

## Obituaries

### Christine Duffield

It is with great regret that we have learned of the death of Christine, the second wife of Henry. Although she had not enjoyed good health for many years, her sudden death from a heart attack on the 8th September came as a great shock to all who knew her.

She came to teach at Geneva School in Bideford in the late fifties; her stepbrother, Godfrey Sellars, was already the Organist and Choirmaster at the Parish Church of St Mary, Bideford.

Always very young in appearance, I am reminded of a story related by another teacher friend, who stopped a young girl, wearing a gym slip, and chastised her for running through the corridor. She was not exactly amused when she was politely informed that she (Christine) was also a teacher at the school!

After Henry and Loetitia had divorced in 1949, she and Henry were married in 1950. They had one son, Harry, who is of course our Vice President, and who is at present living in Australia. Whilst living in Georgeham, Christine taught in her own school at Croyde, and is remembered there with affection for her many kindnesses.

She and Henry were divorced in 1964, and she subsequently remarried. During this later period of her life, she underwent a very serious operation which left her partially disabled.

Whenever we met she always spoke of Henry with affection, and she joined the Society in 1984. It was her wish to keep a very low profile in the Society, but she was more than thrilled when she was made an Honorary Member in 1989.

She will be remembered by those who knew her for her courage, cheerfulness and kindness to others in spite of her own disabilities.

GEORGE HEATH

### Alec Bristow

It is with deep regret that we learn of the death of Alec Bristow who died suddenly in his sleep on Thursday 18th October, just two days short of his 74th birthday.

Members will recall Alec with great affection; he came to every meeting and what was so remarkable, he drove down to wherever the venue – Devon, Norfolk, Bedford – stayed with us just for the day and then drove all the way home the same evening, to London! That was real dedication, and Alec maintained to the last a keen interest in the Society and its affairs.

But it was his considerable charm and great sense of humour that many of us will best remember. Although Alec never spoke of it, he had a most distinguished service career. During the Second World War he served as a pilot in R.A.F. Bomber Command, flying Blenheims and Mosquitos. He was decorated with the D.F.C. for bravery in low-level daylight bombing strikes against the Gestapo H.Q. in Oslo, Norway. He was also awarded the Air Force Cross. After being shot down over France in 1942 he was held as a POW in Stalag Luft III (scene of the Great Escape). Retiring as Squadron Leader from the R.A.F. in 1957 he joined B.O.A.C. as a flight simulator pilot instructor until subsequently retiring in 1979 in order to devote himself to the travel agency family business he had begun and developed over the years. A great lover of opera and classical music, and of course, antiquarian books, Alec was generous in support of many charities, he was held in high regard by all who knew him. In tribute to Alec, we stood for a minute's silence at the Redhill meeting. A dear friend now lost in Ancient Sunlight.

BRIAN FULLAGER