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➤ **EDITORIAL:** Noticed the new name? As services are still not back to normal there is a continuing need to keep in touch but with government reassurances that we are unlikely to be following the example of other European countries into yet another lockdown the title 'Lockdown News' seems to be redundant and almost tempting providence so time for a new title but based on the church's name. **S*ParkLink** seemed to win general approval. So a new title, same content and, regrettably, the same inconsistencies of WORD XP aka .doc which seems to exert editorial independence! Thanks to Alison for proofreading and Amy for producing the PDF.

➤ PRAYER CORNER - please pray for:

- Yetunde Bright
Lola Gordon
Terry Menkens, Jean and family
Donna Wray
Simeon Vontzalidis
Joan Maxwell
Valentina Constantinou

Bronwen and Roy Atkinson

Pastor Terry Messenger

Uche Ademuyiwa

Ken Spicer

Muriel Glendinning

Les and Lydia Dean and family

and all of those who need God's healing touch, those experiencing challenging times and those who mourn that they may find comfort.

- **THANKS FOR PRAYERS:** *Dear Stanborough Church family I am writing to express my sincere gratitude for your kindness towards my boys and I. I will be forever grateful for all your loving messages, prayers and financial support when Rafael Luz passed away in April. You are a very loving community. Thank you and God bless you. Sheilla Ferraz-Luz*
- **Jean Hinks and family** wish to thank the church family for their many cards and messages of love and sympathy since Peter left us. Your words of comfort and care have been much appreciated at this sad time.
- **We are sad to announce the deaths** of four former members of this church: **Barry Gowland** whose funeral service has been held in Milton Keynes church; **Mrs. Otto Spearing** who was living near her family in Crieff, Scotland and died on 16th October; **Pastor John Arthur in Crieff on 14th November** (see later article) and **Pastor Ron Surridge** in Grantham who was a former Senior Minister of our church.
- **Also Joy, wife of Pr. Derek Beardsell**, died recently; her funeral was held on 16th November.
- Condolences also to **Greta Poulton** whose brother died this month in Germany following infection with COVID and to **Karen Hubbard** on the death of her mother in Weymouth, also this month.

➤ NEWS IN BRIEF

- **CHURCH SERVICES:** numbers are still limited to 200, masks are appreciated and singing – masked – is permitted.

