

Alba Wardman

I am sure that MSSers will be sad to learn of the tragic death of my dear neighbour, Alba Wardman, who was knocked down and killed on the rural country lane where we live.

Alba accompanied me to Rome to act as interpreter for my interview with Fabrizio Ravanelli in April last year. However, she was also a person who I felt proud to call a friend, along with her husband Carlo, who had died after a short illness only two weeks beforehand.

Alba, 72, loved her day out in Rome, which was her first return to her mother country in 25 years, and the first time that she had ever flown. More than anything though, she was thrilled to meet Rav, whom she was well aware of from watching *Football Italia* with Carlo.

Our long day out, which was special to us both, is unbearably poignant for me now. As our flight descended into Rome, we saw the Colosseum and the red tiled roofs of the Italian houses, and I looked across to notice that Alba, a very strong lady, was quite tearful at her homecoming.



Picture: Shaun Keogh

I will never forget that Alba was thrilled with the lights of France as darkness fell on our flight home that night. I was absolutely washed out after a long day which started at 4am, but could not sleep because Alba was like an excited schoolchild almost bouncing in her seat while looking out of the window, oohing and aahing at the city lights below.

I like to think that Rav's goal for Derby at the Riverside, four days after Alba's death, was especially for her.

● **Shaun Keogh**

Alba with Fabrizio Ravanelli in Rome in April 2000