



CDA Journal

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'Yesterday, Today & Tomorrow'



WW2 ARP Warden's Post, Dover, see pages 3 & 13.

**STOP
PRESS**

Dennis Norman Fisher

Just as we were going to press we learnt that our former Chairman, Dennis Fisher, died on 14 November 2018, aged 86 years.

His funeral will be on Friday 7 December at 14.30 . at Grantham Crematorium (NG31 9DT) Dennis had strong links with Civil Defence for most of his adult life and will be much missed. There will be a full obituary in the next issue so if you can contribute please contact The Editor.

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The Editor welcomes articles, photographs etc. for inclusion. Articles may be submitted either handwritten or (preferably) typed or in Microsoft Word format.

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CONTENTS

4	Editorial
5	Obituary
7	Battle of Britain Memorial Day 2018
9	Exercise 'Leader X', 15 September 1963
13	WW2 ARP Warden's Post, Dover
14	Remembrance 2018
17	Eden Camp
18	Book Review
19	Events
20	"They shall not grow old, as we that are left grow old..."

Front Cover Picture:

The former ARP wardens' post stands in a fenced and partly walled enclosure at the side of the steps down from Folkestone Road to the approach to Dover Priory railway station. See Page 13.

Photo credit: Historic England

EDITORIAL

Welcome to the November 2018 issue of the CDA Journal.

Remembrance Sunday this year is of very special significance as we will be commemorating the 100th anniversary of the Armistice which ended the First World War. The Great War was the first in history where millions of soldiers lost their lives in the “war to end all wars”.

This conflict also saw the first use of air power which brought the war to the UK’s civilian population, firstly by airship and then by bombers. The response by the authorities was to set up a system of aircraft identification with the reports passed to the RAF. This in turn led to measures for warning the public of air raids and the provision of assistance to people and property following such incidents.

The lessons learned became the precursor for the formation of the Observer Corps in 1925, and the development of Air Raid Precautions during the 1930s.

The annual Battle of Britain Memorial Day was again supported by members of CDA/LFM and the report and photographs are to be found within these pages.

The CDA is most appreciative of the material relating to Exercise ‘Leader X’ supplied by Melvyn Harrison, Chairman, Crystal Palace Foundation. It is rare to find CD Exercise Reports from the 1950/60s, particularly as most documents were simply thrown away by local authorities following the 1968 disbandment. Another piece of CD history has therefore been preserved for future generations.

Another piece of welcome news is that of the Listing of a former WW2 ARP Wardens Post in Dover.

Graham Whitehead



Nici and Simon Hill were on holiday in Kitzbuhel during July this year.

The town’s litter bins in this Austrian town are used to illustrate how the local services are linked together to provide civil protection.

A very practical and novel way of highlighting the vital role of Civil Protection in everyday life.

OBITUARY

Leslie Wooler



Leslie and Moi Wooler

Leslie was born in 1941 and his childhood years were spent in Bexleyheath, Kent. From an early age, he had a desire to travel and to see the world. When he left school, he joined the Merchant Navy and travelled extensively around the globe on the merchant ships. It fuelled his desire to explore further and his wishes were to come true in later years.

He did his National Service in 1958 joining the Royal Air Force Regiment. He met the love of his life, my mother Moi, in 1964. He must have realized that he was on to a good thing and he moved fast as the following year, they were married.

Around this time, he was employed as a Political Secretary for a number of embassies in Asia. He was extremely fascinated about the region and its conflicts and vowed to help others. He established and ran an organization to help refugees fleeing from the wars in South East Asia. His efforts were

recognized by the Presidents of Vietnam and also Cambodia in the form of awards and decorations. Cambodia struck a chord with him and it was always his desire to return one day. Even with the birth of his 3 sons, Hadrian in 1966, Dien in 1969 and Richard in 1971, he continued to work tirelessly for causes he believed in.

After the fall of Cambodia and Vietnam in 1975, Leslie discovered Christianity. Walking past a small church on Christmas Eve, he heard the wonderful sound of carols which lured him in. The church was to play a large part in the years to come. He was instrumental in saving St Luke's Church, Woodside, from closure. He was fantastic at raising awareness for a cause and also at raising funds. He organized jumble sales, sponsored walks and BBQs and generated enough funds and interest to keep the small church going to this day.