- **SOCIAL DISTANCING AT CHURCH:** we wish all our members to feel welcome and safe to attend church. The Church Board has therefore voted that every other row of the seating downstairs will be taped off to ensure social distancing. If you wish to attend church and to remain socially distanced, please sit downstairs and please wear a mask. If you are happy to sit in closer proximity to others please use the balconies. Hand sanitising and mask-wearing is encouraged in all areas. We appreciate your consideration of each other's views as we worship and fellowship together.
- **N.B. It is no longer necessary to book, just turn up!**
- **PASTOR GEERT HAS RETURNED from his Sabbatical:** his first task was to assist at two funerals! (see later)
- **REMINDER - BUSINESS MEETINGS:** in future, details of the meetings will only be sent by email with the exception of those without an email address who can receive a printed copy by request (as is the case with this newsletter). If you need a printed copy please text Alix Roberts on 07703 192823 or write to her at the church address 609, St. Albans Road, Watford WD25 9JL. **Full reports from the last meeting, including the Treasury, can be obtained via this link:** <https://1drv.ms/u/s!AqY8V-Yr4cbVhaJXg6XN6Cc3in0RBg?e=jcWGew>
- **NEW CLASS: ADULT SABBATH SCHOOL** has started meeting in person at church with two classes currently in the Maple Room and Armstrong Hall from 10am to 11am and a third in the sanctuary. A fourth intended for youth 18+ led by Jackson Bright commences at the end of the month, initially on Zoom. The groups will also be accessible via Zoom with the links published weekly in the electronic bulletin. **(Or by phone: +44 203 481 5240)**
- **THE WOMEN'S MINISTRY GROUP** continues to be active via Zoom on Sabbath afternoons. Details are given in the electronic bulletin. It is hoped to include a report on their activities during lockdown in a future newsletter.
- **THE SOUP RUN BEGINS AGAIN FOR THE WINTER SEASON:** the minibus will leave for London every Friday evening to cater for rough sleepers. We supply many much-needed accessories such as toiletries, sleeping bags, and warm winter clothing, jackets, jumpers, jeans, socks, underwear, sleeping bags and toiletries. If you would like to join a Soup Run team or donate items please contact Pat Walton on **07788311097**. You can also donate funds to cover additional items/purchases.
N.B. At the recent Business Meeting it was pointed out that this outreach, which celebrates its 36th anniversary in December, operates outside the church budget, relying entirely on donations and volunteers.
- **THE WELFARE DEPARTMENT** operates every week – usually on two mornings. If you wish to make donations please contact Pat **07788311097** to arrange when to bring the items to the Welfare Centre. **Please don't abandon them in The Stanborough Centre.**
- **MEN'S GROUP LAUNCHED:** Health Department Leader, Massimo Molteni, has launched a men's group with a focus on brotherhood, spiritual growth, mutual support, activities and some fun. For information contact massimo.molteni@gmail.com
- **MEN'S CYCLING GROUP:** it was hoped to include a photo of the group setting out on a short 10 mile cycle ride in October. Sadly there is no photo as nobody showed up! Contact Arto if interested in joining his group.
- **2021 WEEK OF PRAYER:** 'I will go' was the theme for this year's Week of Prayer held 6th-12th November. Pastor Llew Edwards made a welcome return to give the final address of the series during the Family Service on 13th November.
- **REMEMBRANCE DAY SERVICE HELD IN THE PEACE GARDEN:** to view <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7XKOic0v4s>
- **PEDAL FOR THE PEACE:** a group of Stanborough Park teens planned to join in the Peace Hospice initiative to raise much-needed funds by cycling 'round the world' from static bikes at the front of the Hospice. Unfortunately, the leader had to self-isolate so the teens have been asked to cycle remotely and donate. If you are able to sponsor them to reach their goal of £500.00 please follow the link and donate: <https://justgiving.com/fundraising/teens-department> Thank you!
- **UPDATE ON AUDREY'S ADRA FUNDRAISING:** ADRA ANNUAL APPEAL - going up! We give praise and thanks to God that the funds for ADRA keep rising. Audrey is continuing to donate to ADRA on the birthdays of her family and friends throughout the year and a number of church members have joined her so that the total has just gone over £15,600! If you would like to join this endeavour by acknowledging a birthday or to give thanks to God by donating to ADRA - please go to <https://justgiving.com/fundraising/Audrey-Balderstone1>
- **ANNUAL TOY SERVICE:** The 60th Annual Toy Service will be held at the church on 11th December at 11 a.m. and the former Mayor, Baroness (Dorothy) Thornhill, and the current Elected Mayor of Watford, Peter Taylor, will attend. The children will be invited to bring their toys to the front of the church as usual.

- **NEW EDITOR FOR THE MESSENGER?** Pr. David Neal, who was part of our ministerial team some years ago, will be taking up a new post as Communications Director at TED.
 - **BRONWEN ATKINSON is home from hospital following a fall.**
 - **NOELLE RAYMOND HAS MOVED** to the Bournemouth area and sends her good wishes to everyone.
 - **ADRA VIRTUAL GIFT BOX APPEAL 2021:** last year we raised £10,000 to help children in the UK that were affected by the pandemic. This year our Virtual Gift Box campaign will benefit children in rural Chad. We would like to provide them with a basic school kit, a hygiene pack and a toy. What a difference this will make.
 - We ask you to donate £10 per child on our [JustGiving website](#). Donate as much as you can e.g. a £50 donation will benefit 5 children. With our local partner, ADRA Chad, the gifts are handpicked for every group of children making sure the gifts they receive will fit their specific needs. Whether pens, crayons, soap, a toothbrush and of course a toy please know that you have given them a reason to smile! This year we have kept it simple – donate online or send a cheque.
 - **PATHFINDERS AND ADVENTURERS WORK ASSESSED BY SEC AREA CO-ORDINATORS:** on 21st November the Adventurers and Pathfinders were visited by SEC area co-ordinators who assessed the work of each group in preparation for an Investiture Service in early 2022. The children and young people were rewarded after the assessment visit with a party in recognition of all the hard work they have put in during the past year and in celebration of being able to meet in person following the huge disruption to club activities caused by covid 19. *(Photos to appear in next issue – lack of space!)*
 - **ADVENTURERS ARE LOOKING FOR COUNCILLORS:** the Adventurers Club is looking for keen and eager councillors to join our club to teach children between the ages of 4-6. Please, contact Megan Joseph if you want to help
 - **SENIORS' CLUB IS MEETING AGAIN:** group leader Amanda Powell says, 'We are indeed meeting and last time had about 85 members which is our highest number since COVID. Think we may be down a bit next meeting as quite a few are away and others helping to count poppy money.' However, she points out that the need to maintain social distancing during the meetings means that the group is unable to accommodate any new members for the time being. She confirms that some members are indeed attending church services but feels that there is no need for befrienders at the moment.
- **WEDDING BELLS:** Heidi Tunwell has sent the promised photos of daughter Rebecca's wedding last month to John Scarrott in Lee, Devon. They are making their home in Barnstaple and would like to say thank you to friends from Stanborough Park who sent kind messages of love and support on the occasion of their wedding. Left, Rebecca is with husband John and cousin Eryn McCrow, daughter of Heidi's brother Derrien, and right with brothers (left-right) Andrew, Peter and James who will be remembered by many members as children.



