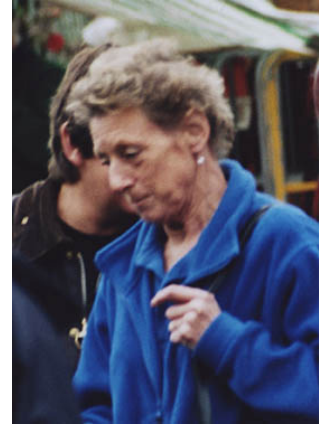


## **BERYL FISHER (1946–2007)**

Beryl was born in 1946 and adopted as their only child by Charlie and Ivy Sykes. The family lived first at Clifton and when Beryl was seven or eight moved to Deddington. After the Windmill School Beryl worked first at Woolworth's in Banbury on the sweet counter, where it was reckoned that she ate more sweets than she sold and then at Export Packing at Chipping Warden. She married Graham Fisher in 1964 and had two children, Susan and Shaun. When Beryl resumed work, she had a morning job at the Holcombe and she began a happy association with the O'Neill family as housekeeper and companion. Beryl also worked at the old village shop and then moved on to the Co-op.



On the till she was a cheering presence, characterful, good-humoured, with a twinkle in the eye and banter at the ready. She was a busy person, whether making sandwiches at the Legion, working on her flower garden, ironing clothes (a bit of a Beryl obsession) or caring, as she faithfully did, for sick family and friends. She played dominoes, was a great reader, loved Wimbledon fortnight on the television and enjoyed bargain-hunting expeditions to Banbury.

There were regular, much enjoyed family holidays to Weymouth, as well as travels further afield, particularly to visit Susan in Florida. Beryl was a strong character, straightforward in her dealings with others, not to be told what to do, definite and honest in her views, enthusiastic in her enjoyment of life. She faced death with great courage, unself-pitying, not wanting to cause a fuss. She gave the village a great deal and the village will miss her greatly. *HW*