



In Memoriam

ANTHONY GEORGE EDWARD (TONY) CONDON

Obituary prepared by Stephen Lodge with the assistance of David Condon.

The Brothers of Esher Circle were sad to learn of the death of Tony on 17 August 2004. He joined Woking Circle in April 1961, later transferring to Esher when he moved house.

Born in Greenwich on 31 March 1925, an only child, Tony moved with the family to Wood Green where he attended the local primary and grammar schools. However at the beginning of the war he was evacuated to Hertfordshire. To his mother's alarm and surprise he cycled home because he was starving!

On leaving school at 16, Tony joined the National Provincial Bank, subsequently joining the RAF in 1943. He trained as a rear gunner and after completing some 'ops' he became an instructor. In 1946 he rejoined the Bank.

A few years later Tony met Jean and they married at St Winefride's Church, Wimbledon in 1955. They set up house in Pyrford and by 1963 David, Denise, Helen and Richard had been born. A move to a larger house in Esher was made in 1963 with Dominic arriving in 1968.

When he was 40, Tony was appointed Manager of Paddington Branch where he had started his career. Whilst he was there the family all featured in an advert for the bank.

Three years passed and Tony was promoted to Walton on Thames, eventually becoming manager of the new larger branch formed after the merger of National Provincial and Westminster Banks.

During his time at that branch Tony became the Area Education Officer for the local Institute of Bankers. He was made a Fellow of the Institute and honorary life member for his services.

Tony was keen on sport and had played football and cricket for the bank. In later years he played tennis and bowls at a local club. When his knees protested, bowls became the chief occupation despite the discomfort he suffered at times. Nevertheless he won several competitions, and also served as Bowls Captain.

Wherever Tony was, there was laughter, often at his own expense as he recounted mishaps. The latter were a great source of merriment in his family particularly his ban from playing golf. Following a business



The deaths of the following brothers are announced with deep regret

August

- 01 Antony Giblin, Rochdale
- 01 Michael Scanlan, Hull
- 03 Cyril Martin Shaw, Peterborough

September

- 26 Tony Hubner, North West London

October

- 03 Michael Collins, Harrow
- 05 Frank Tully, North Wales
- 08 Charles McCarthy, Swindon
- 17 Jim Johnston, Haywards Heath
- 20 Geoffrey Rowe, Axminster
- 24 John Mannion, Chelmsford Mid Essex
- 24 Ralph Pieri, Glasgow

November

- 01 Gerry Smallwood, Sutton Coldfield
- 02 John Dumble, Lytham St Annes
- 02 Bill Penny, Scarborough
- 08 Gerard Gamble, Leicester
- 11 Jim Geraghty, Middlesbrough
- 16 John McGee, Wetherby
- 19 Cyril A Fisher, Ormskirk
- 21 Peter Connors, Darlington

May They Rest in Peace

lunch he once played a round with a customer, sharing the one bag of clubs.

Both players had a merry spirit and the ban came about when the customer charged up to a bunker waving his club in the air and shouted 'Geronimo' as he leapt into it to play his ball. Unfortunately the Chairman of the club was standing there and so ended the promising golfing career of a Catenian.

There was a good attendance at the Mass and this together with the many cards, letters and offers of help that the family received were of great comfort to them all.

To his widow, Jean and his children and grandchildren we extend our condolences and prayers.

May he rest in peace

JOSEPH (JOE) WALSH MM

The brothers of Ashton-under-Lyne Circle and Provinces 17 and 1 were saddened to learn of the death of Joe Walsh.

Danny Byrne writes: Joseph George Walsh was born in Manchester on 13th August 1924 and died shortly before his 80th birthday.

With the second World War looming Joe enlisted in the Royal Artillery and rose to the rank of sergeant. He saw service in the Far East, serving in Indonesia, Burma and Singapore. He was severely wounded during this service and was left with a shattered body and constant pain for the rest of his life.

Joe was awarded the Military Medal for a personal act of bravery but would never discuss the detail.

Whilst in hospital in Manchester receiving treatment, Joe was cared for by a young nurse, Eileen, whom he later married. The marriage was blessed with two sons, Stephen and Christopher.

