

## OBITUARY

### Willenhall Flying Tippler Society loses its oldest member

Albert Hartshorne, aged 99 years, died on the 3rd of April 1998. Albert was a life member of the N.T.U. and honoured member of the Willenhall Club. During his working life, Albert was a miner. He was a tippler fancier almost all of his life, and a friend of Wilf Lovatt, the first man to fly 20 hours. He first met Wilf in 1937, and over the years Albert supplied Wilf with a lot of the pigeons he flew big times with, including one in the 20 hour kit. I would say it was Albert who developed the so called "Lovatt" breed of pigeon. Albert in most cases bred them and Lovatt flew them. When the big time flyers were finished, they returned to Albert to breed off. Albert flew in competitions in the early years, but his greatest pleasure was trying to improve the breed and to let others fly them. He knew exactly the type of pigeon he liked, and bred to achieve them. He like self colours, prints, black mottles and greys, they had to be short in the leg and beak. His other great love was the Jack Russel dog. Albert was a man who never had a bad word to say about anyone, always making everyone welcome and took great pleasure showing his pigeons to anyone who called.

United with his wife in God's big aviary in the sky.  
Rest in Peace

*Roy Downen*

On behalf of our council and members, the newsletter team wish to express their sincere sympathy to our secretary, Brian Rose, his wife Jan and family circle on the sad lose of his father.

It is with deep regret that we also report the death of Jack Jones from Swansea and offer our sincere condolences to his wife Mary, whose kindness shown to the Bristol Fanciers on their visits to Swansea will always be remembered.

### Albert Hartshorne, Life Member N.T.U.

I was introduced to Mr Hartshorne by Cliffe Clarke, at the time I was a novice and found it very interesting to hear stories of old time tippler flyers, in-particular Wilf Lovatt, who was a close friend of Albert's and was the first man ever to record a time of 20 hours in the N.T.U. Albert played a fundamental role in the cultivation of the breed, we recognise today as the Lovatt type. He gave me two pair of stock birds and eight young birds to get me started in timplers. I was a private member at the time and frequent visits to Albert's was an inspiration. With his birds I won the Novice Cup and the following year recorded my first time over 19 hours.

*(Pictured below are A. Hartshorne, C. Clarke and a. Cresswell with the Novice Cup).*

Albert helped many fanciers with his birds: Jim Johnson, who has flown 20 hours plus; P. Green; Ray and Mick Tift; and C. Clarke who broke the young bird World Record in 1982, to name but a few. Although a fantastic age of 99 years old, he enjoyed following the results of the flyers he had given birds to. It's ironic that on the weekend of his passing, three out of four first places in the N.T.U. were took by fanciers flying Albert's birds.

A meeting of the Willenhall Tippler Club was held on the day of

Albert's funeral and there was a three minute silence in honour and memory of Mr Hartshorne by the members.

Mr Clarke and myself paid our last respects at Chadsmoor Methodist Church, Cannock, on the 9th April 1998.

Cliffe Hartshorne, Albert's son asked us to thank the N.T.U. and members of the Willenhall I.F.T.S. on behalf of all the family, for the wreaths sent.

*It has been a great privilege knowing Albert.  
Ashley Cresswell*

