

Dear All,

It is now nearly three months since Will's untimely death. It has taken this long to put my thoughts in order and put pen to paper.

Will had severe financial problems mainly, but not exclusively, due to work he had done for one contractor in London. The situation was already severe when I became aware of the problem but rather than declare him bankrupt Will and I worked through everything with the help of Tony O Niel and had stabilised the business.

Will was very skilled at what he did bearing in mind that he was largely self taught but like many young people he could not see the need to get paid immediately the job was completed and "cash flow" was always a major problem.

With my help we were able to level out the cash flow problems and the court case for recovery of the outstanding funds from London was well on the way to fruition. Will had no reason to do what he did and I would emphasise that his death was not suicide. We now know that he had been experimenting with drugs again over the last few months and that what he took on the fateful night obviously was not what he thought it might be either in strength or content.

We also know that Will and a number of his peers were regularly taking recreational drugs of one sort or another and his death if it does nothing else may well bring an awareness in others that drug taking however benign can have severe consequences not only for the taker but also for the family and friends. If his death saves just one of his peers from a similar death then all will not have been in vain.

Netta, William's mother, and I wanted just a quiet family funeral at Efford but when Peter Cooke the Bigbury Church warden rang me it soon became clear that there was a massive groundswell of grief from within the community. Netta and I were unable to cope with the organisation of a big funeral but agreed that it was needed to allow everyone to say their own goodbyes. Our younger son John with the help of Taff and Karen et al were left with the onerous task of doing this for us, and what a funeral it turned out to be. Over £800 was collected for Air Ambulance, William's daughter Daisy's preferred charity.

We the immediate family said our brief goodbyes at Efford but with kind permission of the church a memorial Plaque was erected in Bigbury Church yard for all to visit.

The cards and letters we received after William's death would suggest that he will be remembered for a number of things.

1. Never being relied upon to turn up when he said he would. He would smile, that smile, and all animosity would be forgotten.
2. He made women feel like ladies, especially the older generation.
3. He was always polite and helpful and genuinely happy to do anything for anyone without thought of reward.

I will remember him for a lot of pain, anger and anguish that he caused and then with a huge sense of pride at the ways that other people thought of him and held him in such high esteem.

I would like to thank a number of people but the list will always be incomplete and I hope that those I do not mention will accept my apologies for this but to do so would take up even more space.

Firstly Peter Cooke for his immediate response and offer of help from the church at a time when we were still bewildered by what had happened.

Taff and Karen who tirelessly showed their love and respect for William in ways I found difficult.

The Reverend Neil Baker for his masterful handling of the service and for taking the time to come to Efford.

Basil Edmunds and his staff at Halletts for his help, understanding and more professionalism in handling all of the funeral arrangements especially in allowing Will's friends to carry the coffin in and out of the church.

Edwin Nicklen for organising the collection in the Royal Oak which allowed Daisy to buy a decent