

Percy Victor Edwin Avery

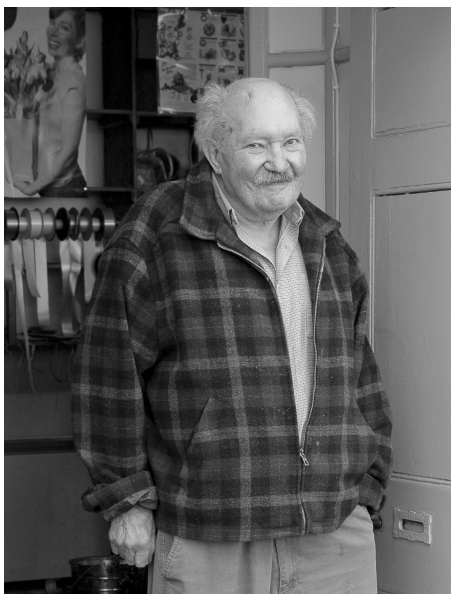
1929 - 2011

Vic, as he was known to family and friends, was born at 7, Church Street, Shipton and was happy to spend almost his entire life in that house.

He was the only child of Percy and Ivy Avery.

When his father died prematurely, Vic helped his mother run the family businesses- grocery store, taxis and the fish and chip shop in the building that we know now as 'Ivy's'. Vic took over the grocery deliveries, covering the area of the Wychwood Forest and knowing all the families he called on.

In the early 1950s he was 'called up' for National Service and spent time in Egypt repairing aircraft. Whenever he returned home he was happy to see the Downs and the Evenlode Valley that he loved and felt a real sense of home-coming. After his return he enrolled on an electrical engineering course in Oxford. Vic became well known as an electrician, working on industrial sites and farm properties, such as Matthews Mill, local gravel pits and corn dryers. He was very proud that he worked at Gatcombe Park and the manor house at Glympton. He would always turn out for an emergency, even leaving his Christmas dinner while he fixed a customer's cooker. Vic was a great dancer and met his future wife



Gladys at an old-time dance. They were married in 1957 and moved into 6, Church Street, where daughters Elaine and Marie were born.

He was always ready to use his electrical expertise to help out at village events. With Malcolm Cochrane, Bernard Hawcutt and Terry Souch he would erect the village Christmas

tree, connecting the lights to a socket in a bedroom in his house just across the green. Elaine and Marie would take turns to switch on the lights each evening. Grandchildren Trevor and Zena were more than happy to continue this family tradition.

Vic enjoyed a drink at the Shaven Crown and the British Legion Club in Chipping Norton. He played the occasional round of golf at Burford and regularly rang the Shipton church bells with Eddy Townsend, encouraging Elaine and Marie to learn too.

He never really retired but enjoyed pottering around. When Elaine re-opened the shop he loved to sit and chat to customers and help out where he could. Vic spent the last few years of his life at Beechhaven in Chipping Norton, not so far from his beloved Shipton.

Christine Halliday