

MEARE & WESTHAY

Village News

Aug - Sept
2018

AMY'S PICNIC AREA

I was moved recently when pedaling to Glastonbury at the opening of a picnic area alongside the cycle way and stopped to read the details on the boards.

The 'story' behind this is of a young person, a pupil of Meare School and member of Meare Moles, who sadly died last year as a result of an asthma attack.



The picnic area is a beautiful and peaceful place where you can sit, enjoy the views of the Tor but at the same time spare thought for someone who was just 14 years old.

The message from Amy's parents is simple; it is very positive and aims to help others, as you will find on pages 3 and 4. The reason for putting this on the front is both to raise awareness not only of the **Amy's Picnic Area** but of course the severity of this condition. Hope you discover the area which, for me, has already become a regular place to stop, reflect and enjoy.

Fred Giles



Website: www.meareandwesthay.com

Facebook: **Meare and Westhay News**



FROM AMY'S PARENTS

Our beautiful, cheeky, funny daughter Amy passed away suddenly on 28th October 2017 of an Asthma attack. She was 14 years old.



Amy - aged 7

Amy was born on 2nd August 2003 and grew up in Glastonbury attending Meare Moles playgroup, Meare School, St Benedict's School and St Dunstan's School. Amy had just begun year 10 and had chosen amongst other things cookery and business studies as her GCSE options. She recently signed up for the Duke of Edinburgh award and had been working voluntarily at St Margaret's Hospice Shop in Glastonbury. She had a big group of friends who enjoyed hanging out together and could be heard shouting way into the night on her PS4.

Amy had suffered with Asthma all her life. She saw her doctor many times, was under a paediatrician at Yeovil Hospital and had been admitted to hospital with Asthma on many occasions. She had also attended Southampton Hospital to see the leading specialist in Asthma. Amy was well looked after by specialists and her family. ...still this devastating, heartbreaking thing happened.

Our message to everyone, young and old -

- **take your inhalers and medication as instructed;**
- **take your preventer inhalers even if you feel well;**
- **when you get the letter to see the Asthma Nurse, make that appointment.**
- **If you are unwell, book an appointment with the doctor, ring 111 or 999 - DO NOT HESITATE.**

Got to www.asthma.org.uk for information, help and guidance.

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We decided early on to create a picnic area at the beginning of the cycle path in Glastonbury. It gave us a focus and also somewhere we can go to remember Amy. Amy spent a lot of time over the years walking, cycling and climbing trees up the cycle path, with family, friends and Bella our dog. When her cousin kept her horse in the paddock it was Amy that would feed him and check on him when they were away. It gives us great pleasure to see families, cyclists, walkers and dogs using the area. We have had lovely feedback from people, the furthest visitors from Arizona USA!

Parents of Amy's friends got together and donated a bench for the picnic area shown here with several of her friends.

We have set up a donation page in memory of Amy in aid of **Asthma UK** which anyone can visit to donate, leave

a memory, light a candle or just look at to remember Amy.

Click on Lifestories to see the work in progress of the picnic area:

<https://amy-thomas.muchloved.com/>



We would like to take this opportunity to thank family and friends for their continued love and support and also Amy's friends (in the above picture) who have been so thoughtful, kind and supportive. We would also like to thank the many people who have donated funds helping to support other asthma sufferers.

Rachael and Martin Thomas