Joe joined the Association in January 1970 and immediately became a valued member of Ashton-under-Lyne Circle. Because of his illness Joe never took high office but served for many years as Chamberlain.

Owing to constant pain, Joe liked to keep on the move and what better way than visiting. He soon became the best known Catenian in Provinces 1 and 17 and even further afield. In later years, with son Christopher now living in Australia, Joe was a frequent visitor to that continent and became well known to many Australian brothers, especially those of Dianella Circle.

In spite of his war wound and many illnesses, Joe lived a long and happy life, mainly due to the support and care from his loving wife Eileen.

Joe is survived by Eileen, sons Stephen and Christopher and grandchildren.

We send our love and sympathy to them.

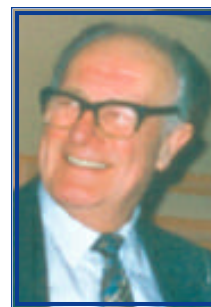
May he rest in peace

PETER HINE

Tom Horn & Brian Dickinson write:

The sudden death of Peter Hine in July 2004 came as a complete shock to Garstang Circle and to his many friends.

Peter was born on 12 December 1928 and left school at the age of 14 when he started work as a plumber's apprentice. Like many of his generation it wasn't always what was best for you but what your parents decided and





also what was available. In his early 20s he started his own business. The going was tough but so was Peter and it was not long before he gained an excellent reputation as a master plumber. He met and courted Josie and they were married for 54 years. There are two sons, Peter and Neil of whom Peter was very proud. Neil joined Peter in the business and it was while they were both out on a business call that Peter had a massive brain haemorrhage from which he died 24 hours later.

He was also well known for his excellent tenor voice. He had sung in church choirs locally all his life from school days. He had for many years sung with Josie, who has a lovely soprano voice, the lead and chorus parts in the local Garstang Light Opera Group as well as being members of a local choral society, the Elswick Singers.

Peter was enrolled into the Catenians on 19 May 1966 and was a Past President of the Circle. On the round of Circle dinner dances he and Josie were often called upon to sing an after dinner duet to the delight of all the guests. The love duet from Merry Widow was one of their favourite party pieces.

He had set his heart on being Circle President once again but this was not to be. He leaves Josie, his two sons and their four grandchildren. It was no surprise that the Church of St Thomas, Claughton on Brock where he and Josie were married was filled to overflowing for his Requiem Mass. Also not surprisingly the Catenians, Opera Group and Choral Society members with the large congregation "raised the roof" with his favourite hymns in a wonderful celebration of his life.

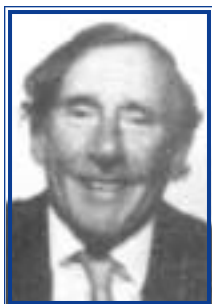
May he rest in peace

HENRY HANDLEY LDS, BDS, FDS, RCS

The President and Brothers of Blackburn Circle were saddened to learn of Henry's death on July 11th 2004.

Leo Parker writes: Henry had been a member of the Catenians since 1955. He is mourned by his wife, five children and eight grandchildren.

Henry was born in 1918, just before the end of World War 1, one of twins and with an older brother. Sadly, their father died in France when they were three months old, due to the influenza epidemic and is buried in the War Graves Cemetery in Rouen. He and his brothers were brought



up in his mother's extended family, first in Nelson, then Burnley, then Sale, and finally Southport.

Henry was educated at St Bede's College, Manchester where he developed his life-long love of sports and was proud to have played as wicket keeper for the school. He went on to Manchester University to study Dentistry and qualified in 1942. His prowess at cricket continued, as he was wicket keeper for the University, and later for Southern Command when he was in the Army. He served in the Royal Army Dental Corps during the war, first with Southern Command, then for a few years in Burma and India.

After his war service he attended Northumberland Dental College at Durham University and gained his Bachelor of Dental Surgery (Dunelm) degree. While he was Senior Dental Officer at the Royal Victoria Infirmary in Newcastle upon Tyne he met his future wife Joan King, who had recently qualified in medicine with her MB, BS (Dunelm) degree. They were married at St Joseph's Church, Birkdale, Southport in 1950. Henry worked for two years in the maxillo-facial department at Gloucester and Chepstow, where he gained a Dental Fellowship and the degree of FDS, RCS, England.

