



TREASURER'S END OF YEAR APPRAISAL

Having reached the end of the calendar year, we finished up with an operating surplus of £1,960.02, so I think that we have done very well. This leaves us at the end of 2019 with an overall balance of £8,632.67 made up of £7,033.09 as the closing Current account balance; £1509.07 as the closing Reserve account balance with £90.51 remaining on the Forrester Club Card.

From these amounts, we have got to allow £2,400.00 to cover the costs of lawn treatment, and a sum of £3,363.80 to cover our Ground Rent for next year, so at least for the next year, we remain in good shape.

Richard Wallis

**OUR NEXT WINTER LUNCH:
TUESDAY 11 FEBRUARY**



To be held at Forrester Park – Details will be emailed out in due course!

**VAUN HENRY LEGERTON – IN MEMORIUM**

Gill Stone and I attended Vaun's Funeral on Wednesday 19th December in Aylesbury. It was a very moving and simple service. Reverend Canon Dr Nick Molony who originally came from Essex had a wonderfully calm and kind voice. He read 'Memories of Vaun' (reproduced below with kind permission of Eunice). Catherine Vaun's daughter-in-law read 'Remember' by Christina Rossetti. After the service we returned to Eunice's house in Princes Risborough for refreshments. Wonderful to meet Mark and Paul and exchange tales of Croquet, committees, U3A and friendship.

My own memory of Vaun is the start of the 2013 season at Drapers. We all turned up to mark out only to find that the council had not cut the grass. So off we went to find lawn mowers to get the job done in time. We started to mow across both lawns horizontal only to find that we ran out of steam half way through the job with two lawns half cut. So after a quick trip to Tesco's for refreshments we completed the job in the afternoon. He worked as hard as anyone (remember he was over 80 then) taking away the long grass and keeping us going, typical of his good leadership. We both served on the overarching Drapers Farm Management committee, his knowledge of business and worldly perspective helped in the running of the whole sports complex not just our club. He was always kind and very encouraging to me and I miss him.

Jean Healey

Vaun was born on 22 October 1929 at St Mary's Road, Braintree, Essex, the only child of Joseph and Ethel Legerton. He died on 28 November in Stoke Mandeville Hospital, age 90.

Vaun started school at Manor Street Primary School in Braintree, but when he was about eight years old the family moved from Braintree to the nearby village of Cressing. It is fortunate that they did, as during the 1939-45 war, a bomb dropped in St Mary's Road and the bungalow in which they had been living was demolished. Vaun attended the Primary School in Cressing, and later Braintree County High School.

Although Vaun was an only child he certainly did not lack playmates. He had eight cousins – five boys and three girls – who lived nearby, and they had a glorious childhood playing in the fields, even collecting bomb cases that had dropped by the railway line. There was one occasion on a very wet day when Vaun returned home in his bare feet. When asked by his exasperated parents where his wellingtons were, he replied that he had got stuck in the mud and the only way he could get out was to step out of them. Needless to say he was packed off to retrieve them.

Vaun left the County High School in 1950 at age 16 and was employed as an office boy by the Crittall Manufacturing Co in Braintree. He progressed to the Export Order Department, and in 1953 the Export Sales Director sent for him and asked if he would like to go to work in Singapore for three years. His immediate answer was a positive YES. It took three days to fly from London to Singapore with an overnight stop in the Middle East. In Singapore he played a lot of tennis and he has since described it as "a wonderful life". Little did he know that all that sunshine was going to cause skin cancer problems sixty years later. He returned to England in 1956, choosing to make the return journey on a slow cargo boat. On his return he worked in the Export Sales Office in London travelling by train from Cressing each day.



In April 1957 Vaun's life had another major change. He met Eunice. They met at a party at Stansted Airport. It sounds as if it might have been a rather grand occasion, but it was not. At that time Stansted Airport consisted of a few tatty Nissen huts, no external lighting, and a lot of muddy puddles. It was in its infancy, still under construction, and the construction workers were bored, so they liaised with various local social clubs to make swop visits. From most points of view the evening was something of a disaster, but ... as they say ... every cloud has a silver lining. Vaun and Eunice were engaged just six weeks later, and married the following October.

But that too had its problems. Eunice had always wanted to get married at Harvest Festival, and the date was set for 5 October. But unfortunately Vaun, his mother and Eunice all had Asian flu, and the wedding had to be postponed. Very few people had a telephone in those days, so Eunice's sister and a friend had a day off work to tell the guests. Luckily the friend had a car, and they drove round knocking on doors, putting notes through letter boxes and sending telegrams. The wedding took place just two weeks later on 19 October 1957 – 62 years ago.

Vaun and Eunice started off life together renting two rooms with use of kitchen and bathroom – quite a common thing in 1957. They then progressed to a Council third floor flat. Vaun's parents had a large garden, and they very generously gave half of it to Vaun. He built a chalet bungalow on it, and he and Eunice moved to their first real house in December 1961.

