



MABEL GODFREY, 1919–2009

Mabel was born in Deddington in 1919, her father a Deddington man. Mabel attended Deddington school and then worked for Mr and Mrs Hall who ran the King's Arms, later the Deddington Arms. Mabel's first charge was to look after the Hall's children, Pat and Robin, but when they grew up, Mabel stayed on at the King's Arms as general factotum.

After the War, Mabel married George (Togo) Godfrey.

There were two daughters, Jennifer and Helen. The family moved to the Paddocks when that development was first built. Here Mabel was a proud housekeeper and a firm mother. Here too, rooted as she was in Deddington and loving the place, she kept an eye and an ear on the goings on in the village and became a source of information about it. She was not one to mince her words or conceal her opinions and this forthrightness could get her into hot water.

She was, though, warm-hearted, particularly fond of animals and children (she worked in the school canteen for some years) and generously helpful to those in various kinds of need – such as Fred Abel, the donkey man, visiting gypsies or newcomers to the village. She helped the village to stay connected and villagers to know, and so to care, about one another. It will be rather less easy for us to be what a community should be, now Mabel has gone. *HW*