



## MIKE STINTON

The brothers of Seaford Circle were shocked and saddened to hear of the death of Mike Stinton on 19th March only two days after attending the Circle's St Patrick's Night Dinner. Michael had been unwell for sometime, but appeared to be in good form at the dinner at the Seven Sisters Hotel, Seaford.



Martin Klust writes: Mike or, as christened, Samuel Michael, was born in Bournemouth on 8th June, 1932 and came from a large family. He is survived by two brothers and two sisters. He was educated in the West Country, and at St Martin's School and St Luke's School in Brighton.

Michael for health reasons did not serve in the Armed Forces. He worked with Paris, a Brighton Building Firm, and subsequently with Bramber Construction as a site manager. He had a particular love in restoring old buildings and was involved in the restoration of the fabric of the British Engineerium, Steam Museum, in Hove.

Mike was also a qualified chiropodist and carried on his podiatry career during his time away from the building site.

Michael met Cora whilst sitting in the dentist's chair, and they married in 1966. He also converted to Roman Catholicism at Easter in the same year. Vintage cars and motor sports played a large part in their early lives, and he was a member of the 750 club and raced at Silverstone, Brands Hatch and Snetterton. The trophy cabinet at their home in Newhaven is a witness to his success. They also engaged in a type of motor sport called "mud plugging".

Mike and Cora had a great love of travel and journeyed all round Europe in their Motor Home as well as visiting Norway, Russia, Egypt, Cyprus and the States.

Mike was very proud of his children, Mark and Petra, and his three grandchildren, Erica, Lindsay and Tyler Samuel. The last named was born in the United States only a month before Mike's death and regrettably Mike had only seen him thanks to modern technology.

The Catenian Association was an important part of his life, and he had been a Catenian for 24 years joining Worthing Circle in April, 1983, and he was President in 1991/92. He was also a member of Brighton Circle from 1992 to 2000 before joining Seaford Circle following his move to Newhaven in 2000, and he was

*The deaths of the following brothers are announced with deep regret*

### May

15 Leslie Strange Luton

25 John White Liverpool

### June

30 Ron Gwynne Chichester

### July

01 John Murphy

Mansfield and Dukeries

24 Ron Caton Aylesbury

### August

02 Ted Charleson North Cheshire

02 Geoff Hanby Doncaster

03 John Reilly Shrewsbury

04 Ian McCausland Bulawayo

09 Herbert (Bert) Maddock Garstang

11 George Sheldon Stafford

12 Cyril Flynn Bury and Rossendale

14 John Lodge Bristol

19 Denis Cassidy Ribble Valley

20 Frank Flavin North Wales

20 Jimmy Leyden Stockport

20 Brian Lambert Longridge

21 Cyril Marriott Tynemouth

21 Reg Couch Plymouth

24 Charles (Kevin) Gussow Bolton

### September

03 Roy Rylance Valletta

**May They Rest in Peace**

President of Seaford Circle in 2001/2. Michael was a regular attendee at both circle meetings and social events, and he was always prompt in tendering his apologies when he could not attend. He was also a good visitor and Cora tells me that he always took his Catenian Directory with him when travelling in the UK and Eire so that he could check on whether a circle in the locality in which they were staying were meeting while they were in the area.

Mike was the instigator of the Provincial Quiz in Province 18, and in later years was always the first to volunteer to be a member of the Seaford Quiz team, and he was very happy to be a member of their winning quiz team a few years ago.

At his Requiem Mass Fr Cyril Cravos paid tribute to his work for the church in Newhaven and commented that even when ill he insisted on carrying out his duties as a Eucharistic Minister. While living in Hove he had also been a member of the choirs at both the Church of St Peter and St George.

Mike was a good Catholic, a loyal Catenian respected by all, a man always willing to help others, whom we were all fortunate to know.

*May he rest in peace*

## DERYCK STEPHEN CROWTHER ARCA, RBA

The brothers of Hartlepool Circle, their wives and families were saddened by the death on 26th May 2007 of a much liked and respected member of the Circle.



Tony Carter writes:

Stephen was born in Sheffield on 23rd August 1922 where he attended De La Salle College and went on to study art at the Sheffield College of Art. In 1941 he gained a Royal Scholarship to the Royal College of Art, then evacuated to Ambleside in Cumbria. After war service from 1941 to 1946, he resumed studies at the Royal College of Art, by then re-established in London, where he studied under the tutelage of Professor Rodrigo Moynihan, Carel Weight and Ruskin Spear.