In 1953 he and Joan moved to Blackburn to run his dental practice, along with a hospital appointment, until his retirement in 1984. He became a firm supporter of Blackburn Rovers Football Club, as well as his previous home team of Manchester United, and attended 18 cup finals at Wembley. His love of sport continued with a great interest in golf, which he played with much success, mainly at Pleasington Golf Club, until he was over 80 years old. His brothers were also very keen golfers. The eldest brother, Francis (Frank) was a Priest in the Salford Diocese and worked for many years with the Catholic Marriage Advisory Council in London.

Henry joined Blackburn Circle in 1955, and enjoyed lasting friendships with many of the members. He concerned himself with the well being of the circle and attended meetings regularly. He visited those who were sick, showing a special concern for widows of deceased members.

His last few years were marred by the development of Alzheimer's Disease, which caused great sadness to his family and friends, and he died following a massive stroke on July 11th 2004, aged 85 years. The Requiem Mass to celebrate his life and witness took place at Pleasington Priory, the celebrant being Canon Kevin Kenny and the co-celebrant Canon Jude Harrison. It was attended by

many family and friends along with many brothers from Catenian circles in the area, some of whom gave Henry the compliment of forming a guard of honour as the cortege entered the Priory. He would have felt very privileged and grateful for all the Masses and prayers offered for him during his illness and at the time of his death.

Our sympathy and prayers go to his wife Joan, his sons Michael and Peter, his daughters Christina, Gillian and Nicola and the extended family. Henry will be remembered by all who knew him as a perfect English gentleman.

May he rest in peace

EDWIN HUMBY

Bernard Boyle writes: Edwin was born in South Shields in 1938.

He was educated at St Bede's in South Shields, then St Aidan's, Sunderland until he was 16.

Following the sea going tradition of his family for four

generations, Edwin then went to South Shields Marine College and trained as a Navigating Officer for the Merchant Navy. He subsequently gained his seagoing certificates and was in the Merchant Navy for forty years. At one stage in his career, there were three Captain Humbys serving in the Merchant Navy, Edwin, his father and brother.

Edwin married Sheila in July 1960 and they had three daughters, Christine, Jacky and Liz, and he was the proud grandfather of two girls and two boys.

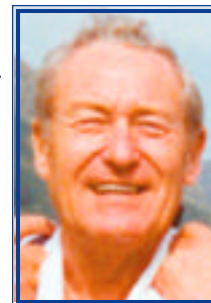
Edwin took early retirement from the service and joined the Catenians in 1997. He enjoyed the meetings and spending time with his fellow Catenians in South Shields Circle.

Edwin also enjoyed playing golf three times a week and was a keen walker with two different walking clubs. He was also a Governor of St Hilda's School in Sunderland. Both he and Sheila were Friends of Trinity House and acted as guides showing visitors around their premises in Newcastle upon Tyne.

For the last five years of Edwin's life he bravely fought a cruel and progressive disease called PSP for which there is no known cause nor cure. He died very peacefully on 10th April 2004 with all his family around him.

His Requiem Mass was at St Benet's in Sunderland and was celebrated by Father Charles Corrigan, who praised Edwin's exemplary courage in illness, and the love and steadfastness of his faith.

May he rest in peace

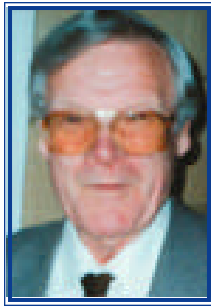




In Memoriam

LES GREENFIELD

It was with tremendous sadness that the Swindon Catenians bade farewell to their Brother Les Greenfield, one of the founding fathers of Circle 231 when it came into being in May 1966.



Peter Foley writes:

Also affectionately known as 'The Doc' - a reference to his possession of a PhD, amongst a host of other impressive qualifications - Les was held in high esteem by everyone who had the privilege of knowing him.

