Other Words in October of the same year.

The 'alternative' bookshop, a fixture on Mutley Plain, broke new ground in Plymouth when it opened by selling a wide range of literature including anti-war, environmental and gay and lesbian titles – literature which was generally unavailable in most bookshops at that time.

It was open for 25 years but the couple were unable to compete with big business and internet competition.

Prudence's death at 62 has been described as a huge loss to her family, her many friends in the UK and overseas and to her local community.



MUCH MISSED: Prudence de Villiers, who co-owned In Other Words