➤ **AUTUMN GOODBYES:** there have been three funerals at the church recently and we are sad to announce the death of Pastor John Arthur OBE, a member for 40 years, in Crieff and also our former minister Pastor Ron Surridge on 15th November aged 93 – see next page. **There are plans to Livestream the celebration of Pastor Arthur’s life planned for 12 noon on Monday, 29th November in the Crieff church.**

- **PETER HINKS:** Peter succumbed to pancreatic cancer on 12th October just a month short of his 90th birthday. He and Jean have been long-standing members of Stanborough Park Church having moved to Watford in 1962 and with a ‘regular seat’ (circled below) will probably have been known by sight at least to a large proportion of the congregation. His funeral was held in the church on 9th November and can be viewed on Livestream. So ends a lifetime of service to His Master, working for the denomination in a variety of roles (see below) **as well as nine years as Local Funds Treasurer at Stanborough Park Church and for a further six years as Church Treasurer.** He also acted as Treasurer for the Seniors’ Group for nine years until earlier this year. He now rests in North Watford Cemetery awaiting the call of his Master.

<https://adventist.uk/news/article/go/2021-11-22/death-of-peter-hinks/> gives the full version of the life sketch below.

- **Peter always claimed that he was unable to help with meal preparations at home as he only knew how to cater for 1,000 people!**

- **Paul Bellamy has submitted the following life sketch (edited)**



Peter graduated from Newbold Missionary College in May 1962 and joined Granose Foods Limited, based at that time on Stanborough Park. He was Office Manager and thus commenced forty loyal years of continuous service, in a variety of roles, for the Church that he loved, its membership and above all his ultimate overseer, his Heavenly Father.

Born in Birmingham during the time of the Great Depression, Peter left school at the age of fourteen and secured employment working for a grocery store where he remained until called up to complete his National Service.

Drafted into the Royal Air Force Peter served in the Catering Corps for the duration of his two years’ service. Returning to civilian life he secured the post of Store Manager for a George Mason grocery store in Birmingham.

Prompted by the Holy Spirit, Peter began searching for spiritual assurance. Invited to attend an evangelistic campaign held in Birmingham’s ‘Theatre Royal’ led by Pastor Kenneth Lacey, he found Jesus and in Peter’s own words was, “born again”. On the 21st of July 1956

Peter gave his heart to Jesus and was baptised alongside 56 other souls. Having given his life to Jesus Peter was confronted with the reality of finding employment with Sabbath privileges. Leaving his managerial post with George Mason’s, Peter found employment with an engineering firm as an ‘accounts clerk’.

Peter subsequently joined the Camp Hill Church where he was to meet the young woman who was to become his life-long loving companion, supporter and friend. Jean Barnwell and Peter were married on the 9th March, 1958 at Camp Hill Church, a love story that would span over a further sixty-three years and receive the blessing of 3 sons, 6 grandsons and 4 great grandchildren.

In 1960 Peter applied to Newbold College to join the Business Studies course. He graduated May 1962 and joined Granose Foods Limited, based at that time on Stanborough Park. He was Office Manager and thus commenced forty loyal years of continuous service to the denomination in a variety of roles for the Church that he loved, its membership and above all his ultimate overseer, his Heavenly Father.