Ted Dyson, a Past President of Swindon Circle and a close friend of forty years, delivered a heartfelt and warm tribute to a "humble, warm, caring, vibrant and highly generous man" at Les' Requiem Mass in Holy Rood Church, where he had worshipped since coming to Swindon in 1956.

Ted recalled an occasion when he benefited from the considerable humanity that Les possessed as he passed on the news that his own son's girlfriend had been killed.

A proud Brummie by birth and with an understandable lifelong devotion to his beloved Birmingham City Football Club, Les briefly went into industry after graduating from University before joining the scientific branch of the Ministry of Defence.

During this time at Greenford in Middlesex he met his wife Norah - her brother introduced the couple - and began to enhance his already impressive curriculum vitae. He became the youngest Fellow of the Institute of Metallurgists at only 26 years of age.

A return to the private sector then beckoned where his considerable expertise was applied to the creation and improvement of artificial body parts, particularly hip and knee joints, for which numerous people, all over the world, owe Les and the team a considerable debt of gratitude for their pioneering development work.

The move to Swindon came in the mid 1950s where Les first became General Manager, then Managing Director of Deloro Stellite - a role that required regular trips all over the world, especially to the hub of the corporation's international operation in Canada.

His arrival in Wiltshire was quickly seized upon by the local community - here was a considerable source of knowledge that had to be tapped. Not surprisingly, Les served as a governor of

St Joseph's RC Comprehensive School over three decades.

The late Monsignor Joseph Leahy, then Parish Priest of Swindon's Mother Church at Holy Rood, knew that two of his parishioners - Austin Smith, a retired bank manager, and primary school headmaster Jim Vallely - were already Catenians and he was keen to see a Circle established in the town. Les was one of the first parishioners approached to join and soon became a tremendous asset and stalwart to the emerging organisation. He served as the Circle's first Provincial Councillor.

Les remained highly active until he suffered his first stroke in 1975. Even the later amputation of a leg would not stop him from seeing his friends at the monthly meeting - arriving at the Goddard Arms Hotel in his electric wheelchair, irrespective of the weather conditions.

His health deteriorated further and he was advised to have the other leg amputated - a suggestion that Les steadfastly refused to follow. Blessed with a strong faith and with a highly supportive family, Les had reached his 80s when he passed away following a massive heart attack.

Dr Les Greenfield is survived by his widow, Norah, their three children: John, Deborah and Alison, plus their respective families.

May he rest in peace

FRANCIS BASIL BATE

Newcastle upon Tyne Circle brothers were saddened by the death of Basil Bate in his 98th year.

Brian Harvey writes: Basil was our eldest member, and had not long before completed fifty years



service in the Association, being a founder member of Haywards Heath Circle before transferring to Newcastle No 5 in 1957. Born in Birsham, near Wrexham into a strongly Catholic family, Basil attended preparatory school in Freshfield and then boarded at St Bede's, Manchester.

Favouring a semi-outdoor occupation he then worked for Allwood's, carnation growers, before joining the RAF in 1941 where he served in wireless communications at South Minster, landing in Normandy on D+4 to work in forward positions through Europe, liaising with missions over enemy territory.

On demobilisation Basil returned to Allwood's and, at a horticultural exhibition in Sunderland, he met his future wife who

was exhibiting roses on the next stand, grown at her father's nursery garden - Dillon's of Wolsington.

Vera and Basil were married in St Mary's Cathedral, Newcastle in 1949 after a romance which, fittingly, all began with flowers!

Initially they lived in Lindfield, Sussex, adjacent to Basil's work, at which time Basil joined the Association. During the war years the rose hip syrup industry was developed to offset nutritional shortages, and in 1955 Basil was approached by Scott & Turner of Newcastle to develop production in the north, to be nearer to the processing factory. So Vera was able to move back to the north east, to Ponteland, not far from the family nursery.

In 1966 Basil was appointed Horticultural Officer to the Washington New Town Development Corporation to be responsible for design and planting on the extensive site, which he then supervised until his retirement in 1971.

Sadly Basil and Vera's first child, Paula, only lived for two years and Vera recalls how supportive the Circle brothers, wives and neighbours in Sussex were at that stressful time. Their second daughter, Lucy, was born in 1957.

