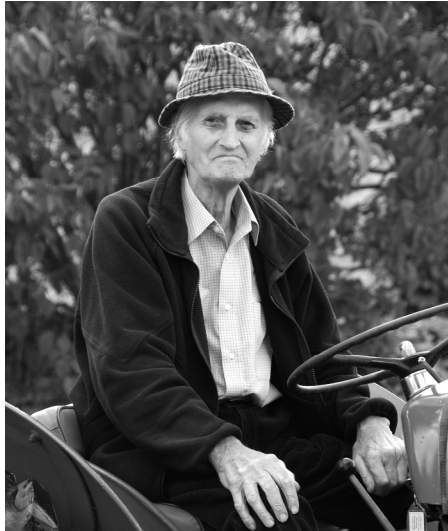


Maurice Pratley 1932 - 2012

Maurice Pratley was born on 13th September 1932, in Leaffield. He first met his wife Valerie on a village corner in Shipton-under-Wychwood. They were married on 29th August 1959 and lived with Valerie's mother in Shipton, while Maurice was building the family home himself, brick by brick, in Milton. Maurice and



Valerie had two daughters, Dawn, born in 1964 and Mandy, born in 1966. Maurice enjoyed taking his family on holiday every year and more often than not to stay with Valerie's relatives on the Isle of Wight.

Maurice worked for Smith's Industries in Witney, as an office clerk, for 25 years, until deciding that he would rather work for himself. He set up his own business as a contract grass cutter and cut the grass for the local Parish Councils of Shipton, Milton and Ascott-under-Wychwood, including the church yards and village greens. Maurice also cut the lawns of many private residents of the local villages. He also carried out lawn-mower repairs and was never happier than when taking a lawn-mower apart and putting it back together, with only his memory to tell him where all the little nuts and bolts went.

While Maurice was busy with his grass-cutting contracts, he also helped out the

newsagent in Shipton, by delivering papers. Maurice loved getting up in the early hours of the morning and delivering the papers to village residents. He loved stopping for a coffee and chat with each and everyone he delivered to.

Maurice was happily married to Valerie for 46 years, until her

untimely death in 1995.

Maurice continued to cut grass and repair lawn-mowers until in his mid 70s, he decided to stop grass contracting and just deliver newspapers to the local residents in Fifield, Shipton and the surrounding villages, hence he was comically known as 'The Oldest Newspaper Boy in the Village.'

Maurice passed away after a short illness, on 16th January 2012. He will be sadly missed by Dawn and Mandy, but will remain forever in their hearts and memories.

Maurice was a very gentle, thoughtful, caring and kind man, who was always happy to help anyone. No job was too big or too small.

Maurice was loved by so many and will be forgotten by so few.

Mandy Pratley