



Michael Boyd 1944–2025

Michael (Mike) Boyd was born on 5 February 1944 in Hempton to Iris and William (Bill) Boyd. He was the third of nine children. The family then moved to Deddington. However, at four years old, Mike decided he would prefer to live with his maternal grandparents in Hempton. His grandfather worked on a farm in Hempton and later at Manor Farm, Deddington.

Mike went to Deddington Primary School and the Windmill School on Hempton Road. Given the knowledge and values of his grandparents' generation, he established an early interest in gardening, animal husbandry and the natural world. This served him well and gave him a passion that lasted a lifetime.

His first job as an adult was as a mechanic at Archway Garage, Deddington. This turned out to be a career move of incredibly good fortune. It was there he met his wife, Gillian, in the late 1960s. They married in 1971 and subsequently had two children: Joanne and James. Later, Mike worked on building sites driving machinery and then he finally got the job he loved the most: gardening at the Vicarage in Adderbury. He spent the last 14 years of his working life there.

Family life in Deddington was peaceful. The house (still occupied by Gill) is surrounded by a wonderful garden. Fifty years ago, Mike and Gill designed it. Once home to a whole menagerie of animals, it is now a beautiful place, a sanctuary, an oasis of calm, a space to be enjoyed by all those fortunate enough to enter.

Mike was kind, compassionate, loyal, trustworthy and very hardworking. He was a family man, always providing for and protecting those he loved the most. He was gregarious and genuinely interested in the thoughts and feelings of others. He often gave his time to help others. He was a skilled, multi-talented, practical and pragmatic man. He used his skills to build, create, repair and grow. He loved carpentry and made many items for his children, the home and his garden. Everything he touched was made with care and precision, to stand the test of time.

He was generous with his love of the natural world and compassionate in his care of animals. He had an innate understanding that we are better people if we have a positive relationship with nature. Mike's legacy will be the buildings he has helped construct, the things he has made and the gardens he has created. Something for everyone.

Joanne and the Boyd Family