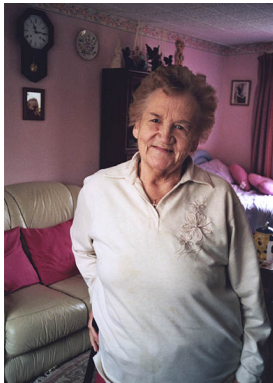


## **BILL MITCHELL (d. 2002)**

Bill was *the* postman here for 20 years, assisted by his wife Dorothy for 12 years. Six days a week they left home in Windmill Street at 4.30am for the sorting office, and delivered mail to every house in Clifton, Deddington, Hempton and The Barfords between 7 and 11, all with a wonderful sense of responsibility and efficiency, and also much charm and grace, in all weathers. Bill had served in the Royal Navy for 12 years, and after retirement worked at the USAF airbase. His family remembers a delightful and warm-hearted man who bore his long illness with inspiring courage.

*Hugh White*



## **DOROTHY MITCHELL (1931–2010)**

Dorothy was born in 1931 in Deddington, the youngest of seven children born to Elsie and Fred Davis. She attended Deddington Primary School and the Windmill Secondary School and then went to work in Banbury for the ladies' underwear manufacturer, Kestos. In 1954 she married Bill Mitchell. She and Bill became postwoman and postman covering Deddington, Clifton, Hempton and Barford and all the outlying farms. They knew everyone in the villages and were themselves known by all.

Dorothy loved gardening and wildlife, and she enjoyed all kinds of music. She was a great singer and could be heard in song seemingly most of her waking hours; she regretted that her parents' financial circumstances meant she could not have her voice trained.

Dorothy took great pleasure in her four children and her wider family, much enjoying visits from her grandchildren and great-grandchildren. She will be much missed, not only by her family, friends and neighbours, but also at large in Deddington and the neighbouring villages, communities to which she contributed so much, particularly in all those post rounds faithfully made and all the conversations that went with them.

*Hugh White*