He met a fellow artist and teacher, Sheila and they were married in 1954. Stephen and Sheila had three children, Timothy, now an architect, Melanie, a lawyer, and Peter, a graphic designer and illustrator. Stephen was enrolled into Hartlepool Circle on 25th November 1981 and was a regular attendee at Circle meetings. He became President of the Circle in 1990.

Stephen lectured in Drawing and Painting at the Cleveland College of Art and Design, Hartlepool, while Sheila was a member of the Art Department of the newly formed English Martyrs' Comprehensive School in the town. Among his students were Olwyn Bowey who went on to become a member of the Royal Academy and the film director Ridley Scott.

He was President and then honorary "life member" of the Hartlepool Art Club. In 1989 the Royal Society of British Artists awarded him the "Higgs and Hill Bursary" with a commission to paint the Port Solent Marina, Portsmouth. In 1992, through the Federation of British Artists, he was commissioned to carry out three maritime oil paintings for the Sultan of Oman.

He was elected Senior Member of the Royal Society of British Artists in January 1999.

Stephen exhibited his work in many local and national galleries including the Royal Academy, the Royal Society of British Artists and the Royal Society of Portrait Painters.



# In Memoriam

His work has been acquired for numerous collections at home and abroad and reproduced in numerous publications.

He was a dedicated and loving husband and father with a mischievous grin that warmed the hearts of those around him. He will be fondly remembered by Hartlepool Circle and the members of St Teresa's Parish where he was a devout and loyal parishioner throughout his life.

*May he rest in peace*

## BRIAN BURGESS KCHS

Louis van den Berg writes: Brian Burgess' sudden and untimely death came as a devastating shock to all who knew him: his large and devoted family, his friends and professional



colleagues, the numerous charities for whom he worked so unselfishly, his fellow Knights of the Holy Sepulchre, and latterly his brothers in The City of London Circle.

Brian was born in 1950, the youngest son and fourth of six children to his parents David and Nancy. From prep school at Donhead in Wimbledon, he moved on to join his brothers at Beaumont College, for which he rowed at Henley Royal Regatta in the last Beaumont VIII, Beaumont closing 40 years ago on the day he left it aged 18.

During his time at school the family regularly travelled to the southern tip of Spain in the converted bus their father designed and in which they lived en route. Later they went around the world over a summer holiday, this a year before their father died when Brian was only 16. In common with all her six children and 22 grandchildren, Brian remained utterly devoted to his mother. He was a companion and a rock to her until her death aged 90, only a little over five years before his own.

Brian left school to study at Law College, going on to join a firm in London from which the firm Beauvoisin and Burgess was later founded. Perhaps his clients' and others' first impressions may have included his style, his vigour and a twinkle in his eye. Once they knew him better they will have appreciated that he was a person of immense depth, very clear and uncomplicated principles and loyalties by which he lived, but quite sensitive and subtle in the way that he put those across. He was hugely busy but always had time for detail and above all for everybody. Obviously highly respected by his clients, he was a natural litigator and had a very good mind for commerce.

He was, certainly in his adult life, a born leader, but what was extraordinary was the young age at which he attained the pinnacle in the many charitable organisations for which he worked. Following his brothers into the HCPT, he founded a new Group while still a teenager and then, after masterminding the highly successful Bartres ball in aid of Hosanna House, he was soon marked out to be a Trustee and in no time was the Chairman of the Executive for at least a decade. It was through the HCPT that he met his wife Elizabeth, in whom he found true love and a pillar of support while she brought up their four children. His family and his Faith were his mainstays. His religion was central to his daily life, and he adored his family and was hugely proud of their achievements.

Having joined the Equestrian Order of the Knights of the Holy Sepulchre in 1999, he rose to become an effective and popular Chancellor to the Order at the time of his death. He became one of the youngest Masters of his Livery Company, the Feltmakers, and latterly was Chair of their Charity Committee.

There were many other charities to which he devoted his time. He served as Vice Chairman of the St Barnabas Society, Chairman of the ethics Committee of the London Clinic and Chairman of Governors of both Marymount International School and of the Ursuline convent in Wimbledon. In all of these he brought a quiet but determined sense of how things could be clarified and the best could be brought out, which he never did aggressively but always with determination.