In the 1980's the family moved to East Grinstead in Sussex where Leslie became a District Councillor for Mid-Sussex. He led the Housing Department and got a lot of satisfaction in helping families find a home. In addition, true to form, he found another cause he believed in. This time, he was heavily involved in bringing stability and peace to the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus. His efforts were recognized by its President and Leslie and his family relocated there for 6 months to help the government.

In the 1990's, having moved to Cambridge, he took on the responsibility of running an Army Cadet Force. He started with a detachment of just 10 cadets and 3 years later, due to his efforts and strong leadership, this number had ris-

en to over 50! What was even more worthy of mention is that he had a knack of getting things arranged for his cadets which even regular soldiers struggled to get – such as helicopter rides, exercises and tank rides. His son Dien remembered his shock when he returned home one weekend to find an Army Landrover parked on the drive and inside the living room were forty SA80 rifles for his cadets to use over the weekend. To this day, he still does don't know where he got them from or how he got permission to keep 40 rifles at home!

In the early 90's, he took up employment as Head Verger at Great St Mary's, the University Church of Cambridge. He quickly found another avenue to help others - this time, he founded Friendship Link, an organization to help refugees in Eastern Europe. He enrolled academics, drivers, laymen and clergymen to help him and together, they collected tonnes of medical kit and other much needed supplies which was personally delivered to refugee camps in Eastern Europe.

This work got the attention of Embassy staff in London and he quickly established ties with numerous countries. Raising awareness of the plight of refugees in Europe, Leslie organized important annual receptions which were attended by Ambassadors, Mayors, Professors and other dignitaries. This was him in his absolute element, hosting VIPs, strengthening diplomatic ties and all the while, doing it with a smile on his face and a glass of wine in his hand.

In 2003, he moved North to Berwick and quickly fell in love with the area. Whilst travelling around the area on his trusty BMW motorbike, he spotted an old tower by the golf course which had

been abandoned for 40 years and saw the potential for it to be a Coastwatch Tower. He worked his magic once again and with the support of Moi and other loyal followers, he transformed the tower from a ruin, into a fully operational watch station. He worked closely with the Civil Defence Association, the Coastguard and the RNLI and Coastwatch inevitably took up the majority of his time.

A common thread running through all the snippets mentioned – service to others. Service to others - that was Leslie Wooler right to his core. He had a strong sense of leadership and got on well with people from all walks of life and right up until he passed away, he loved meeting new people and exchanging stories and tales. Essentially though, it was his dedication to his duty and service before self which stood out. Everyone who worked with him along the way will remember his caring nature, warm smile and genuine interest in others.

He will be sadly missed by his loving and loyal wife, Moi who always supported his ventures, no matter how ambitious and risky they seemed at the time. Also, his children and grandchildren.

Leslie, your shift is done and you are now excused duty.

Rest in peace.

With thanks to Dien Wooler and Stephen Simon for the fulsome obituary and accompanying photograph.

Editor.

BATTLE OF BRITAIN MEMORIAL DAY

This year's Battle of Britain Memorial Day event, held on July 3 at the National Memorial to The Few, on the clifftop at Capel-le-Ferne, Kent, was especially significant as it marked the 25th anniversary of the unveiling of the Memorial by Her Late Majesty Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother, as well as the centenary of the founding of the Royal Air Force.

Altogether some three thousand people attended the 2018 event, including many RAF, Army, Royal Navy and Civil Defence veterans, as well as many families and other well-wishers who enjoyed the glorious sunshine and fresh breeze of this summer's day atop the white cliffs.

The Patron of the Battle of Britain Memorial Trust, HRH Prince Michael of Kent, and Air Chief Marshal Sir Stephen Hillier, Chief of the Air Staff, were there, but the undoubted 'star of the show' was Wing Commander Paul Farnes, one of the dwindling band of Battle of Britain pilots still with us.



The Battle of Britain Memorial to The Few



Stuart Millson with the CDA wreath

Wing Cdr Farnes, who was due to celebrate his 100th birthday a few days later, flew Hurricanes with No 501 Squadron during the Battle of Britain, achieving a score of six destroyed, one probably destroyed and six damaged. He was awarded the Distinguished Flying Medal on 22 October 1940.

There was a parade of standards by a wide range of ex-service organisations, with music provided by the Central Band of the Royal Air Force - excellent as always. Afterwards, representatives of the various organisations, including the Civil Defence Association, placed wreaths on the Memorial to The Few.



