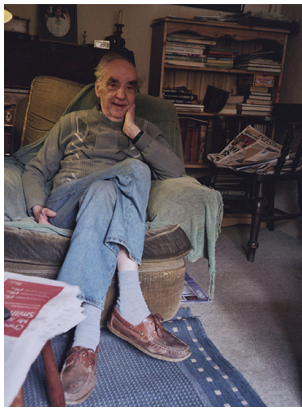


FREDERICK JAMES ELLIS (1923–2015)



Fred was born in Birmingham, one of six brothers and sisters. He joined the RAF in 1943 as a Master Signaller and met his wife, Val, at Collaton Cross in Devon while recuperating from a hand injury. They married in 1950 and had a son, David, in 1951. Fred travelled extensively and was stationed with the RAF – Aden, Malta, Gibraltar and Cyprus – and was stationed on various RAF camps including Tangmere, Ripon, Stornoway and Abingdon. Fred was very proud of his RAF service, in particular being a crew member of the Lancaster bomber that escorted Queen Elizabeth II back from East Africa after the death of King George VI. He famously gave an interview on Radio Oxford on the Queen's Diamond Jubilee.

He retired from the RAF in 1965 and he and Val became landlord and landlady of the Unicorn in Deddington. They were very successful in this venture and were popular tenants, attracting a large number of regular customers. Sadly, Val died in 1987 and Fred retired less than a year later. He was given a huge send-off and the Unicorn was packed to the rafters, the occasion being a fitting tribute to his (and Val's) popularity.

Fred moved to his cottage in Philcote Street where he lived for 28 years. During this time he enjoyed his two major passions in life, horse-racing and fishing. He always remained a supporter of the Royal British Legion and kept in touch with his 99 Squadron, regularly attending their reunions. In July 2014 he became increasingly frail and moved to St Anne's Care Home in Clifton where he was cared for until his death.

David Ellis