Basil was the epitome of a Catholic gentleman, a truly gentle person of quiet temperament and modesty, never controversial but always courteous and with a friendly smile. As such, he never sought the limelight but in 1975 became Circle secretary, a post he filled with distinction for eleven years, producing meticulous minutes and ever punctual.

He was a regular attender at Circle meetings until quite recently, and he and Vera always supported anniversary Masses and social events.

Basil was a keen bridge player over many decades with a weekly foursome of close friends, his disposition being ideally suited to the game. In Sussex he played tennis and cricket for the village team in Welsfield. On retirement he played more golf, right up to his 90th year, then becoming a social member and the second eldest in his golf club.

Basil had a very peaceful death, in keeping with the peaceful person he had been all his life. He had retained his interest in golf, and on Sunday, 1 August he had watched the thrilling climax to the 2004 Ryder Cup. Within minutes of retiring early to bed he died.

We pay tribute to the devoted care which Vera gave to Basil in his closing years when she knew that her love and patient attention would have been given equally to her if Basil had been the carer - a wonderful tribute to their fifty five years of happy marriage.



Fr Vincent Melia celebrated Basil's Requiem Mass in thanksgiving for his long and fruitful life in the presence of many parishioners and brothers. We offer our sincere sympathy and prayers to Vera and Lucy in their loss and our thanks for the friendship and example which Basil gave to all the brothers of No 5 Circle. We remember him with affection.

May he rest in peace

CHARLES BYRNE

Fleetwood Circle mourn the death of Charles Byrne who died on 9th July 2004 aged 85 after a long illness which affected his last years but not his commitment to his Catenian activities when possible.



Tony Smith writes: Charles was born in Campbeltown, Argyll on 15th July 1918. However, his father's work took the family to the north of Scotland soon afterwards. His mother appears to have had exceptional abilities, being one of the first women to receive a degree from Aberdeen University and persuading Charles to go to University at the age of 16, graduating whilst only 18. She also encouraged him to learn the piano, an endeavour which he pursued with questionable dexterity.

On leaving University, Charles entered the Civil Service as an Executive Officer but this was cut short by the outbreak of war when he served in the Royal Corps of Signals seeing service in West Africa and Burma as a despatch rider and later cipher operator, where he showed his character in standing by the rights of his men when refusing to move them up front whilst they were exhausted.

After the war Charles returned to the Civil Service. A friend advised him that playing golf would enhance his advancement, however he met his future wife Agnes, and on realising where his heart lay, ditched the clubs. He was then moved to Blackpool for a short spell and it was here that he was received into the Church at The Sacred Heart, Talbot Road.

His talents were soon recognised and he was asked to open the first office of the Ministry of National Pensions and Insurance in Aberdeen, followed by 10 years in Paisley, ending his career in Blackpool, rising to the rank of Deputy Controller at War Pensions. This gave him satisfaction in that he saw it as an opportunity of giving help to those who had served their country.

Charles married Agnes on 19th May 1947. Their union was blessed with four daughters, Mary, Margaret, Dorothy and Catherine and he was very proud of them all, in his later years enjoying his grandchildren who now number eight.

Charles was initiated into Fleetwood Circle in April 1965, becoming President in 1971/72 and later Treasurer when he always offered words of wisdom regarding the good housekeeping of the Circle. He later became a joint member of Blackpool 25 Circle and he was always an active visitor, contributing vital points to the Denis Mather Trophy in Province 10.

Charles was a great storyteller. He enjoyed "Tall Tales and Crazy Tie" evenings. He didn't wear a crazy tie but where stories were concerned there was no competition such as how he was descended from the Kings of both Scotland and Ireland. His other masterpiece was the delivery of Burns' "Ode to a Haggis" at the annual Burns Night Supper.

In recent years Charles suffered with a lung disease and spent several periods in hospital before his final illness.

His Requiem Mass on Monday July 19th 2004 was held at English Martyrs, Highcross, Poulton-le-Fylde where he had been an active parishioner for many years.

Father John Walsh said the Mass which was attended by a large congregation of family members, Brothers of the Circle and Province and parishioners, followed by burial at St John's Catholic Church, Poulton. Our prayers and sympathy go out to Agnes, his daughters and their families and grandchildren.