Central Band of the Royal Air Force (top), Andy Smith & Stuart Millson holding the CD flag & Andy Smith in winsome mood prior to the formal ceremony.

CDA's wreath bore a special dedication to "the heroic Civil Defenders" who had played a major part in the Battle of Britain. One of the highlights of the day, as always, was a thrilling display by a Spitfire from the Battle of Britain Memorial Flight.

Next year's Battle of Britain Memorial Day will be on Sunday 7 July 2019.

Andy Smith

EXERCISE 'LEADER X', 15 SEPTEMBER 1963

1. Object of the Exercise

The principal object was to test the functioning of a Forward Medical Aid Unit under pressure, being a combined effort on the part of the Divisions of Battersea, Camberwell, Croydon, the County of London, Southwark, Wandsworth and Lambeth, with 1,200 civil defence personnel participating during Sunday 5 September. Some 800 "casualties" were transported from the Crystal Palace to the Forward Medical Aid Unit at the Sandown Park



Civil Defence Ambulance Column

Racecourse, Esher; simultaneously, at the Army Rescue Training Ground, Epsom. The Rescue Column extricated "casualties" from the simulated damaged buildings. The preparation and distribution of the food for those taking part was carried out by personnel mainly drawn from Lambeth Welfare Section. The opportunity was also taken to give experience to volunteers in convoy driving, map reading, casualty handling and the working of both forward and rear shuttles.

2. Initial reporting points - A. & F.A. Column Personnel.

Personnel were to report to their respective stations between 08.45 and 09.00hrs. Most volunteers arrived in good time despite the early hour, however some volunteers who had previously indicated that they would attend failed to do so and did not inform us of their change of plan. This always leads to complications



London County Council Ambulances in convoy

and delay. Directing Staff tend to postpone the departure of the units in the hope of more people arriving, and crew lists then have to be hurriedly adjusted. The strength of the Column is reduced and we find ourselves with surplus food.

3. Initial deployment of Column.

Once platoons were moving most of them made good time to Column R.V. — The Municipal Car Park, Croydon. One Platoon was late arriving at this R.V. The assembly of the platoons at Croydon

was most orderly and indeed "according to the book". As each Platoon arrived, the Platoon officer halted the vehicles on the approach road and went forward to receive instructions as to where the Platoon was to park.

At this point the assembled column was taken over by the Column Commander.

Owing to the late arrival of one Platoon, the Column did not leave the assembly point until 11.35hrs — 35 minutes late.

The convoy to Area R.V. (Crystal Palace) was good. This was carried out under Police escort proving yet again the value of having experienced dispatch riders assisting in the movement of large numbers of vehicles.

4. Casualty make up and transport.

All the arrangements for this most important aspect of the exercise worked very smoothly indeed. Ambulance and First Aid Section volunteers with their friends and families arrived at County Hall in good time. As the groups were made up they embussed and were taken to their respective Ambulance Loading Points. This was so well done that the casualties were at their sites much earlier than anticipated and I must apologise to those who had a long wait. However, our experience on Leader 7, when 3 coaches lost their way prompted us on this occasion to be over-cautious and allow a considerable margin for this kind of error. In the event this proved unnecessary and in future exercises it is hoped that with the experience gained we will be able to draw up a more realistic time table.

Much of the success of the exercise was due to those who volunteered to be casualties and no praise can be too high for the magnificent part played by them all.

5. Feeding.

The food was prepared and cooked by members of the Welfare Sections of Areas 53A and 53F. Not only had they to feed the Ambulance Column at the Crystal Palace, but food had to be sent from there in insulated containers to four other sites.



Members of the C D Welfare Section preparing meals utilising emergency feeding equipment

The fact that the food arrived late at these sites was not the fault of the Welfare Section, it was due to three reasons
(i) The Column arriving late at Area R.V.
(ii) The contingents detailed to transport the food having difficulty in finding the sites.
(iii) One of the vehicles carrying food broke down. Everybody to whom I have spoken about the meal gave it nothing but praise. I must conclude by congratulating the Welfare Section for a good job well done.

6. Deployment of Forces - Epsom.

Owing to the late arrival of lunch, the deployment of forces at Epsom did not start until well after 14:00hrs. It is always difficult to create a feeling and an appearance of urgency, but I must point out that briefing of individuals is time wasting.

