

PAT ADKINS (1940–2011)



Pat was born in the Tchure in 1940, the youngest of four children, her father a Deddington man, her mother originally from the East End of London. From the cottage in the Tchure Pat and her family moved in the late '40s to the comparative luxury of 14 The Paddocks, one of the newly built council houses. Pat went to Deddington Primary and then to the Windmill School before working at Cheney's, the Banbury printers. She married Malcolm Adkins (of Adderbury) in 1962 and had three children, David, Stephen and Karen. There were homes in Kidlington, Banbury and elsewhere in Deddington before the family settled at 2 The Paddocks in the early '70s.

When her children were old enough, Pat went out to a variety of work. She was on the production line at the Welford chicken factory for while; she cleaned canal boats at Aynho Wharf; she went potato picking to earn some money to spend at Banbury fair; she cleaned up newly-built houses prior to occupancy. Later she worked for the Bouveries at Castle House and helped her sister Grace in servicing Philip Allan's offices.

When her husband Malcolm became ill, much of Pat's time was given over to looking after him, a task she performed with great devotion. Deddington born, around and about in the village so much, whether walking to work or to the Red Lion or to the Church, doing so much for and with people in the village, Pat, self-effacing as she was, was nevertheless right at the centre of our community. We have lost a great deal in losing her. *HW*