

Obituary Barry Sims 1947 to 2021



Box

08/10/2021 Barry Sims died of a heart attack.

Dear Friends - earlier today I heard from Jane Cox that Barry died yesterday 6th October - I have no further information but will let you know when I do.

Barry was a tremendous support in getting our Twinning activities up and running, always keen to lend a hand and his marquee, he was our first Treasurer. He was instrumental, along with other committee members and friends, in being elected to the Parish Council swaying the balance towards the council's agreement to our twinning with Sorigny - without that early support the Parish Council would have continued to prevaricate and place obstacles in the path of our friendship with the Sorignois.

Michael Williams Chairman Box Twinning Committee 7/10/2021

Sorigny

Hello to you all

As agreed, I sent our deepest condolences to Cheryl first and then to the Twinning members second.

We have received many messages of sympathy in return.

I'll share Cheryl's with you:

<<Thank you for your kind words and thoughts. Barry was a special person, Kind, funny and always there for all his many friends. He thought so highly of his many friends in Sorigny and we did intend to revisit as soon as possible. My friends I cannot explain the complete desolation I feel but he is with me in my heart. God bless you all. Cheryl xxx>>

Céline Lhuissier-Tudoce, President, Sorigny Twinning Committee 10/10/2021

Funeral Monday 1st November 2021 at 14.30

Obituary Barry Sims 1947 to 2021 by Anona & Sheila – close friends

Late of Witchcroft, Henley Lane, Kingdown, Box, on the edge of the Kingsdown Golf Course.

Barry was a man of many talents. His enduring quality was his desire to help others.

He was a highly qualified Engineer beginning as an apprentice at Westinghouse Chippenham. He was also a well-respected Marine Engineer, working on many boats on the canals in the locality.

However, one of his greatest loves was motor bikes, even racing against a namesake on one occasion, Barry Sheene MBE and beating him! He completed the Manx Grand-prix 5 times and also took part and in completed the Veterans course in 2015/2016. He also tested tyres for Avon Tyres, often achieving speeds in excess of 180mph.

Barry was a well liked and greatly respected member of the community of Box. For many years he was safety officer at Box Rifle Club. He also trained the local venture scouts for the 10 Tors and other similar events.

He served as a Box Parish Councillor for 8 years and was chairman of the Highways Committee, he was a founder member and treasurer of the Box Twinning Association, resulting with the Twinning with Sorigny, France in 2017.

He was an active member of GIG (Gentleman's Interest Group) the Men's Shed and Box Revels.

He enjoyed playing Father Christmas for the Box C of E Primary School, handing out presents to the children around the Christmas tree by the Victorian Fountain opposite the Manor House.

He was often seen in strategic sites around the parish as a valued member of the "Speed Watch" team. One of his colleagues commented, 'He made me smile. He had a heart of gold.' Another one, 'He was always smiling and had a twinkle in his eye'.

It is impossible to list all of his talents but suffice it to say that if Barry could not find a solution to a problem, then there was no solution.

He was an amazing, selfless man, and happiest when helping others. He was always willing to help, he never said no. He will be sadly missed by his family, friends, colleagues and all those who loved him.

The Wiltshire Gazette and Herald

Obituary: Barry Sims was a well-liked and greatly respected member of the Box community John Baker, Senior Reporter

ONE of the Wiltshire Times' regular contributors, Barry Sims, has died aged 74.

Barry was born in 1947 in the family home off Henley Lane, Kingsdown, Box and spent most of his life there.

He died unexpectedly on October 6. He leaves behind a son, Charlie, and a brother Tony.

He was the second son of Robert and Rosemary Sims. During the Second World War, his father worked on developing Rolls-Royce aero engines.

Barry was a practical man who became a highly qualified mechanical and electrical engineer, starting his career as an apprentice at Westinghouse in Chippenham in the 1970s.

Barry then became an assessor for Avon Tyres, testing tyres which often achieved speeds in excess of 180mph.

Then became a well-respected marine engineer, working on many sailing yachts, power boats and canal barges in the locality, around the country and abroad.

He built and ran the Hilperton Marina on the Kennet & Avon Canal near Trowbridge for many years.

His enduring quality was his desire to help others and to set and maintain high standards; Barry could always find a solution to an engineering problem.

However, one of his greatest loves was motor bikes, even racing against a namesake, Barry Sheene MBE and beating him!

He completed the Manx Grand Prix on the Isle of Man five times and also took part and completed the Veterans Event in 2015/2016.

Barry was a well-liked and greatly respected member of the community of Box. For many years he was safety officer at Box Rifle Club. He also trained the local Venture Scouts for the Ten Tors and other similar endurance events.

He served as a Box Parish Councillor for eight years and was chairman of the council's highways committee.

Barry was a founder member and treasurer of the Box Twinning Association, resulting in the Twinning with Sorigny, France in 2017, whilst facilitating many enjoyable visits for its French guests.

He was an active member of GIG (Gentleman's Interest Group), the Men's Shed Group and Box Revels.

Barry also enjoyed playing Father Christmas for the Box Church of England Primary School, handing out presents to the children around the Christmas tree by the Victorian Fountain.

Safeguarding the Box community, he volunteered and was often seen in strategic sites around the parish as a valued member of the Community Speed Watch team.

One of his colleagues commented: "He made me smile. He had a heart of gold."

Another said: "He was always smiling and had a twinkle in his eye."

Barry was an amazing, selfless man, and happiest when helping others in Melksham, Trowbridge and Box; he never said no. He will be sadly missed by his family, friends, colleagues and all those who loved him. May he rest in peace. His funeral was held on Monday (November 1) at the West Wiltshire Crematorium at Semington.

The Wiltshire Gazette and Herald

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