Having been a visitor on and off over some years, Brian joined his brother Patrick as a member of The City of London Circle in March of this year, to the great pleasure of his new Catenian brothers, many of whom were already his friends through other connections. To have lost him so soon was terribly sad. Clearly he would have gone on to become as exceptional a Catenian as he had been in so many other roles.

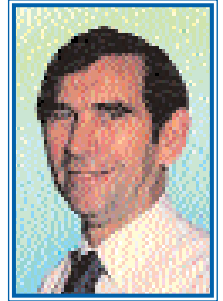
*May he rest in peace*

## TOM O'SULLIVAN

The brothers of Tunbridge Wells & District Circle were saddened to learn of the death, in hospital, of one of their most respected brothers, Thomas Patrick O'Sullivan on the 30th April 2007.

Sam McDowell writes: Tom was born in Tipperary on 4th May 1932, the third of six children. Shortly after his birth his father's work took the family to Limerick city where Tom grew up. He was educated there by the Christian Brothers, and it was during his time at school that Tom became an ardent supporter of both the Society of St

Vincent de Paul and the Pioneer Association. Tom was to abstain from alcohol throughout his life, unusual for someone who was eventually to take up catering and become a Catenian, although in his later years he did enjoy a sherry trifle!



On leaving school he started work as a trainee manager at Cruise's hotel in Limerick (where he had to pay for his training - apparently quite usual at the time). He subsequently worked at the Renville hotel in the west of Ireland.

In November 1953, without a job or accommodation arranged in advance, he decided to move to London and arrived early one morning at Euston, put his case in the left luggage office and ventured forth. Almost immediately, he had the good fortune to run into a friend from back home who was on his way to Mass. Tom accompanied him, shared breakfast, and quickly found a job. He worked in London for rather more than a year before moving to Paris in order to broaden his experience. In February 1956, after toying with the idea of moving on to Basle, he moved back to London where he worked for a time at both the Savoy and Claridge's hotels. In 1958 he joined British Transport Hotels where he was to remain until his retirement in 1994, by which time he was a senior control manager for British Railways.

It was in 1956 that he was to meet his future wife Joan, who was then with Harrods. They were married in 1959 and lived for a time in Norwood, south east London. Their son Kevin was born in 1962 and daughter Anne in 1965, both of them bringing great joy.

After moving to Tonbridge and then Tunbridge Wells, Tom joined the local Circle of the Catenian Association in December 1977. He held office as Chamberlain and was elected President in 1985. A member of the Circle's welfare committee for a number of years, he became its chairman in 1997, a position he held until his death.

Tom was involved with the SVP for most of his life and was a founder member of the conferences in Tunbridge Wells and later Southborough, serving long periods as conference president, as well as holding office as West Kent District president from 1981-86 and Southwark Diocesan president from 1987-91. He was a trustee of the David Young charity.

Tom derived great spiritual comfort from frequent Mass attendance at St Dunstan's church in Southborough where he was



also altar server and Eucharistic minister. It was there that his Requiem took place on 10th May to a packed congregation with many friends and family travelling from far and wide, a clear indication of the esteem in which he was held.

In his later years Tom and Joan much enjoyed their grandsons Ciaran and Joshua and were always very happy to be in their company, and both young boys joined their uncle Kevin in paying moving tributes to Tom during the funeral Mass.

Tom was first and foremost a devoted and loving husband, father and grandfather, but he also gave unstintingly of himself in his care and concern for others, throughout his life, and those of us in Circle, as well as many more in the wider community, will remember him with love and great affection for his devoted and unceasing concern for the welfare of all. He will be sadly missed.

*May he rest in peace*

## JOHN ARTHUR DEW

Fife St Margaret Circle write: Our friend and brother John Dew had been a member of our Circle since April 1969; and it is with much sadness and regret that the Circle have to announce that John



died at home on 19th October 2006. He was 79. He was a kind, courteous, considerate man, and to say he will be badly missed is a huge understatement.

John was born in Walthamstow in the East End of London on 29th May 1927. He was the youngest of four children. He was 13 when the war entered his own back yard and the blitzkrieg designated that he, along with his brother and two sisters, should be evacuated to Kettering in Northamptonshire.

Not settling too well into his new school, he gave up his education at 14 to become an apprentice engineer in a local firm where he stayed until, at 18 he joined the regular army. He had mixed stories to tell about his career in the army including some that would make your hair curl. He recounted one vividly about being posted to Palestine and given orders not to fall asleep unless his rifle was chained to his arm. It was whilst on leave from the army that he decided to visit his sister in Inverkeithing and it was there that he was introduced to a primary school teacher called Moya Durkin ... they were married in 1953. They had three children, Veronica, Martin and Catherine. Between them they gave John and Moya eight grandchildren.

