

## Jennifer's Sky - Dive Wow!! Wheeee!!

### How it all began

Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> June was one of our many hot summer days. I visited my mother in Chipping Norton Hospital where she had been poorly for a few weeks. However on this day she was

reasonable perky, had seen all my daughters and granddaughters and her happiness was unrestrained. My visit was short, so I could call by Shipton Fete. As I neared the entrance I heard the auction in progress –something up in the air, not sure what! (After Sandy Scott's wing walk I had £500 funding in place for something similar). I walked to the arena with my hand held high – whatever was on offer was for me. I returned to see Mother and told her what I intended to do; she exclaimed "Jennifer, whatever next?"

Sadly Mother died the next day, but I am so happy that she knew that by doing my sky-dive I would be nearer all my angels than I ever thought possible.

### Underway?

I phoned the RAF Sport Parachute Association and booked my slot for 1:30pm on Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> September. During the preceding week I became fixated about the weather forecast; the weather for Saturday looked ominous. Best laid plans and all that; the RAF changed the flight plan several times during the morning due to military operations and then my family were all



delayed on route. Finally the drop was re-scheduled allowing my daughters and "littlies" to arrive in time to see "Groovy Grandma" walk across the runway to the plane.

### Freefall!

During the flight to 12,000ft I tried to remember all the instructions. Suddenly the door was open and we were ready to jump. On "GO GO GO" I launched myself into the big blue yonder, with my arms and ankles crossed, and my knees bent. I was looking at the camera and smiling, waving, and blowing kisses as I went into a mile of freefall at 120 mph! My tandem, Ricky tapped my shoulder – I was concentrating so hard I had forgotten to open my arms and fly like a bird. The canopy opened, followed an incredible 5 minutes of drifting over the Oxfordshire countryside, before whizzing in to the drop zone – it was a smile a mile experience.

*The total goes on rising, so far I have raised the following:*

<i>Treloar Trust</i>	<i>£1800</i>
<i>Tear Fund</i>	<i>£400</i>
<i>Oxon NARF</i>	<i>£50</i>
<i>St. Mary's Church</i>	<i>£50</i>

Long live all your hopes and dreams and  
**THANK YOU** for sharing this with me.  
**Jennifer Leyland**