

# Western News



CISWO  
Coal Industry Social Welfare  
Organisation

Serving Mining Communities

Winter 2006

Volume 2 Issue 5

## Merry Christmas from all at Western Region



The CISWO Western Region Team, from left to Right

**Dave Thomas**-Regional Manager. **Anne Unwin**-Administrator, **Peter Martin**-Football Development. **Ann Sinclair** (seated) Senior Social Worker, **Kirsty McNally**-Office Volunteer. **Bernadette Davey**- Social Work and Community Development. **Stacey Phillips** (Insert) Administrator.

### Christmas Cheer

The Christmas period brings most people a lot of pleasure and happiness, for others though it can be one of the saddest times of year.

It can be hard to remember what we were doing on a particular day last year but everyone can remember last

Christmas, and many other Christmas days before that. So for those who have lost a loved one this can be a hard time, particularly if this is the first year without a husband or wife, father or mother.

If there is anyone you know that is facing Christmas alone for the first time, please make a special effort to see them, to pass on Christmas greetings, to make sure that they attend

any special events that the welfare is putting on.

For people who are used to attending events as a couple the first time they attend alone can be a cause of pain in itself, that is when friends and neighbours are most needed.

Help make this as happy a Christmas as possible for those who might find it difficult to feel Christmas Cheer.

### Regional Manager's bit

*As we approach the end of the year, it's traditional to look back at the year and think about the changes that have taken place.*

*It is easy to say that it has been a difficult year for some welfares, but most years are difficult now. As the changes in local communities continue to create trading problems welfares have to struggle just to keep their heads above water.*

*The need to find new ways to attract customers alongside the need to watch and cut costs makes it a challenging time for welfare management*

*At CISWO we see how hard so many trustees and committee members work and how rarely the people they are working for recognise the efforts made on their behalf.*

*So from all at CISWO a very big thank you to all of you that make the special effort needed to keep welfares going.*

*May you have a prosperous New Year*

## Disappearing World - but not gone yet

On November 27 on Channel 5 Ricky Tomlinson of Brookside and The Royle Family was the presenter of a "Disappearing World" show that looked at the mining industry and mining communities.

A passionately committed socialist, Ricky was his usual forceful self, paying tribute to Britain's miners. Travelling to the site of



Ricky Tomlinson

closed mines, which have now been reduced to what he calls "acres and acres and acres of bugged all", Ricky said "It's as if we want to forget that we once had a coal industry," Ricky visited Tower Colliery in South Wales to see one of the few remaining working pits. Most relevant for us at CISWO was his visit to Astley and Tyldesly Miners' Welfare in Western Region where he spoke to Joe Gorringe, Chair of Trustees. Obviously moved by the way that communities still work together Ricky was impressed with the continuing services provided by welfares.

## CISWO

142 Queens Road, Penkull,  
Stoke on Trent, ST 4 7LH

Phone: 01782 744996,

Fax: 01782 749117

Email:

david.thomas@ciswo.org.uk

## Fags End

The launch date for the banning of smoking in all public places has now been confirmed, April for Welsh welfares and July 1st for English ones.

We are still waiting to see the guidance on what will be allowed for smoking shelters. There is every possibility that some welfares may need planning permission for a permanent or semi permanent shelter so if you haven't yet made any plans for smokers now is the time to start.

## Want a Bet?

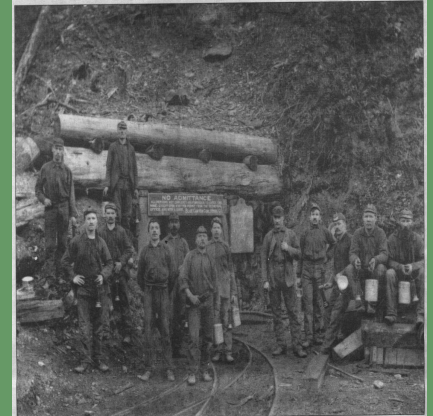
In the next issue, the first of 2007, we will be doing a special on the new Gambling Act.

If any welfares have particular questions about the Act and how it will affect them please send them in and we will try and address them in that issue.

## Let us know

There are many community buildings that were built with grants from the welfare committees over the last 80 odd years that were passed to local councils. Increasingly they are disappearing as local councils can no longer afford to run them. If you hear of any local buildings that were built with committee grant help that are likely to be demolished please let us know.

## "A Miners' Lot" A Tribute



*Another shift  
Cage does loom  
Hurling down  
In to the gloom.*

*Blasting, Drilling  
Dust everywhere  
Thick – Dense  
Hang's in the air.*

*Lung's burning  
Need fresh air  
Rats – Mice  
Scuttle everywhere*

*Coughing – Gasping  
Back is breaking  
Eye's are dusty  
Muscle's aching.*

*Gas explosions  
No one safe  
Roof falls in  
"A Dangerous Place"*

*Shift is over  
Cage ascends  
Out of the gate  
Another day ends*

*No one "Braver"  
No one "Finer"  
Silent Hero's  
"COAL MINERS"*

*So proud to be a 'Miner's' Daughter*

*Mrs Marion Latchford (63yrs)*