After leaving the army, and swapping Palestine for Scotland without catching hypothermia, he worked in the dockyard at Rosyth training personnel in engineering. It was here that he began to realize that he had the skill, patience and understanding required to teach others. He was encouraged by Moya to make teaching his career.

He attended the University of Edinburgh between 1956 and 1960 where he met, on the same course, Cardinal Keith Patrick O'Brien and they remained life long friends. John gained his honours degree in Chemistry and then attended teacher training college at Moray House. His first opportunity in his new career was at St Andrews High School in Kirkcaldy, but later he moved to Kirkcaldy Technical College where he became the head of the Science department. He retired from this post in 1988.

John joined the Circle in Fife in 1969 and held various offices, being a member of council for many years. He became circle president in 1992. He was also a Knight of the Holy Sepulchre and had been for a dozen years or so. With the Knights, his Circle brothers, his many life long friends and all his cherished family, the church of St James in Kinross was packed absolutely to the rafters (some of the congregation had to sit on the altar) on October 25th 2006 when a touching service was offered for a life of love, discernment and perception.

He was a man who loved golf and gardening in equal measure. He was a man who loved to nurture nature, in all its different guises. Especially people. A man whose family and friends were the single most important thing and always the crucial influence in every decision ever made by John. He will be hugely missed.

*May he rest in peace*

## ERNEST HINDLE

Brothers of Stockport Circle were sorry to learn of the death of Ernest Hindle, who died 21st May 2007.

Ernest was born 13th March 1925 and married in 1950. He joined Stockport Circle in September 1979 and was President in 1990-91.

He will be sadly missed by a loving wife Winnifred, sons Paul, Geoffrey, daughter Claire, 6 grandchildren, relations, and all the brothers of Stockport Circle and Province 17.

The following Eulogy was delivered at Ernest's funeral by his eldest son Paul: "Ernie said during his illness that at his



funeral he did not want anyone standing up and saying what a great guy he was. That it's normal for everyone to praise the deceased. He didn't want any of that. He insisted rather that those here today hear how grateful he was for their friendship and love over his life. How each of them had given him so much by their companionship and the sharing of experiences.

There were specifics, such as joining the Catholic church, which he did when marrying Winnifred. Apart from the spiritual peace and certainties this afforded him, he found a community of dear friends, in the parishes of St Josephs and St Winifreds and of course the brotherhood he found in the Catenians. He wanted to thank you all for being there and enriching his life.

He was a passionate walker all his life and had an encyclopaedic knowledge of the hills and paths in many parts of the country and has many friends from that world. The days he shared with his fellow walkers were a huge pleasure to him. While bedridden, he sometimes re-lived these walks in his head, and if the weather was fine, he speculated to me where he could be walking and where some of his friends probably were at that moment.

Those are two broad themes of his life. But he was a very social man, interested in everything and everyone - with friends in all walks of life. He loved to engage and was rarely happier than at a gathering of some sort - be it a party, a ball, a meeting, but particularly a dance! Many of you will have memories of him having a wonderful time doing his version of a modern "jiggling" type dance, which he could do for hours, as well as having queues of ladies wanting him to partner them in the traditional ball room dances. He loved it. As you might notice later from a collage of photographs, his life seems to have been dominated by fancy dress.

And he was a doer. He was a project man. His day began with a list and ended with a new list. How many people would learn to swim at 79, with the target of doing a length by age 80 (and do it). - or build a patio in their 60's, moving blocks of concrete on rollers across the garden like an Egyptian building a pyramid - or fly in a microlite for their 70th birthday and come down with a beaming, if rather frozen, smile. In the months before his diagnosis he was up a step ladder wielding a chain saw, reducing the height of a leylandii hedge. He was a tireless solver of practical problems - his or other people's. In 1966, when he set up his own small company, which he ran for the rest of his working life, the products were his own design and thousands of them hiss and click and whirr in countries around the world to this day - much to his satisfaction.



# In Memoriam

He frequently commented how he can't believe that these products, drawn up in his back bedroom, are still being sold all these years later.

