

DOT KEYES (1925–2008)



Dot Keyes was born in Sunderland in 1925, the sixth of 11 children. Her childhood was difficult, her parents both dying when she was young. Eventually Dot went to London to look for work and ended up sleeping at Kings Cross Station. Thanks to the Salvation Army, she was moved on to Oxford and a job at the Railway Station canteen. Here she met Sam, a shunter at the station. They married in 1954 and had three children. Their early married life was spent in Steeple Aston with Dot working as a waitress, a cleaner and a kitchen assistant at the then new Dr Radcliffe's Primary School.

In 1979 Dot and Sam moved to Deddington. Dot's later life was marked by serious illness, which she endured with extraordinary resilience and courage. Strong in spirit, she refused to be denied her pleasures entirely, enjoying craft-work and doing jigsaw puzzles. She kept in touch with what was going on in Deddington through her long-standing membership of the Windmill Club.

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