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## 'Life and soul' drummer loses brain tumour fight

Tributes pour in for father and musician Kev Marshall (45)

BY MICHELLE RAY

A POPULAR musician from Mudeford has died aged 45 after battling a brain tumour for three years.

Tributes have poured in for Kev 'Thunderboy' Marshall who had played in many local bands, most notably as the full-time drummer for Lady Winwood's Maggot from 2009 to 2013.

Following his death at Branksome Park Care Centre last Friday Kev's bandmates and fans called him a "legend" and his widow Vicky said he was always the "life and soul".

His mum Eileen said she was "so proud" of her "dearly loved, only son", adding: "He was always cheerful and, of course, loved his music. His foot never stopped tapping wherever he was and he leaves a gaping hole in my life."

Kev and Vicky met after he moved to New Milton in 2000 and they married in 2004.

"He was always the life and soul of the party and the joker," Vicky told the A&T. "One of the things that drew me to him was his silly jokes and the way he made me laugh — he gave the best cuddles and had the craziest of hair."



Kev (right) pictured with fellow members of Lady Winwood's Maggot

In February 2012 they had a daughter, Indi.

Vicky said: "Indi made our lives together even better, and Kev was absolutely smitten. They were like two peas in a pod and I knew they would go on to get up to mischief together."

### Jean Vernon-Jackson

NEW FOREST community champion Jean Vernon-Jackson, described as a "force of nature" who helped show the way for female politicians, has died at the age of 87.

During her long and active career in local politics, Jean was a member and chair of Lymington, New Forest and Hampshire councils, as well as being made an MBE by the Queen for her dedicated service to the area.

She was Deputy Lord Lieutenant of Hampshire, a magistrate, a member of the Hampshire Police Authority, and in 1992 was the Liberal Democrats' general election candidate for the New Forest.

Her influence was particularly felt in Lymington and Pennington where she was made an honorary Burgess and spent most of her life helping to create St Barbe Museum and Art Gallery and was a member of Lymington Care Group, school governor, and chair of the United Nations Association.

Cllr Jack Davies, chair of the New Forest Lib Dems of which she was president, said Jean would be "sorely missed". He added: "Jean was a force of nature; she inspired a generation of people to better their community. There was nobody quite like Jean. I don't think there ever will be."

"Unfortunately this was not to be the case as in March 2014 our lives changed forever. Kev was suffering from neck pain and headaches and confusion for several weeks, and after many appointments and eventually a trip to the eye hospital we had the devastating news that he had an inoperable brain tumour."

Kev underwent radiotherapy

for 30 days to try and shrink the tumour to give some relief and quality of life for as long as possible.

"This was a success and we had some good times making memories and enjoying life with family and friends," said Vicky.

"We renewed our wedding vows in September 2014 after 10 years

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## Hello possums... Dame Edna is finally back on the shelf!

TV CELEBRITY Dame Edna Everage has spoken to the A&T of her satisfaction after a reader returned one of her books to a New Forest library 27 years late.

The paperback was taken out at New Milton on February 14th 1990 but ended up hidden away in an attic before being unearthed during a house clearance nearly three decades on and handed in at Totton.

First published in 1976, *Dame Edna's Coffee Table Book* was written by Australian comedian Barry Humphries (83) who is best known for his on-stage and television alter ego Dame Edna.

In a statement to the A&T, Dame Edna responded to news of her book's re-emergence: "I'm not surprised. People say they can't put my books down and clearly this person has been studying my masterpiece for 27 years."

"Funnily enough, the Gideons are going to put a copy of my complete works in the bedrooms of every hotel in the world just like they did with the Bible."

"In my romantic life I've never been on the shelf for long and the same applies to my literary works."

In the month the book was borrowed, the late South African president Nelson Mandela was released from prison, Margaret Thatcher was still prime minister, and the president of the United States was George Bush senior.

At 20p a day, the tardy bill could have come to £1,971 — but these days there is a maximum fine for late returns of £6 which was waived by staff when it was handed back in.

Library assistant Jane Groves (36) tweeted about its safe return on the library's Twitter account,



saying: "We're always grateful for returns — no matter how long you've had them!"

"This one from @NewMiltonLib was 27 years late! #betterlatethan never"

The light-hearted book is based on the character and is billed as "A Guide to Gracious Living and the Finer Things of Life by One of the First Ladies of World Theatre".

Jane (pictured) said: "The book is filled with pictures from the 1970s, and pictures of her in silly hats she was wearing, and things like recipes."

"It was returned by a customer who found it as they did a house clearance. I was told by a

colleague yesterday they found it in the loft.

"We waived any fine because it's such a long time, and it was before our computer system was installed. It's the longest amount of time I've ever seen."

"We are now trying to decide if it's a relevant book that people still want to take out before we put it back on the shelves."

Some of the staff now working at the Totton branch, which is run by Hampshire County Council, were not even born when the book was last taken out, the library's account tweeted later.

It added: "Well it seemed a bit silly to charge to have SUCH an old book back so we waived the fines. We were just excited to see the book!"

## Newly-weds slam no-show photographer

TWO married couples have lost out on precious memories of their special days after claiming to have been let down by the same New Milton photographer who charged them hundreds of pounds.

Daniel Mapes (32) — who refused to comment to the A&T — has been accused by two women of not refunding them after failing to show up to their weddings.

The pair of brides both knew Mr Mapes as a friend but are now preparing separately to take legal action against him through the small claims court to get their money back.

One of the alleged victims is 32-year-old Naomi Narey (pictured), who lives in New Milton and married Kevin Narey (33) at St Mary Magdalene Church in the town on August 4th.

She had agreed a £350 fee for Mr Mapes to take photos at the church and reception but, she said, when her big day arrived he told her he could not make it



because he thought the event was on August 5th — despite earlier confirming the correct date in a text.

He is now refusing to hand back the money paid to him in advance cash-in-hand, she said. Her legal submission describes him as a self-employed concrete worker whose photography is "not his main line of work".

She told the A&T: "The main issue for me is that I have three children and I did not have any formal photos of us together — which for me is a very big issue."

"I am a massive photo hoarder. I lost my mum at 15 and sometimes photos are all you have. They are massively important to me."

"I have suffered mental health problems and I can get very depressed and anxious."

Although she did not allow it to affect her on the day, "afterwards it really hit me", Naomi said.

An informal record of the wedding was only salvaged by

Continued on page 2

## Disabled man left stranded at rail station

A DISABLED New Milton man was twice left stranded on a railway platform after staff failed to help him board his train.

Michael Angus, who needs to use a wheelchair to travel, expressed fears the launch of a new rail provider that covers the New Forest area could lead to a repeat of the ordeals he endured

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