That he should succumb to an illness so swiftly after what has been a very active and healthy life, is a shock to us all - and was so to him. He anticipated caring for mum for many years to come. But not so. When faced with the inevitable he accepted it - no mention of unfairness or of being cheated. On the contrary he was grateful for his full and productive life. Pragmatic to the end, and confident in his faith.

But, you will all of course have your own particular memories.

Today we don't say goodbye to the "great guy" in inverted commas, that he dreaded, but goodbye to a character, an enthusiast, an individual, an engineer and a dancer."

*May he rest in peace*

## ALBERT GRANT

Albert Grant who died on 7th April 2006 aged 83 will be remembered as a man of great humour and with a great respect for the Clergy, which had been with him from his early days as an altar boy when he regularly served at Mass before going to school.

Martin Baines writes: Albert was born in 1922 but his father died before his first birthday. He attended All Saints, Barton school, leaving at 14 to work collecting and delivering laundry before serving time at Gardners Engineers. On the outbreak of war he enlisted in the RAF and served in India and Burma as a flight engineer on Liberator bombers with 431 Squadron. On being de-mobbed in 1945 he worked at Fr Hudson's Homes in Birmingham and from there won a place at Plater College Oxford studying to be a probation officer. Unfortunately during his first year he contacted TB and was in hospital in Halesowen Sanatorium, Birmingham for four years where he was one of the first to be given a new combination of two antibiotics which led to his successful recovery. He returned to Manchester and found work with the County Council as a Registrar of Births, Deaths and Marriages. He joined the St Thomas More Society to meet like-minded Catholics, becoming secretary then chairman. In 1959 he married Patsy Miller and was soon the proud father of two daughters and a son. In 1969 whilst helping to set up a planned giving scheme in his local church he was asked to consider helping on a full time basis and this became the catalyst for him becoming a Director of Offertory and Covenant Schemes in many Dioceses throughout England. In recognition of his work in this field he received the Papal Cross Pro Ecclesia et Pontifice in 1978. In

1994 his work was further recognised when he was awarded the KSG in Lancaster Cathedral.

Albert joined Carlisle Circle in May 1980 and was President from 1982 to 1984. In 1977 he purchased a small fishing hotel in the Borders which he, Patsy and the family ran until 1987. This became a haven for regular fishermen and as a result of their hard work was awarded a Rosette for the excellence of the food provided.

A welcome retirement was unfortunately marred when he was diagnosed with Bi Polar and had to receive treatment which included ECT and perpetual medication. The last 13 years were a cross which he carried with prayer and fortitude, being loved and cherished by his wife of 47 years. Although latterly he was unable to attend Circle regularly he will be sadly missed by his fellow brothers for his wit, sound advice and gentlemanly bearing.

*May he rest in peace*

## FREDDIE BALDWIN

John Brown writes on behalf of Blackheath and Swanley Circles: Freddie Baldwin, who died on April 6th, was probably one of the best known and loved brothers in Province 7. He celebrated 50 years as a Catenian last year with a memorable party at which Grand President Jim Kelly presented him with two scrolls. Freddie, in the course of his reply, revealed that, as a prominent solicitor in Bermondsey, he had acted for Christine Keeler during the Profumo affair, but had no time for her friend Mandy Rice Davies!

In Catenian terms Freddie had a distinguished record. He joined Blackheath Circle in March 1956 and found himself Secretary six months later. He was among a group of 'Bermondsey Boys' whose presence infused the Circle with a great sense of fun and enjoyment. Four years after this he became the Circle's 22nd President and served for two years. He was elected Provincial Councillor in 1964 and carried this on until, in 1969, he became Provincial President. During his year he inaugurated both Meopham and Streatham Circles, the latter now the Dulwich and Streatham Circle. In 1986, in remarkable circumstances as you will see from the next paragraph, he became the founder President of Swanley Circle and he remained a member until his death.

In 1979, just as he had been appointed a Permanent Circuit Judge, Freddie suffered two major strokes that almost



killed him and left him unable to speak, read or write for five years. It was his wife Millie's determination and tenaciousness and his own refusal to give up that saw him make a miraculous recovery. He taught himself to speak, read and write again from scratch and managed to lead a full and busy life. So busy in fact that in the records of both Swanley and Blackheath Circles Freddie's name appeared as a visitor to other Circles far more frequently than most brothers and this continued right up until the end.

