

ELEANOR VIVIEN EDMONDS (1912–2005)

A childhood spent in Ireland and her teens in India shaped Vivien's many interests in later years. Married to an officer who flew with distinction in Bomber Command, she needed all her mental resources to get through five years of war and just when she began to look forward to life in farming after his retirement he died very suddenly in 1959.

With bravery and self-reliance learned in her youth, she bought a cottage in Philcote Street, named Cat's Cottage, as a base for herself, her daughter Amanda, her cats, dogs which was the focal point for all her village activities: secretary and founder member of the 'Over Sixties' Holly Tree Club, distributor of Meals on Wheels, supporter of SS Peter & Paul Church, club entertainer, member of Deddington Players and Play Reading Group, fund raiser for many local activities, unstinting giver of her time and efforts.

A domestic goddess she was not, but as a life-long lover of equestrian sport, riding her horse Nelly, she looked impressive and gained many rosettes at shows. A deeply ingrained love of country life and mystic remembrance of India made her a sensitive writer of poetry. Her charming eccentricity will be missed.

RJ