

## **KEN HART (1927–2013)**



Ken was born in Banbury in 1927 but soon moved to Ipswich and then Chelmsford where he grew up. At the age of 14 he won a coveted apprenticeship with Hoffman's engineering company where, gifted and hard-working as he was, he did extremely well.

However, he succumbed to the romance of the RAF and joined up in 1952. He served initially in the Canal Zone in Egypt and later worked in the field of guided weapons. His jumping off a bus in Newport to catch up again with the girl he had first met some years back and now recognised again on a casual sighting resulted in marriage to Mary in 1956 and then in the births of Chris and Liz. He was also to have five grandchildren with whom he developed strong bonds.

Ken pursued his RAF career in postings across the world with great success. He loved life in the service, eventually retiring in 1987, having been asked to stay on beyond the normal retirement date. In Deddington Ken delighted in his garden, in his studies of the history of the Second World War and in the rhythms of village life in Deddington. A man possessed of great integrity and a wonderful sense of humour, modest and unassuming, he contributed much in his quiet way to the village. The day was set better just for having seen him on his morning rounds. We shall miss him greatly.

*Hugh White*