In other terms Freddie had just as distinguished a record. He was born in Bermondsey, South London in May 1921. He attended All Saints RC School, London Bridge, and won a scholarship to The Blue Coat School with the highest marks in the exam in the whole of London. It was not realistic for his parents nor him to take this up (imagine a small boy in a blue cloak and yellow stockings walking the back streets in Bermondsey in those or even these days) but he was able to transfer to Clapham College, after which he joined the Town Clerk's department of Bermondsey Borough Council. Then war came and he joined the RAF and became a navigator in Beaufighter night fighters, seeing action in North Africa and Crete. It was in 1944 that he married his childhood sweetheart, Millie McCarthy, at that time a WAAF, and they were blessed with five children and ten grandchildren.

While at the Town Clerk's department after the war Freddie was inspired to study and later qualify in 1949 as a solicitor. He started his own practice shortly after and gradually became known as a very effective criminal law solicitor; some say the practice was the most effective in South London. Certainly there were a number of well-known clients. Be that as it may, there is legend that on the walls of a cell in Wandsworth prison is written, "If you want to get out of here, send for Baldwin".

Freddie's life has been marked by the principles Faith, Family, Friendship and Fun. He was a keen sportsman, particularly a cricketer and organised many charity events, notably Old Time Music Halls with his old friend Harry Stephens and with the help of other Catenians. These were rather obvious affairs but there was a lot going on that was not so obvious. He was a Governor of no less than five different Catholic schools. As his son Frank says "Five schools! Where did he find the time among all the other work and activities that made so many demands upon him?" Right up to his death he was singing at charity events with the Biggin Hill Wing Singers three times a month. And this was a man about whom the doctors said he would never speak again.

*May he rest in peace*



## MARTIN BLACKLAW

The brothers of Southport Circle learnt with great sadness of the death of one of their longest serving members, Martin Blacklaw on 16th April 2007. The sadness was shared by the



brothers of Hinckley Circle, Province 15, as Martin and Mae, his wife, recently moved to Nuneaton to be closer to their daughter, son-in-law and only grand-daughter Amie Mae.

Patrick Lane writes: Martin was born in Dundee on 25th April 1924, into a family of seven children. He attended Lawside Academy, where after an enjoyable and rewarding number of years, he passed the entrance examination to St Andrews University.

The advent of war however interrupted his further studies and at aged 19, he was called up to serve King and Country and was drafted into the Royal Engineers.

On the 6th June 1944, he became part of the greatest invasion force in history when he participated in the storming of "Sword Beach" in Normandy. Shortly after, he was wounded near Caen and returned to England. Whilst convalescing in Halifax, his sister arranged a blind date in Sheffield. His date and he were not keen on each other at first, but his date later became his wife Mae: a marriage that celebrated almost 58 years.

After the war, Martin and Mae moved to London where he joined the GPO. In 1963 the family moved to Chesterfield following which in 1968, they moved to Southport, where he took up a position with National Giro Bank. After a successful career where he sometimes found the "Scouse" accent challenging, he retired in 1984 from the position of Branch Manager, Finance Division.

Martin's interests were extremely varied and from early in his career, he demonstrated a keen interest in the theatre and became an accomplished producer/director and actor in amateur dramatics. He regularly took his two children, Rosemary and Iain, to rehearsals where they spent many happy hours and naturally developed a strong love of the theatre.

He was a "specialist" in taking things apart and reassembling them. His particular interest was clocks and friends would regularly bring non-working items, only for Martin to use his magic, and in no time they would be working smoothly again. This clear skill, complemented by the desire to make things, meant that

their home contained many treasured items he had made and the garage was full of objects that might be useful in the future.

His love of gardening was also profound and one regularly found him spending many hours there. Music also played a very key part in his life and after taking lessons on the electric keyboard, he attained a level of proficiency and confidence to perform in public. He also enjoyed listening to Grand Opera.

An achievement that was of great significance to him was obtaining his BSc from the Open University. Having been thwarted by the intervention of war, in going up to St Andrew's University, he took great delight in receiving his degree from Betty Boothroyd at Preston Guild Hall.

Reluctant to speak about his War service, he nevertheless was an active member of The Normandy Veterans Association and returned to Normandy with the local branch to commemorate the 45th and 50th Anniversaries of D-Day. During the last visit at Leon Sur Mer he took the salute at the rehearsal of the Royal Engineers march past - they were receiving the Freedom of the Town the following day. That same evening, on The Canberra, he and his comrades received the French Medal of Honour from the Mayor of Cherbourg.

As a Catenian, Martin was immensely loyal and active over some 25 years and held many offices, including that of President.