Peter’s Denominational Work

1960 - 1962	Undertook the Business Studies course at Newbold College
1961 -1977	Office Manager at Granose Foods Limited moving to the position of accountant following further studies
1977 - 1979	Secretary Treasurer, South England Conference
1979 - 1983	British Union Conference – responsible for ministerial car insurance
1983 – 1991	Financial Director, Granose Foods – until sold to Haldane Foods
1991 – Retirement	Associate Treasurer at Trans European Division, St. Albans

- **DALE MONTAGUE:** Dale's funeral was held at the church on 20th October presided over by Pastors Nathan Stickland and Robin Peck who gave the address. He grew up in Leavesden, the oldest of a family of four children and attended Stanborough Park Church, marrying Julie Bennett 31 years ago. After settling in Hemel Hempstead, the family transferred to the Hemel Hempstead Church, sometimes attending the Park church when visiting Julie's mother Averil. Memories of their father written by their two sons, James and Lewis, were read out during the service. Dale's three siblings spoke of their childhood memories. The service is available to view on Livestream.
- **MRS. VICTORIA REGINA JOSEPH** died on 13th October. The mother of Gillian Joseph her funeral was held in the church on 10th November. Her love of music was reflected in the service which contained a large number of musical performances. The address was given by Pastor E. Osei. The funeral can be viewed on Livestream.

➤ **DEATH OF PASTOR JOHN ARTHUR OBE ON REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY**

'It is very inspirational to see and read about the marvellous range of activities which are continuing at the Park Church. We have so many happy memories of the 40 years we spent worshipping and fellowshiping in such a wonderful environment.' So wrote Ruth Arthur earlier this year saying how much she and husband John enjoyed receiving this church newsletter.

John had been suffering from poor health for eleven years and was wheelchair bound due to developing septicaemia which led to double pneumonia following a visit to Albania and subsequently a stroke. He slipped away peacefully during the two minutes silence on Remembrance Sunday, surrounded by his family.

John was well-known at Stanborough Park Church and acted as its Communications Leader for a while before moving from Hemel Hempstead to Crieff. During his time in denominational employment in the Watford area he served as BUC Publishing director, Communications & Religious Liberty director, Executive Secretary, Vice President and President, in addition to time as ADRA-UK and ADRA Trans European Division Chief Executive Officer.



It is probably for his time with ADRA that John would want to be remembered most. It was for his work with the charity that led to him being awarded the OBE in 2006. This wasn't his first medal as he had been presented with the 'Order of Mother Teresa' in 1994 for his humanitarian work which was Albania's highest civilian award.

- The photo shows John Arthur with his friend former BBC correspondent Bill Hamilton

➤ **PASTOR RON SURRIDGE** was senior minister at Stanborough Park Church during the 1970's. He acted as Mayor's Chaplain to the Mayor of Watford (Cllr. Harry Price) 1974-1975. He retired to Grantham. His sons Robert and John both became ministers. He is survived by his wife Rachel and son Pastor John Surridge who is the Executive Secretary of the BUC. <https://adventist.uk/news/article/go/2021-11-23/death-of-pastor-ronald-surridge/>

He was especially concerned with Albania's plight as it was throwing off its Communist yoke and times were particularly hard for its citizens. He was responsible for setting up ADRA warehouses and attending to the welfare needs of that developing country. During this time he struck up a long-term close friendship with the BBC's correspondent, Bill Hamilton, who was also moved by the plight of Albania's citizens and together they worked to ensure that the rest of the world was made aware of it, raising money for aid as they went along visiting schools etc.

Not many people have the privilege of having a school named after them but that happened to him in 2015 following his efforts to refurbish the building. Even after his retirement he continued to raise funds for the country and on seeing the run-down school in Vrap was determined to do something about it raising funds, despite his poor health, to transform it into the modern building it is today. ([The accompanying PDF tells more about his work in Albania.](#))

Despite his poor health, which led to a lengthy stay in hospital last year following a fall, John continued to write articles and correspond with a wide range of friends. His health began to deteriorate earlier this year. He will be sorely missed by many and especially by his wife Ruth and their children Christine and Andrew (whose mother-in-law, Margaret Lowe, has also just died) and their families.

➤ **FIRST PARTIAL REPORT OF THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE 20 NOVEMBER 2021**

Eldership: Florence Allen, Audrey Balderstone, David Burgess, Bernell Bussue, Louis Guenin, Steven Moser, Bheki Moyo, Roger Murphy

Head Deaconess: Annalisa Molteni

Deputy Head Deaconess: Fay Christie

Deaconesses: JiAe Ahn, JiHee Ahn, Romy Barham, Joy Bussey, Harriet Cudjoe, Denise Cuthbert, Doreen Gayle, Barbara Hankin, Geraldine Hankin, Joan Maxwell, Jean Menkens, Bharathi Nalli, Vanesa Pizuto, Becky Quarshie, Sharon Sinclair, Patricia Worrell

