

## ELSPETH COX (1946–201)



Born in Newcastle, Elspeth spent much of her early childhood in Earls Barton, Northamptonshire and later in North Lincolnshire. She showed an early interest in music, from the age of four. Finally, aged 12, she achieved her dream of taking cello lessons, and, eventually followed in her grandmother's footsteps to the Royal Academy of Music. From there she joined the cello section of the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra, playing and travelling the world for 37 years. While with the orchestra, she served as player representative on the CBSO Board, on the Players' Committee, the Musicians' Union branch committee, and as chairman of the Benevolent Fund.

On retiring she recognised that she wanted to live in the country and began several years' search for 'the village'. On her 60th birthday she moved to Deddington where she enthusiastically immersed herself in village life, serving as an officer of the Friends of Deddington Festival, Chairman of the Friends of Daeda's Wood, as a member of the Farmers' Market clean-up crew and the History Society, working on translating old local wills. Above all, in her scant seven years here she made a wide circle of friends whose support she treasured greatly during her last 18 months as her freedom became increasingly constrained.

*Catherine and Dan Desmond*