His funeral was held at The Holy Family church in Southport and was attended by family, many friends and representatives from throughout Province 4 and Province 15. He will be sincerely missed by all who knew him and our thoughts and prayers go with Mae and the family.

*May he rest in peace*

## MAJOR LEONARD RIGBY

Roger Moulding writes (with contributions from brothers Peter Vermeulen and Ted Franke):

The brothers of Runnymede Circle mourn the loss of their oldest member at the age of 94. Len Rigby was born in Westhoughton, a spinning town in Lancashire, in 1912 - the year the Titanic sank. His father Joseph kept to his trade of spinning cotton, even when the family moved to a neighbouring village to run a chip shop. After a while they moved back to Westhoughton as Joseph found the walk to the mill too long.

Rig attended the Thornleigh Salesian College in Bolton till the age of 14, when it was necessary for him to start work. At this time he studied bookkeeping in evening classes, a skill which came in useful after his retirement.

In 1930 Rig joined the Royal Army Medical Corps and had put up his corporal's stripes when his mother Grace contracted leukaemia. Rig bought himself out of the army to nurse her till she died. At this point, Aunt Jane, a formidable woman, moved in to keep house. This did not suit Rig, who said to his brother Raymond "its back to the army for me!" He bought himself back in and started again at the bottom as Private. The war changed everything and he was promoted rapidly, finishing the war as an RSM and Warrant Officer.

In the early 1940s he met Geri who had joined the ATS and they married in 1942. A son Michael was born in 1944 when Rig started overseas service in Malta. Geri and Michael joined him in 1945, and another son, John was born there in 1947.

Then back to England, followed by a series of overseas postings, which took him to Japan for three years, Austria for three years, and then a further stay in Malta.

On retirement as a Major, he travelled widely in Europe with Geri, her sisters and brother in law. Brittany, Spain, Italy and Portugal were among destinations visited. He wore his retirement rank lightly; when one of his ex sergeants came on a visit, he told Len's son John that Len was a man of few words, but when he spoke, it was worth listening to.

When back home, Rig, or Len as most Runnymede brothers addressed him, used his old skill as a bookkeeper to keep himself busy. He kept the books for fellow Runnymede brother Peter Vermeulen at Vermeulens Garden Centre for the next 12 years until Rig was overtaken by the dreaded computer. He kept this up into his eighties. He also served as Treasurer for the local council of the Knights of St Columba and for Runnymede Circle, which he joined in 1984. The "Holiday" party were a great asset to the circle's Ladies Nights and any circle event for that matter as Len would always turn up with at least four to boost numbers.

Len was also active in his Staines parish of St Peter's.

He then spent more time taking his wife Geri and her two sisters off to visit every National Trust house within a 50 mile radius, always with Len driving. Flooding played havoc with Len's later years at times with the house at Stanwellmoor, "Greenhayes", being flooded twice by the river Colne. So severely, that on both occasions, Len and Geri had to evacuate for many months while the house was renovated. Geri's call to the fire brigade was answered with "We don't come out unless it's six inches deep in the house", so Geri replied, "Right, I'll call back in five minutes then!"



# In Memoriam

He spent a lot of effort caring for Geri when he was in his nineties, and when she died, it became clear that Len himself needed taking care of.

The sons found him a home near where John lived, Fairley House in West Norwood. The brothers of Norwood Circle in true Catenian spirit adopted him and one of the members would collect Len to enable him to attend meetings on the other side of Croydon in Addington. This took place for the first few years, but later it proved too much for Len, who typically made the excuse that it was out of the brother's way (it wasn't). Two Runnymede brothers joined him at one of the meetings and then disgraced themselves by getting themselves (and Len) lost on the way back to Fairley House.

The visits of Circle brothers to Len at Fairley House were characterised by appalling navigation in a part of London unfamiliar to them. However, it was clear to us that the Home was taking very good care of him and two brothers had the pleasure of visiting Len in the week before he died on 15th March. Runnymede brothers and families will miss Len very much, he was truly a lovely man.

*May he rest in peace*

## JOHN DOUGLAS BAILEY

The brothers of Stourbridge Circle and many friends and brothers in Province 6 were shocked and saddened at the sudden death of John Bailey on 14th June 2007, three days after suffering a stroke.