Children's Sabbath School Superintendent: Paula Carrillo

Adult Sabbath School Superintendent: Massimo Molteni **Team:** Nitish Khetavath, Volker Herkner

DBS: Uche Nwosu-Ademuyiwa, Michele Vitry

Treasury Team: Local Funds Head Treasurer: Fred Shone

Deputy: Stha Nyamussara **Assistant:** Fay Christie **Sales Ledger:** Clinton Quarshie

Conference Funds: Leader: Peter Walton **Deputy:** Judy Plaatjes **Assistant:** Sheila Stickland

AV Team: Leader: Eric Wolfram **Deputy leaders:** Audrey Wolfram, Paul Perry, Neilson Roberts, Carl Swain

Church Clerks: Membership: Milimo Mumbo **Church Board:** Alix Roberts

Church Site Management: Chairman: Bernell Bussue **Secretary:** Geraldine Hankin

Committee: Roland Guenin, Larry Ivan, Pastor, Elder, Treasurer, Centre Manager, Head Deacon, Head Deaconess, Health & Safety, Kitchen Manager

Health & Safety: Faith Allen

Welfare: Pat Walton, Norma Machicado

Seniors' Club Leader: Amanda Powell **Assistant Leader:** Roslyn Guenin

Toddler Club Leader: Alessandra Ferraz **Team:** Student Volunteers

ADRA Fundraising: Audrey Balderstone

➤ **LETTER FROM KOREA 2:** Lynette Alcock is working with young children as a teacher at an Adventist school in South Korea. Here she updates us on her new life.

Hello, friends!

I've been in Korea for three months now and feel like I'm settling quite well. The pace of life is intense, and I always seem to be busy, but that's not necessarily a bad thing! I'm making many friends, and the international church here has quickly welcomed me. So I've been getting involved with the children's church and the youth group. There are also some radio/podcast projects in the works! Perhaps the most challenging thing about moving here is not being able to communicate with everyone all the time... it takes more courage to do "everyday" things like shopping, for example, when you're not sure of everything that's being said to you. But I'm learning Korean and beginning to understand more. I need to get up the courage to speak more too! I've also been learning how to manage my wild children, and although some days are still difficult, it's rewarding to see them grow and feel their love. Please continue to pray that I can show Jesus to them.

➤ THE ANNUAL TOY SERVICE CELEBRATES 60 YEARS



Photo taken by Frank Blewitt

The Annual Toy Service has become part of the church's tradition and there must be few in the congregation who can remember the church before its conception. Started by Alf Kelly, who was seen by many in the town as synonymous with the church and was finally awarded an MBE just before his death in recognition of his services to the people of Watford, it was intended to meet the needs of families who were unable to afford to provide the type of Christmas they would have wanted for their children. That the need continues to this day is a sad reflection on our times.

Please support its 60th anniversary generously - to be held on 11TH DECEMBER AT 11am.

The following messages have been received from the current and previous Elected Mayors of Watford emphasising the difference that the church's gesture makes to local citizens who have fallen on hard times. Both will be attending this year's service.

❖ **Message from Baroness Thornhill, previous Elected Mayor of Watford**

During my sixteen years as Watford's Elected Mayor I must have attended over a dozen Toy Services and, in truth, it got that I really looked forward to that special Saturday service. It felt as if Christmas had begun with an explosion of generosity from the entire congregation.

What was always so pleasing was the generosity shown. The gifts were really top drawer so much so that the occasional child rather reluctantly parted with said gift hoping that perhaps their kindness be rewarded with a similar gift! It made me smile.

I swear that over the years the toy pile became a mountain and the task of trooping on and off the stage for more precarious for we guests on the platform!

A real show of Watford's Christian community at its best. Something to be proud of for your church and for the town.

❖ **Message from Peter Taylor, current elected Mayor of Watford**

Stanborough Park Church's Toy Service is a really valued part of the life of the town. Every time I attend the service, I am amazed by the generosity of those who attend.

I know that the gifts that are donated go to grateful local families. Many of them are struggling because of difficult circumstances. The kindness of Stanborough Park Church makes a real difference. The toys are enjoyed by the children but, even more importantly, the gifts show families that they are loved and people care about them.



❖ **How it all began**

Brian Davison's father introduced the Annual Toy Service to the Ealing church and told Pat Walton, who worked for him, about it. Knowing this was the sort of thing her father, Alf Kelly, would be interested in she in turn told him of this interesting way of helping the needy at an especially difficult time of the year. Enthusiastically seizing the idea he held the first Toy Service at Stanborough Park Church in 1961. It has continued to be part of the church calendar ever since.