There is no reason why Rescue, First Aid and Ambulance Officers cannot be briefed together.

Once the First Aid Parties were briefed, they got to work with a will. Owing to the lack of direction, the same cannot be said of the Ambulance Crews. It should always be remembered that when ever possible it is better to take an ambulance to the casualties, than casualties to an ambulance. Had this principle been applied, much back breaking carrying of patients could have been avoided.

Ambulances were not being used to the best advantage. The peace time vehicles should have been used for sitting cases and the C. D. Ambulances for stretcher cases. This would have resulted in more casualties being lifted with the same number of ambulances.



The improvised treatment area of the Forward Medical Aid Unit (FMAU). The location is probably Sandown Park Race Course

7. Liaison - Epsom.

Perhaps one of the most outstanding lessons learned was the unquestionable value of the closest liaison between sections. Much hard work and duplication of effort could have been saved had this liaison been effective. We must have more exercises with emphasis on this most important aspect of training.

8. Transportation of Casualties.

This, apart from a certain amount of misuse of Ambulances, seemed to go quite smoothly. The main problem was the distress caused to some patients travelling in the C.O.V. (ambulances). It was a warm day and the lack of ventilation was evident.

It was also proved that travelling over a fairly long distance as a sitting patient or a stretcher case, is a most uncomfortable experience.

9. F. M. A. U. — Reception.

This worked very well, in spite of the difficult sloping ground on which ambulances parked while being unloaded.

It soon became obvious that one of the most important factors is that of man power.

The stretcher trolleys were a boon, and would have been of even greater value had a ramp been constructed leading into the F.M.A.U.. This I am sure would have been done in reality.

10. F. M. A. U. — Evacuation.

The exercise started to break up at this point. In the planning it was not intended that all casualties should become walking cases at this stage. However this was in fact put into operation, and as a result much of the value of this part of the exercise was lost.

11. F. M. A. U. - General.

This unit was very well organised and most efficient. My overall impression was that an Ambulance Column would have to work very hard indeed to disrupt its smooth working.

12. Domestic.

There were two serious problems that marred the day for those taking part, both of which, unfortunately, occurred at Epsom.

(i) Lack of tea. I am afraid that this was one of those snags that it is impossible to foresee. I had arranged for five insulated containers to be delivered to Epsom on the morning of the exercise. They were not!

The situation was relieved to some extent by the quick thinking and action of Senior Ast. Supt. Dunbar who purchased lemonade, and by Wandsworth who dispatched two urns of tea from their H. Q.

(ii) Lack of toilet facilities. This problem was not appreciated by the team that carried out the reconnaissance prior to the exercise and was aggravated by the fact that we were on the site much longer than expected.

13. Uniform.

This left a lot to be desired. It should be remembered that we are a uniformed service, and when we are engaged on a large scale exercise we are very much in the public eye. Few things can diminish authority more quickly than uniformed personnel being improperly dressed, e.g. hats not worn and tunics and blouses undone. There is much room for improvement here.

14. Conclusions.

The exercise achieved its object, i.e. to recover, treat and pass through F. M. A. U. a large number of casualties. To that extent it was a success. Many lessons were learned most of them, I am afraid, 'old chestnuts'. Briefing - convoy driving - procedure at A.L.Ps.- liaison. This is what exercises are for. The one thing we must do is to make sure that we learn from our mistakes and practise our weak points.

K. G. H. Pitkethly
Exercise Director.
FH/LAS/3
October 1963.

With thanks to the Crystal Palace Foundation for making this material available to the CDA. Details of another Exercise (Lupino) will be published during 2019. Editor.

WW2 ARP WARDEN'S POST, PRIORY STATION, DOVER

The structure (*see Front Page*) is a small, rectangular (6 x 4m), white-painted brick building with 0.3m thick brick walls and a flat concrete roof edged with a brick parapet. The entrance and two windows (possibly enlarged post-war) are on the long front elevation of the building facing the station. Several iron brackets of unknown function are fixed to the external walls. It conforms roughly to the Home Office guidance for such posts with features designed to counter the damaging effects of blast and bomb fragmentation such as reinforced brick walls, a deep soffit to the roof, blast baffle entrance, and a flat concrete roof designed to resist the penetration of incendiary bombs. The interior has not been inspected but it is anyway unlikely that it would contain features of interest.

