

JOHN LIGHT

1927-2016

John Light passed away peacefully at his home in Lightwater on Thursday 16th June, with his family around him. John was the much loved husband of Molly, father of Janice and Richard, grandad of Steven, Abi, Fizzy and Libby. John is sadly missed by his family and friends. His laughter, sense of fun, charm, kindness and eccentricity leave a big gap in all their lives.

John was born in Bisley in 1927, to Harry and Rose Light. He went to Bisley Primary School, then to Woking Boys' Grammar School, a brief spell at Kingston Technical College, then on to be apprenticed at Vickers Armstrong in Weybridge, for engineering, specialising in tool-making.

John met Molly at Chobham Youth Club when he was 20. They went out together on-and-off for 3 years and were married on Saturday 29th March, 1952. There was hot sun on the Friday, but on the wedding morning it was snowing. There were deep snow drifts and lots of people couldn't get to the church. The marriage took place with a limited number of guests, though the important people were all there.

By that time, John had qualified and had joined the Rheostatic Company at Frimley, where he enjoyed some stiff technical challenges in developing electrical control switches.

When they were married, John and Molly lived with Molly's parents in Brookwood while their bungalow was being built in Lightwater; and they moved in at Christmas, 1952.

In 1956, their daughter Janice was born in Windlesham Maternity Home, followed in 1960 by their son Richard. By then, John had joined GE Fulton, where he worked with his uncle Arthur Fulton, cousin Robin Fulton and father Harry Light. While John was at Fulton's, he developed his own special rifle components, which he produced under Fulton's management.

John was a member of the London & Middlesex Club (where he celebrated his 70th birthday with a big party) and also the English Twenty Club. John shot in competitions associated with the Surrey Rifle Association, belonged to the Chobham and District Rifle Club and shot in their top team, which included the winning of the "Astor County Championship" of 1952. Work often curtailed his competitive shooting but he still managed to reach the final 100 of H.M. The Queen's Prize on three occasions (1956 (94th), 1961 (56th) and 1962 (100th)). He also made the top 25 of the St. George's in 1962 (8th); and one year he and his father won the Father and Son prize.

John enjoyed being a father, spending very happy years with Janice and Richard growing up, with blissful holidays in Sea Palling, Norfolk, in a fishermen's cottage by the sea.

Later on, John set up his own independent business, working from Stoughton, near Guildford and at home, when he developed the 'Brindles' range of target shooting accessories that included match triggers, backsights, foresights and a 'Brindles' rifle, a unique product. During those years, John was present in Bisley Camp next to the South London club for the summer events, particularly the Imperial Meeting. During those years, the following poem was written by a (to us now) anonymous customer:

A Little bit of Light

*A little bit of Light comes into our lives
Each year about this time
And it's currently inspired me
To put some words in rhyme*

*A spark of bright, deep knowledge
A gleam of expertise
A 'can I help', a not for self
A fresh, clean summer breeze*

*A lovely sunny countenance
A happy, cheery smile
A pleasant words' all to be heard
He does it all the while*

*A sparkling ray of sunshine
We always miss him when he's gone
This little bit of shining Light
We simply call him - John*

John enjoyed his garden and his home, though he wasn't a very keen gardener. He had first one, then two, then three, then four garages at home (workshops in which no car was ever able to be stored, except the Ford 8 under reconstruction for a few years, finally sold to a local man, who finished the reconstruction and now still uses it).

John always says that his proudest day was when he gave Janice away to Keith to be married at King's College, Cambridge.

John worked for the NRA as the Armourer from 1987, before retiring, after which he was often called upon to advise and assist the incumbent armourer. Even then, he spent a lot of time in his workshops, manufacturing specialist components for sale on eBay.

Later in life, John and Molly spent many very happy holidays in Spain, where Janice and Keith had a lovely home, as well as in Sydney and other exciting places in Australia, where Rick now lives.

John had a few health problems for the last years, which didn't stop his enjoyment of life. He recently had trouble with breathlessness, which meant that he enjoyed being pushed around in a wheelchair by Molly. In November last year, his back started hurting and he hasn't been well since then. As he found out in May, the bone cancer was already taking its toll. Rick managed to get home from Australia and Janice down from Leeds. John was cared for beautifully in the Royal Surrey County Hospital for three weeks, where his pain was managed well. Finally, John was able to be at home for one week, where the family made the most of their time together with him.