Left: **Toy Service founder Alf Kelly MBE**

➤ **STANBOROUGH PARK'S STORY: In the Beginning***

This is the first of a series of articles about the beginnings and development of Stanborough Park and our church.

It was 1906 and the brethren were concerned. The Adventist message was spreading around the British Isles, new churches and denominational institutions had been established but in order for the work to progress a more co-ordinated approach was necessary.

A mill near Horsham had been purchased in 1899 for the production of health foods but had burnt to the ground the following year and the rented premises in Birmingham were proving to be an unsatisfactory location. A printing press was operating in the Holloway area of North London, not far from the British Union Conference office, but would benefit from more space. The college which was established in 1901 had already operated in three locations by 1906 and was now based at Duncombe Hall, again located in the Holloway area. There was also sanitarium operating near Caterham (with another in Leicester) and a school with 32 pupils in Kettering. To be more effective these institutions needed a more permanent and suitable location.

As is usual practice, a committee was formed to look into providing a suitable location for these institutions to thrive and promote the Lord's work. Taking into account Mrs. White's concern for the people of London to hear the message and her counsel to look for rural locations (she was still alive at this time) the brethren felt that they needed to find somewhere rural, near London, which had good rail connections with the city and so cast their net wide which led them to many locations.

Fortunately for them one property coming onto the market that year met all their criteria – the Stanborough Park estate with its large country house/mansion built some 20-30 years previously along with 75 acres of woodland and pastureland. It was ideally situated in a rural location near Watford which was on the London-Birmingham main line. It stretched from near the current 'Dome Roundabout' to Sheepcot Lane and west to the Kingswood Farm Estate - of which more in a future article.

On visiting they were impressed by its country location, surrounded by trees and with pasture land for grazing, a mansion house which would be suitable premises for the college and ample space to build a food factory and publishing house. Running along its boundary was the Watford-St.

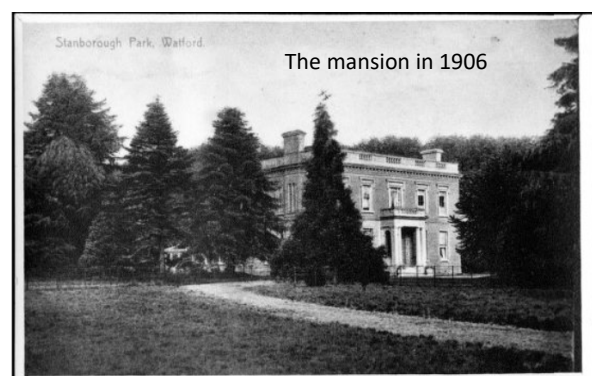
Albans road and a railway branch line to Watford Junction was within walking distance. It didn't take long for them to appreciate its merits and a letter from the committee stated,

'We visited the property about ten days ago. Much had been told us of the natural beauty of Stanborough Park and now we can give no higher praise than to say it exceeded even our anticipation..... The acres of wood surround on several sides the cleared portion of the estate, so that a spirit of quietness and restfulness will always pervade the grounds.'

The contract was signed immediately after Christmas that year. Things clearly moved fast in those days when planning permission was not part of the scheme of things and construction of the food factory and publishing house began immediately.

By October both were occupied and functioning with it being remarked that staff working in the publishing house were able to look out of the windows to see a vista of fields and pasture land stretching ahead for many miles unlike the limited view they experienced in their North London premises. The college students moved into the mansion in September, relocating from Duncombe Hall in North London.

Although not completed, everything was sufficiently advanced for a dedication service of Stanborough Park and its institutions to be held on 28th October, 1907 when some 200 people crowded into the packing room of the food factory – the largest room available on the estate. During the service an account of the search for a suitable location was given along with an address likening the occasion to the dedication of Solomon's temple and outlining the seven supporting pillars of the Adventist faith.



* Information for this article was obtained from the Centenary Edition of the Messenger, Vol. 12/22 of 12/11/2007 and The Missionary Worker 1907 Vol. 11/ 21, 22



This photo of the Granose factory was taken by Agnes Poulton about 50 years later and has the addition of an outside staircase with the building below used as a shop for the factory produce.

The photo of The Stanborough Press below was also taken by her around the same time but was essentially unchanged from 1907.