Vaun's first son, Mark was born there in 1963, but in 1964 Vaun was offered a promotion to become Sales Representative in Leicestershire, and the family moved to Melton Mowbray. As he grew older Vaun fully appreciated the generosity of his parents and realised how disappointed they must have been that he lived there for under three years. Vaun's second son, Paul, was born in Melton Mowbray in 1965. The move to Melton Mowbray was to prove the first of many moves for work over the next few years. In fact Mark attended four, and Paul three, different primary schools, but things eventually settled and they both attended only one secondary school. In their 62 years of marriage Vaun and Eunice have lived in ten different houses. They moved from Essex, to Leicestershire, to Hertfordshire, to Staffordshire, back to Essex, and eventually to Princes Risborough.

When they first moved to Staffordshire they found themselves in a location where the secondary school had a poor reputation, so they moved a few miles to Barton-under-Needwood (near Burton-on-Trent) where there was an excellent school. Later Paul acquired a horse, so they moved again to a delightful spot known as Yew Tree House, Cuckoo Cage Lane, Tatenhill Common, also near Burton-on-Trent. They lived there for 20 years – a record for them. This was a run-down Victorian cottage, originally 2 up 2 down, and later the dairy converted into a kitchen with bathroom over it. The cottage was originally a small farm on the Bass Brewers estate, and Vaun loved it. There were numerous outbuildings which had a bigger footprint than the cottage, a big vegetable garden, an orchard, a wood and, most importantly, a paddock for the horse. Vaun threw himself into working on both house and garden; he loved growing vegetables and was so successful they were virtually self-sufficient. After Paul went to university and the horse sold, Vaun kept sheep and geese in the paddock. He was a country boy at heart. Without doubt that was his favourite place to live; he loved it. It was there that he acquired his beloved collie dog, *Wffti* (*pronounced OOFI*) and her companion, Sipsi.

Vaun retired from work as Sales Manager – a different company but still in the building trade. His retirement coincided very conveniently with his mother needing help. Ethel had moved to Staffordshire to be near to Vaun and lived in her own bungalow until 1992 when, at 96 years old, she fell and broke her leg – while cooking her lunch and doing the crossword at the same time! She then came to live with Vaun and Eunice, and Vaun was her full-time carer while Eunice was still out at work. Vaun hosted his mother's 100th birthday party in a marquee in the paddock, and organised a coach so that her elderly friends from Essex could attend.

So why did he leave this wonderful place? By then Vaun was 70 and had to admit that the work involved in looking after Yew Tree House, the animals and the land was becoming too much for him.



He loved it there, although he did admit to missing the sea. So he and Eunice took the decision to return to Essex, and moved to Maldon, where they both spent another 20 very happy years. And coincidentally it was in Maldon that Vaun's parents had met in 1925.

Vaun has always had hobbies. In his teens and twenties he played both football and cricket for the village teams, and of course tennis in Singapore. Shortly after he was married he joined the Crittall Car Club, and was very successful at rallies in an era when you were allowed to drive fast down little lanes, even in the dark.

He became involved with Staffordshire Pony Club, and used to fence judge and time horse trials for both Pony Club and the British Horse Society – so much so that after he moved back to Essex he made return visits to Staffordshire to help out.

He played crown green bowls in Staffordshire, and flat green bowls in Maldon – outdoors in the summer and indoors in the winter.

Vaun was a member of Maldon U3A, and one day joined them for a fun game of croquet at a local village croquet club. He was enthused; he had found a new gentle activity for his later years. He joined the village club and later became chairman. After a few years, at 80 years old, he founded Maldon Croquet Club, and he would be the first to acknowledge the help he had, not only from Maldon Council's Sport Development Officer, but even more significantly from an excellent treasurer and an excellent secretary. When he resigned as Chairman he felt honoured to be made Life President, and in 2017 he was awarded a Diploma for Services to Croquet from the National Croquet Association. However he could not attend the presentation evening in London as the date clashed with his diamond wedding celebrations.

Although Vaun had moved to Princes Risborough he still felt very much part of Maldon Croquet Club, and he would have valued the kindness of so many members who have contacted Eunice to offer their condolences and to say they appreciate all he did for the Club.

Vaun was a good, generous, quiet and thoughtful man who led a full and happy life. He was a wonderful, kind, loving husband and a devoted father to Mark and Paul, and he loved his three grandchildren, Lydia, Joseph and Sophie. His family and his friends will all miss him so very much.

Vaun Legerton 1929 – 2019

Eunice and family would like to say thank you to the many members of Maldon Croquet Club who have been in touch to express their condolences and to say how much they appreciate Vaun's efforts for the Club. We are not going to list names; you know who you are – and thank you so much. Vaun counted it a privilege to be first Chairman and later Life President of the Club which gave him so much enjoyment.

Eunice, Mark, Paul and families.



Award of Diploma for Services to Croquet

MCC – AGM March 2018