

# John Charles Harold MacVicker

## 1928 - 2013

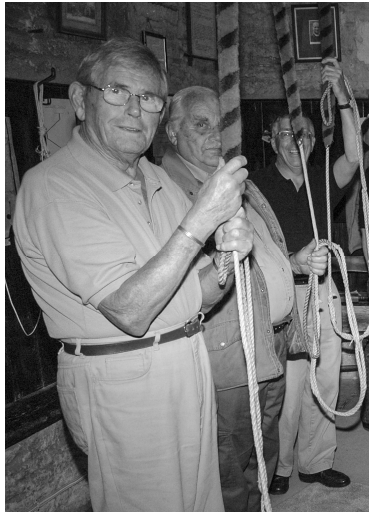
John was born on 7<sup>th</sup> January 1928 in Clevedon, Somerset. His father, Cdr. Evelyn Robert Churchill MacVicker served in the Far East, where his wife, Agnes joined him, so John spent his younger days as a boarder at Shrewsbury School.

He also served in the Navy in the Far East during his National Service. On returning to England he planned a career in agriculture and, as a student, worked a placement at Great Tew. Here he soon caught the eye of Mavis, a beautiful local girl. They met when Mavis got her tractor stuck in a field and John rescued her.

They married in 1951 at Great Tew Church and started their married life at Beaconsfield Farm in Great Tew. Their three daughters Susan, Wendy and Julie were born there.

In the 1960s John moved his family to Yew Tree Farm in Ascott-under-Wychwood. Despite getting up at 5am to start milking the herd of 100 Friesians he still found time to be involved in the village church. He started a very successful Sunday school for children, was Church Warden and took up bell ringing.

In 1983 John and Mavis moved to Shipton and John retired from farming. He decided to do a little part-time job at the Q8 garage in Chipping Norton for a couple of years to ease himself into retirement. The couple of years turned



into 20 years and he retired three months short of his 85<sup>th</sup> birthday. He made a huge number of friends from his passing customers.

He pursued his love of gardening in Shipton and tended his allotment for 30 years. He could often be seen bicycling up the hill with his tools and returning with a variety of vegetables.

He was always involved in church life. He

pursued his love of bell ringing and was Tower Master for St. Mary's Church for 25 years, where he patiently taught many of today's ringers. He rang many quarter peals for the Oxford Diocesan Guild and was known as an excellent tenor man.

I really got to know John when he retired and moved to Shipton. As well as his allotment, he looked after other people's gardens. He was a man of the soil; he was a man of great knowledge, of charm and devotion. He was attending the Book of Common Prayer service a week before he died. I would always sit close to him in church because he had an aura of faith. To sum John up, he epitomised goodness and kindness and modesty and was an example to us all.

He will be greatly missed by Mavis, their three daughters, three grandchildren and two great-grandchildren and all those who knew him.

**Malcolm Cochrane**  
**From the Eulogy read at John's funeral.**