May he rest in peace

GERRY WRIGHT

Kevin McKenna writes: Undoubtedly Gerry Wright was one of the best known members of the Association in the Stockport area.

Members of the Association, as also parishioners of Our Lady and the Twelve Apostles, will long remember his distinctive appearance, personality and very lengthy commitment to that parish. He died on 6th August 2004.

He was born, baptised, was educated in the parish school, married, saw his children baptised, felt the grief at his wife's funeral and then, of course, his own funeral in that same Church and parish in Stockport.

He moved away from Stockport just once to Douai Abbey to study for the Priesthood, but returned and married Violet Sims in 1936. They had two children, Christine and Paul but Violet

died in 1970, his very happy and fulfilling married life was torn from him. Only after her death did he enrol in East Cheshire Circle. East Cheshire Circle lost its Charter and he transferred to Ringway Circle.

As a Catenian, he was President of East Cheshire on three occasions. That Circle, though small in membership, was well known for its sharp wit and banter which Gerry both enjoyed and contributed. Gerry was also well known for his serious contributions at Circle meetings in support for the Church. Gerry was a traditional Catholic and found the newer liturgy and thinking difficult to cope with.

He related the story of a priest regularly travelling by white horse from the Hidden Gem in Manchester to celebrate Mass in Stockport in the days before Catholic Emancipation (1829). Many Ringway members will associate Gerry "and the white horse".

Another charming anecdote emerged at his funeral. Gerry insisted on a hot meal every day, but never cooked one; his kitchen labouring consisted of the application of milk onto a breakfast cereal!

As family man, with Christine and Paul and their respective husband and wife, Peter and Carol, and their children and grandchildren, Gerry was very much the doting head of the clan.

He joined a firm of accountants after demobilisation - his wartime army service being in the Far East with the "forgotten" 14th Army. In various employments, Gerry worked until his 79th birthday when he called his working life to an end.

He lived for several years in a small apartment in sheltered accommodation, supported by his family, before moving into a residential home for the elderly. Much of his final months were in a peaceful sleep, and thus we can say that Gerry "fell asleep in the Lord".

May he rest in peace

SIDNEY FRANCIS RIGBY

Brothers of North Cheshire Circle were saddened to hear of the death of Sid Rigby on 14th July 2004.

Alf Keeling writes: Sid was born in Manchester on 8th December 1919 being the youngest of five brothers.

He joined the Territorial Army before the war and at the outbreak joined the Manchester Regiment. He was to take part in the D Day landings and saw action at Arnhem before witnessing the relief of Auschwitz. In addition to his array of campaign medals he was the proud holder of the long service Territorial Decoration.



In Memoriam

After the war Sid completed his studies in accountancy. His lifelong career as an accountant was completed at Binder Hamlyn.

Sid met his dearly loved wife, Josephine, at a PTA event at St Kentigern's. They had four boys and a girl but, sadly, their eldest boy Brendan, died at the early age of 36. Sid left behind seven grandchildren and two great grandchildren.

He was an active member of the Crux Movement.

Sid joined Stockport Circle in December 1979 and transferred to North Cheshire in April 1997.

Although he never sought office he was an active Catenian until his long illness prevented his participation. He had a keen sense of humour and the twinkle in his eye will be missed by all.

He asked that his eulogy would be just two words - "He tried".

May he rest in peace

JOE MOLLOY

The brothers and ladies of Sutton (Mid Surrey) Circle were saddened by the death of Joe Molloy on 6th September 2004 at the age of 69 years after a brave battle with cancer.



Mike O'Neill

writes: Joe was born in Dublin on the 14th January 1935. He was the fourth of seven children.

He studied accountancy in London and became chartered in 1965, applying his skills at Philips; Costains, where he was financial director of the overseas division; the House of Fraser Holdings, where he was Company Secretary and lastly with auditors Beale and Company, a business he owned.

Joe married Noemi in 1966 at Our Lady of Victories, Kensington. They had five children, Michael, Richard, Lawrence, James and Sarah. He had a simple family motto 'perform well and reap the rewards, do otherwise and face the consequences'. Joe had experienced both in his life and passed on to his family the benefit of his experience.