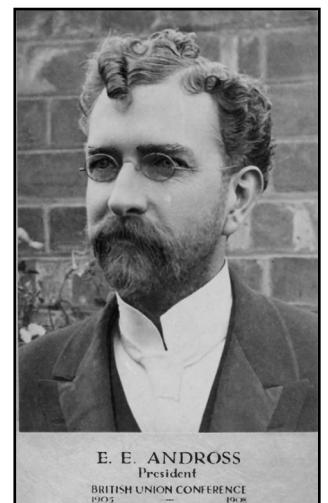
Below is a summary of the occasion by Pastor E. E. Andross**, the BUC President, writing in 'The Missionary Worker' (forerunner of 'The Messenger'), Vol. 11, Nos. 21, 22

For some time we had been looking forward to this occasion with much anxiety and many had worked faithfully to get everything in readiness as nearly as possible. But with all the efforts that were put forth, the grounds immediately surrounding the new buildings, were not in such a state of readiness as we had hoped they would be, due to unavoidable deals (delays?). The last few hours many willing hands were employed to arranging the assembly room while chairs and improvised seats had been provided. The packing room was crowded to its utmost capacity, and the doors into the shipping room were thrown open, and all its available space was occupied, besides the standing room near the main entrance and on the landing being filled with attentive listeners.

... the material buildings with their equipment, and the beautiful estate with its secluded places under the wide-spreading branches of the stately forest trees, inviting the child of God to communion with his Maker, were solemnly dedicated to God and His service, while a specific blessing of Heaven was sought that every part might be counted as sacred to the work of the Third Angel's Message, and that the soul, body, and spirit of everyone who is called to labour in connection with the work that centres here, in its general management, the education of labourers, the preparation of the printed page, or the manufacture of health foods, might be wholly surrendered to God moment by moment, that His purpose in the establishment of this centre for the Union Conference may be fully accomplished.



****Elmer Andross**, right, (1868-1950) was born in Oregon and was President of the British Union Conference (1905-1908) at the time Stanborough Park was purchased. He was an evangelist,



administrator, educator, missionary and president of many different conferences. He returned to America in 1908 in view of the deterioration of his wife's health in the damp British climate!

- His great-grandson, Robert Folkenberg, became General Conference President in 1990.

➤ **THE BIG DEBATE: SHOULD ADVENTISTS CELEBRATE CHRISTMAS?**

There are some members in this country who feel that Adventists celebrating Christmas is wrong – we don't know the date of Christ's birth and its timing co-incides with the ancient, pagan, practice of celebrating the winter solstice. According to Gyles Brandreth* it was Pope Julius 1 around AD 350 who stipulated recognition of 25th of December as 'Christ's birthday' as it was the Dies Natalis Invicti Solis – the Birthday of the Unconquered Sun, dedicated to Mithras, God of Light and Attis, the Phrygian sun god.

However, Mrs. White saw no harm in celebrating Christmas although she drew attention to the fact that we should use giving wisely and remember the financial needs of the church. She also suggested denominational books that could be given as gifts.

<https://whiteestate.org/egacy/issues-christmas-html/>

gives an easier on the eye version of the compilation of her articles on the subject taken from the Review and Herald.

Some extracts appear here.

*Gyles Brandreth:
The Joy of Lex
Fontana 1987

Holiday Gifts

The holiday season is fast approaching with its interchange of gifts, and old and young are intently studying what they can bestow upon their friends as a token of affectionate remembrance. It is pleasant to receive a gift, however small, from those we love. It is an assurance that we are not forgotten, and seems to bind us to them a little closer.

Brethren and sisters, while you are devising gifts for one another, I would remind you of our heavenly Friend, lest you should be unmindful of His claims. Will He not be pleased if we show that we have not forgotten Him? Jesus, the Prince of Life, gave all to bring salvation within our reach. . .He suffered even unto death, that He might give us eternal life.

While urging upon all the duty of first bringing their offerings to God, I would not wholly condemn the practice of making Christmas and New Years gifts to our friends. It is right to bestow upon one another tokens of love and remembrance if we do not in this forget God, our best friend. We should make our gifts such as will prove a real benefit to the receiver. I would recommend such books as will be an aid in understanding the word of God, or that will increase our love for its precepts. Provide something to be read during these long winter evenings. . . .

You that have means, who have been in the habit of making donations to your relatives and friends until you are at a loss to know what to invent that will be new and interesting to them, seek to put your ingenuity to the test, as well as your influence, to see how much means you may gather to advance the work of the Lord. Let your skill and your capacities be employed to make the coming Christmas one of intense interest, paying your addresses to the God of heaven in willing, grateful offerings. Follow no longer the world's customs. Make a break here, and see if this Christmas cannot show thousands of dollars flowing into the treasury, that God's storehouse may not be empty.

