

RON CANNING (1924–2006)

Ron was born in Llanelli in 1924. Most of his childhood was spent in Deddington, his father's village. He went to Deddington School where he showed himself something of a scholar, buying reference books with his pocket money. He sang in the Church choir and became a bell-ringer. On leaving school Ron worked the horses on his Uncle Sid's farm. When war came, Ron obtained release from farm work and enlisted in the RAF as a wireless operator. He met Daphne at the RAF base at Chicksands in Bedfordshire. They married in 1947 and, besides their own four children, David, Paul (who died tragically early), Nigel and Gail, he and Daphne looked after a number of vulnerable young persons as foster parents.

After the war Ron worked as a nurseryman in Ascot, before returning to Deddington to help establish the agricultural side of the Windmill School. The RAF connection led to Ron's taking a commission in the Air Training Corps. Various jobs followed as the family moved to Banbury and then to Heythrop Park. Ill health meant Ron retired at 60; Ron and Daphne came back to Rose Cottage in The Stile and he became a Parish Councillor.

While Ron declined physically, sustained by Daphne and his family and friends, he remained courteous and generous, courageous and uncomplaining under his afflictions. Those who visited him enjoyed his immense knowledge of Deddington past and his sly, gentle, well-turned wit. He liked to bemoan the performance of the England Cricket team and the inability of people to mow lawns properly; however, he was a radiant not a grumpy old man. *HW*