George Sandy writes: John was born in Harborne, Birmingham, on 23rd April 1935, the elder of two children. He completed his primary school education there, and this was followed by a brief spell at the Bede School in Sunderland. John returned to Birmingham and in 1947 went to St Philips Grammar School, Edgbaston, one of the few non-Catholic pupils to be accepted there. He was also the first non-Catholic to become a prefect, and he left in 1953. He was received into the Church in 1960.

On leaving school he qualified as a civil engineer, and became a member of the Institute of Civil Engineers. His working life was spent in the Black Country commencing in West Bromwich followed by Oldbury, Dudley, and then on to Wolverhampton.

In 1974 he was appointed a Principal Engineer (Highways) for the West Midlands County Council responsible for Walsall, Wolverhampton and Sandwell. He held this position until 1986 when the County Council was abolished and then he took early retirement.

John was a man of many talents and organisational skills. At St Philip's he joined the Scouts, rising to leading scout and finally Scouter. He was also a member of his local church choir at an early age.

Tennis and dancing were two of his great loves. At the age of 12 he joined Harborne Lawn Tennis Club, where he became the club singles champion, Men's Captain and Chief Organiser of the Bar. It was here that he met Gill. They became a formidable doubles partnership, not only on the tennis court but also on the dance floor. To quote John's sister Janet, "he and Gill became as watchable a dance team as they were a doubles pair". They married in 1962, at St Mary's Catholic Church, Harborne.

When John and Gill moved to Sedgley, he joined the local Albert Lawn Tennis Club, playing in the First Division of the Staffordshire League, having previously played in the First Division of the Birmingham League. He was Courts and Premises Officer for four years and organised the refurbishment of the club's function room, finally hanging up his racquet after a short spell with the Veterans.

On his retirement, John turned to his other great hobby - narrowboats. In 1972 John and Gill bought their first small boat and joined the Staffordshire and Worcestershire Canal Society. John designed and built their second boat in 1976. In 1983 they commissioned a traditional 40ft boat which in 2000 was sliced in two and extended to 55 ft. On these they travelled the length and breadth of the canal system, enjoying the way of life that they loved so much.

During this time, John held many posts in the Society culminating in his becoming President. He acted as Secretary to the Stourbridge Navigation Trust, and was for ten years Harbourmaster at the Bonded Warehouse Open Weekends. One of John's special delights was donning his Father Christmas costume for the amusement of the many children who enjoyed the Father Christmas Boat Trips each year.

Amongst many other canal activities he skippered the charity narrowboat "Ernest Thomas II" for the benefit of the

less able in the community, on the waterways around Wolverhampton.

John was introduced to the Catenian Association in 1992, and became a brother of Stourbridge Circle in 1995. He maintained a very active involvement in the Circle, holding the offices of Charities Officer, Treasurer, and President.

Many Catenian brothers and friends attended his Requiem Mass at his parish church of St Chad and All Saints, Sedgley. The numbers attending reflected the esteem in which John was held.

Our prayers and sympathy are with Gill, son Julian and wife Julie, and John's sister Janet.

*May he rest in peace*

## PADDY WALSH

The brothers of North Cheshire Circle were saddened by the news of the death of Pat (Paddy) Walsh on 4th January 2007 after an illness bravely borne.

Joe Stapleton writes: Paddy was born on 28th December 1934 in the village of Drimaderry, Ballyhaunis, Co Mayo, Ireland and is survived by two younger brothers, Peter and Sean.

He came to England in June 1954 and found employment in agriculture in the Altrincham area. There he met and befriended Pat Kelly and they became lifelong pals. Together they formed Kelly and Walsh, a DIY and landscape business which was extremely successful. He joined North Cheshire Circle in 1973 where Pat Kelly was already a member.

Paddy met Kay who later became his wife and they were blessed with four children, Paul, Patrick, Karen and Kieran. Paddy and Kay went on to be blessed with three grandchildren, Connor, Yuri and Jonathon.

Paddy was a quiet, unassuming man, a person with great generosity of spirit and great strength of character with a strong abiding love for his Catholic faith. His heart was truly Irish; he had a gleam in his eye and a great sense of humour. He was a member of both the Catenians and the Knights of St Columba.

He never sought office in North Cheshire Circle but he was a great supporter of Catholic Action and enjoyed all aspects of the Association.

Paddy passed away peacefully at home with all his family close by. His Requiem Mass was well attended and the huge congregation included many friends from the Association and the Knights of St Columba. Our prayers and sympathy are very much with Kay and the family.

*May he rest in peace*