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Dear Parishioner,

I'm sure most of you are already aware of the sad passing of Derek on Sunday 28th July.

Derek and Mary have always been a vital part of village life. We send our love to Mary and she is very much in our thoughts at this difficult time.

Derek joined the Village Hall Committee in 1979 and became a Parish Councillor in 1983, but Derek didn't just "sit" on committees - Derek was an "actions man". Always in "the thick of it" cutting grass verges, the churchyard, the meadow and the croft; cutting hedges; daily opening and locking of the church; winding the clock; cleaning and general maintenance of the Village Hall, the Chapel and the Church; caring with others for Mrs Appleby; and helping anyone and everyone who needed it. Nothing ever seemed too much trouble and all problems were always tackled with positivity and enthusiasm.

Derek was our elder statesman, our father figure and our host/emcee at all village social events. He sang with Boylestone Singers, he was our bingo caller and our own unique auctioneer "20p, 25p, 30p lady?"

There are so many things Derek did for the Village and those around and so much of what he did was taken for granted and often went unnoticed. Only after Derek was too ill to carry on did we begin to realise this, and it now takes a task force of at least 20 to do what just Derek did on his own.

From the Parish Council we thank you Derek for all your commitment and devotion to Boylestone and those around. You will be and are very much missed.

Derek's funeral will be held at St John's Boylestone 10.30am on Wednesday 14th August.

Family flowers only please. Donations may be made in lieu of flowers for St Giles'

Hospice and St John's Church Boylestone.

Helen Walker
Chair to the Parish Council