The voluntary ARP Wardens were set up under the 1937 ARP Act which outlined provision for 'the protection of persons and property from injury or damage in the event of hostile attack from the air'. The ARP services were activated following the Munich crisis in the Autumn of 1938. Following the appointment of Sir John Anderson as head of the ARP Department in late 1938, along with an increased urgency in the provision of civilian air raid shelters, provision of purpose built ARP posts was made. Until then ARP posts had been located in adapted suitable existing properties (where most stayed for the duration of the war). In May 1939 the ARP Department advised local authorities that they may spend £50 for protected shelters rising to £75 for larger examples. Advice was given for small flat-roofed, above ground structures but no national standard was provided and local patterns were used. ARP Wardens' posts were a vital part of Civil Defence co-ordination and from them communications would have been maintained with other posts to enable early warning of raids to be given, and emergency assistance rendered in the case of attack to injured or trapped victims in nearby streets.

Dover had a major role in the Second World War as a military base and harbour, its proximity to the Continent and the cross-Channel gunfire earning this part of Kent the unenviable title 'Hellfire Corner'. Most notably, it was from Dover Castle that the Dunkirk evacuation was directed. Dover was obviously a major military target for enemy action. It received 464 high explosive bombs, 1,500 incendiaries, three parachute mines, three V1s and 2,226 high explosive shells fired by long-range guns on the French coast. Of the civilian population 216 were killed and several hundred injured. The Dover Corporation had built a number of purpose-built structures before the outbreak of war. Local research indicates that this particular example was one of 12 new posts in Dover approved in October 1939 and completed in June 1940 and is one of only two ARP posts which now survive in Dover, the other being at Pilgrims Way. After the war it served for a time as a cabbies' shelter. It is now disused.

As an example of an increasingly rare type of structure associated with civil defence in the Second World War; and as a tangible reminder of the dangers faced by Dover's war time civilian population.

With acknowledgements to historicengland.org.uk

REMEMBRANCE, NOVEMBER 2018

November is always an important time for many people to remember those who have served their country and especially those who died. Especially this year we are remembering those who served in WWI in many theatres but we, the CDA, particularly remember the civilians who also contributed so much.

To this end, we attended formally at:

The CD Memorial at the NMA on Saturday 3 November
The Field of Remembrance, Westminster Abbey, on Thursday 8 November
Durham Cathedral on Saturday 10th & Sunday 11th November
The Cenotaph on Sunday 11 November
York on Sunday 11 November
East Malling, Kent, on Sunday 11 November

There will, of course, have been many other places where members attended Remembrance Events or simply paused at Memorials to remember.



Judith Essex-Lopresti at the CD Memorial at the NMA

Photo: Tim Essex-Lopresti



The CD Plot at the Westminster Abbey, Field of Remembrance. Sir Neil Thorne meeting Prince Harry. Our party included Didy Grahame (CDA Vice-President), Terry Hissey, Prof D Alexander (ICPEM) and Christine John (Civil Aid) Photos: Didy Grahame, Terry Hissey



Above: Preparing for the 11.00 a.m. parade at The Cenotaph, (L to R) Ian Tough; Amanda Harmsworth; John Townend; Jane Dormer; Chris Oxley; Andy Smith and Colin Harmsworth. There are reports that, because the TV coverage was longer this year, David Dimbleby mentioned the CDA contingent in his commentary. Photo: Courtesy of Andy Smith

Below Left: Christine John at Westminster Abbey representing Civil Aid.

Below Right: At East Malling, Kent.. (L to R): Wing Commander Mike Sutton, Stuart Millson and Dennis Murphy. The wreath was laid under the auspices of The Royal Society of St. George. Stuart Millson is wearing the badge of the CDA and the insignia of the Legion of Frontiersmen..

Photo: Courtesy of Stuart Millson



EDEN CAMP



There have been frequent mentions of events at Eden Camp in Malton, North Yorkshire. One of our very early events was to unveil a plaque in The Chapel there. Since then they have been strong supporters of the CDA. It is, therefore, most timely to include this photograph sent in by Museum Manager, Nick Hill, who wrote:

Find attached yours truly in my alter-ego – Dan, Dan the ARP man. My presentation usually takes about 25 mins and I get the kids 'hands on' with an incendiary bomb (a real one!), Air Raid Siren, Stirrup pump Gas Rattle and All Clear bell, whilst giving the audience info about air raid shelters the Blackout, the difference between HE and incendiary bombs and the role of the ARP Warden and subsequently Civil Defence.

