

It is with deep regret that we record the death of James (Jim) Whittington aged 67 of Westend, Ruardean.

The village of Ruardean will also be much affected by Jim's death because for the past 20 years he has been its very popular Mayor.

Sadly, since his twin brother John died over a year ago, a lot of joy of life went from Jim. He had a very close affinity with his brother.

Jim died last Friday evening in Standish Hospital where he was a much-liked patient.

One of the best known people in Ruardean Jim Whittington served the village well. By tradition in Ruardean the man chosen to be Mayor should be the tallest man in the village. For the election of a successor to Mr Miles, when he died, the rules were somewhat changed in that it was agreed that the mayor, on this occasion should be the tallest man in the village – lying down! Jim Whittington's vital statistics around his stomach easily made him number one for the job.

Traditionally in Ruardean the Mayor held his courts and this practice was continued. People were brought before the Mayor's Court over which Jim Whittington presided – for such things as misusing a

wheelbarrow! For this the offender was fined a considerable amount of ale on his next visit to the 'Angel'. It was all great fun and Mayor Jim readily joined in.

A bachelor Jim Whittington found his fulfilment in life by serving his village as best he could. He was a faithful member of Ruardean Parish Council, and a long-term member of the RAOB. For some time Jim organised raffles to raise funds to brighten Christmas for the pensioners of the village, and when it was in being Jim was the President of the Ruardean Demonstration Committee.

At Christmastime his Lordship the Mayor donned the dress of Father Christmas to deliver presents to the children in the village school. He also extended his role as Father Christmas for other organisations and private homes.

Always a keen gardener Jim much enjoyed his garden, and it must be said that a visit to one of Ruardean's hostelryes was always a great pleasure for him. At the 'Angel' or the 'Malt Shovel' he was a much liked and much appreciated customer.

Ruardean has lost a good friend and will be the poorer for the passing of Jim Whittington, Lord Mayor of the village.