In his prime he was a regular player for London Irish Rugby Club and later became a keen golfer and member of Chipstead Golf Club, won several trophies and enjoyed the nineteenth hole.

To his children he was kind-hearted and generous, strong and dependable - admittedly difficult to deal with at times. On occasions the unstoppable force, on

others, the immovable rock but always with strong conviction and never malice.

He was a cheerful, smiling man enjoying life to the full. Joe could always be relied upon after circle dinners to entertain the brothers with amusing anecdotes usually based on his earlier life in Dublin. To Noemi, he was a loving husband, a providing father very much immersed in his family.

Joe was an annual supporter of theatre and concert performances held in the grounds of Hever Castle, Kent.

Joe became a Catenian in 1975, he was circle treasurer from 1978 to 1982 and president for 1983/84. During his year he introduced the circle to a family day held annually at Worth Abbey. This became one of the highlights of the circle's social programme, enabling families to enjoy the splendid views of the Sussex countryside with many sporting activities such as golf, tennis and swimming, preceded by a Mass in the Abbey and finished with a barbecue.

He assisted many brothers over the years with advice and his counsel was sought on many matters. His view was always uncomplicated, direct and invariably right.

Joe was diagnosed gravely ill about a year ago with lung cancer. During a period of remission after radio-therapy Joe and Noemi joined circle families who accompanied them to the local John Fisher School Fete, which was dear to Joe and where his sons attended school, and several National Trust houses such as Clandon Park and Polesden Lacy where Joe, despite his illness, delighted the company and on one occasion some American tourists, with his repartee over lunch.

One such day was finished with a trip to Boxhill where Joe was enchanted with the view as sunset approached from Leith Hill to Gatwick and could not believe that such a breathtaking sight could be so near his home!

Joe suffered his illness courageously and always cheerfully. Having been nursed with selfless devotion by Noemi and their children, he died at home on Monday 6th September.

His Requiem Mass, held at the John Fisher School chapel on Friday 17th September, was concelebrated by Canon Jim Pannett; Father Paul Hough, who gave a moving homily; Father Richard Fawcett, and Joe's cousin Father Brendan Heeran, a Holy Ghost priest from their Kenyan mission.

Several circle friends assisted the family with the service and many Catenians were supportive by their presence at the Mass. Joe was cremated at Croydon Crematorium.

A well organised reception was held at the Purley Sports Club which gave Joe's family and especially those who travelled over from Ireland an opportunity to meet his friends and celebrate his life.

He will be sadly missed and our prayers go out to Noemi, the children and his family.

May he rest in peace

JOHN KAY

David Bourne writes:

John Kay, who died on 25th June 2004, was a founder member of Cirencester & South Cotswolds Circle; he was not only Circle President three times, but also Provincial President in 1979/80. This was when he and Mary were at their peak - always to be seen attending the various Provincial dinners and dances. This fun-loving pair were expert dancers and won many medals for their expertise.



John was born in Norwood, London in 1921; he was educated at St Bede's School, joined the Territorial Army at 17, and was in time to join the Royal Signals full time at the start of the Second World War. Service followed in Singapore, Malaya, Australia and India earning, among others, The Pacific Star and Defence Medals.

John met Mary on a coach outing to Margate and, amazing to relate, they both knew they were meant for each other without hesitation. It was indeed a very successful marriage with not only great happiness, but also two sons and two daughters - and, at the time of his death, 13 grandchildren and 7 great grandchildren.

To support his children John went to evening classes and became a pneumatic engineer, having a long career with Murtonair, retiring in 1964.

In the meantime, John and Mary visited Russia three times and travelled on the Trans Siberian Railway besides many visits to more ordinary locations.

Besides being a dedicated father, grandfather and great-grandfather, John had a passion for golf and was most proud of all playing at Turnberry and Gleneagles. Last but not least, John made home-made wine and would often have 15 gallons on the go at one time.

John was a devout Catholic and Christian gentleman, busy around the parish, but he never forgot how to enjoy himself and create enjoyment for others.

May he rest in peace