BOOK REVIEW

A short while ago we received 3 books in this series all of which look to be very interesting. What follows are the first batch about one of them:

Birmingham at War 1939-45

Julie Phillips

Comments from 2 born & bred in Birmingham:

Barbara Leather

I enjoyed reading this book very much. I feel that it has been well researched and constructed. For me, it brought back many memories of the war although I was quite young. I remember quite a lot of the defences: the Ack-Ack guns and the majestic barrage balloons.

I would encourage people to read this book as the facts are straight to the point.

My father was in the Home Guard and was often out all night then back to work in the day.

A very satisfying book.

Chris Leather

I didn't read the book from cover to cover, but various passages. I did read the chapter 'Life in War' because, my father being in the forces, my mother was left with me to care for and you wonder what life was like for her and how she coped. That chapter told me what she and everyone else had to put up with.

The book was nicely compiled and well documented.

John Broughton is a neighbour and keenly interested in history. He spotted the book, borrowed it and commented:

An exceedingly interesting book, full of facts, beautifully written and exceptionally informative.

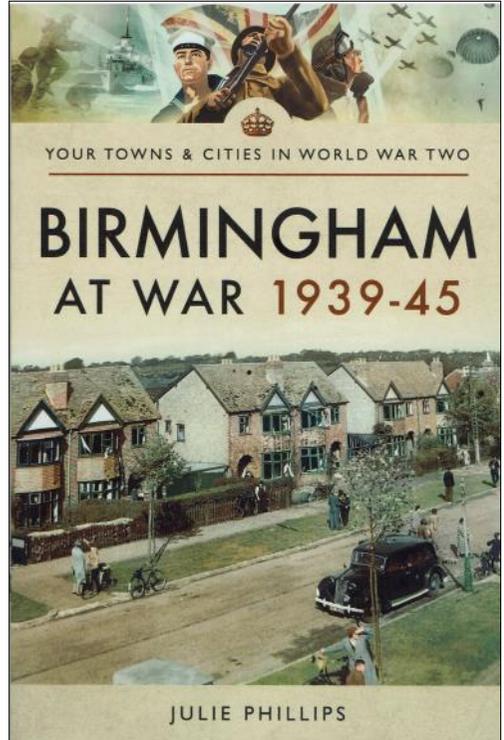
Unfortunately some of the photographs are too dark.

ISBN: 978 1 47386 697 3

Pages: 209 Paperback

£14.99

This book is currently with another Brummie whose comments are awaited.



EVENTS

2019

Saturday 30 March CDA Annual General Meeting

Toby Carvery, Stonebridge,
Birmingham

Saturday 15 June CDA Annual Commemoration

National Memorial Arboretum

CDA East Midlands Branch

The East Midlands Branch hold meetings in and around Lincoln. All CDA members and supporters are cordially invited to attend.

For more information contact:

Patrick Stanton, Co-ordinator

Tel: 01205 280144

E-mail: pstanton280@btinternet.com

Birmingham Air Raids Remembrance Association

Meetings are held every third Thursday of the month at 12 noon. Updates on Association projects, tea and a chat. Venue: Cophorne Hotel, Queensway, Birmingham. All welcome.

Contact:

Barbara Johnson 0121-749-2009



*Christmas Greetings
And Good Wishes
For a
Happy and Peaceful
New Year
From the President
Vice President, Chaplain,
Officers and Committee*

It may be of some comfort and reassurance for next of kin of deceased CDA members to know that arrangements can be made for a Civil Defence coffin flag to be despatched, often at quite short notice, to be used at the funeral. Please be assured that such a request will be handled with sensitivity and discretion.

In such instances, the Secretary should be contacted on:
01629 55738.

Members and Families may also like to know that Deceased Members of the CDA have been added to the roll of the Perpetual Mass Association at the Benedictine Monastery of the Holy Cross in Chicago. Thus they will share in the spiritual benefits of the monthly mass and the daily office of the monks.



**AT THE GOING DOWN OF THE SUN
AND IN THE MORNING,
WE WILL REMEMBER THEM**

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