

DOREEN SMITH (d. 2008)



Doreen Smith grew up in Croydon and was spotted by Ken in his first year at Ashburton School, beginning a friendship which lasted 75 years. Wartime saw them in the WAAF and RAF. Their wedding during an air raid in 1944 sealed the marriage of a blithe spirit and the salt of the earth.

Doreen worked in the valuation department of Croydon Council, but then devoted herself to family life: the care of Ken, Peter and Michael, both of whom were senior choristers at Westminster Abbey. When Ken retired, they moved to Clifton and then to Deddington, where Doreen enjoyed the WI and retail therapy. She travelled widely in the Americas and across Europe, once even being arrested in Moscow on suspicion of a black-market deal.

Christopher Hall