We are now nearing the close of another year, and shall we not make these festal days opportunities in which to bring to God our offerings? I cannot say sacrifices, for we shall only be rendering to God that which is His already, and which He has only intrusted to us till He shall call for it. God would be well pleased if on Christmas, each church would have a Christmas tree on which shall be hung offerings, great and small, for these houses of worship.* Letters of inquiry have come to us asking, Shall we have a Christmas tree? Will it not be like the world? We answer, You can make it like the world if you have a disposition to do so, or you can make it as unlike the world as possible. There is no particular sin in selecting a fragrant evergreen, and placing it in our churches; but the sin lies in the motive which prompts to action, and the use which is made of the gifts placed upon the tree.

The tree may be as tall and its branches as wide as shall best suit the occasion; but let its boughs be laden with the golden and silver fruit of your beneficence, and present this to Him as your Christmas gift. Let your donations be sanctified by prayer, and let the fruit upon this consecrated tree be applied towards removing the debts from our houses of worship at Battle Creek, Michigan, and Oakland, California.

➤ **THE LAST WORD:**

- Christ was one child who knew more than his parents yet he obeyed them.
- Some people ask the Lord to guide them and then grab the steering wheel.

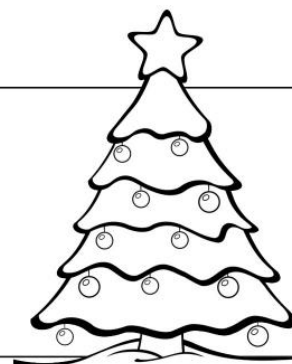
APPENDIX: two Christmas-themed pages for the children

R	U	D	O	L	P	H	C	I	S	B	N	S	F	K
M	E	R	R	Y	P	S	O	C	T	M	O	M	B	L
H	N	Y	X	N	O	L	O	I	O	I	R	I	T	C
V	A	O	I	Z	L	E	K	C	C	S	T	C	G	R
T	C	A	T	M	E	D	I	L	K	T	H	A	I	J
M	I	R	A	C	L	E	E	E	I	L	V	N	F	L
J	D	G	X	G	Y	H	S	S	N	E	F	E	T	G
Y	L	Z	S	J	X	X	A	H	G	T	R	S	S	G
I	T	I	N	S	E	L	J	P	O	O	O	F	C	D
P	I	I	R	K	Z	B	J	X	P	E	S	L	B	H
M	C	E	L	E	B	R	A	T	E	Y	T	U	E	A
G	R	E	E	T	I	N	G	S	W	U	Y	M	A	D
D	E	C	E	M	B	E	R	C	A	N	D	Y	C	D
P	R	E	S	E	N	T	S	L	I	G	H	T	S	S
J	T	N	Q	P	L	P	I	J	R	Z	R	U	T	V

presents
canes
candy
gifts
mistletoe
December
stocking

Frosty
miracle
lights
greetings
Rudolph
cookies
happy

sled
icicles
North
merry
Pole
celebrate
tinsel



Now try this one

Break the code using the information below. Find each coded letter on the top row, and read down to break the code.

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z
Y	X	E	O	A	J	N	W	K	C	S	V	G	Q	P	F	M	Z	H	I	U	D	B	L	R	T

JSYTKZQEK TK VCJCQWCY 25ZS.

T EQ XDDITGM PDYHEYV ZD JSYTKZQEK.

JSYTKZQEK TK KDDG.

SELC E MDDV JSYTKZQEK.

HSEZ VTV ADU MCZ PDY JSYTKZQEK?



Some of the many notable achievements of John Arthur whose funeral took place in Crieff on 29 November 2021

ADVENTIST NEWS NETWORK



General Conference
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John SurrIDGE/ANN Staff
19 June 2006

Britain: Nation Honours Former Humanitarian Leader With Major Award

John Arthur (seen here in Kosovo), received the prestigious Order of the British Empire for his work as director of the Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA) in the Trans-European region. [Photos: ANN file]

Seventh-day Adventist Pastor John Arthur recently retired after 45 years of denominational service which included 11 years as executive director of the Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA), has been given his country's top honour for public service, the Order of the British Empire.

This is not the first national honour Arthur has received. In 1994, Albania's then-President, Dr. Sali Berisha, presented Arthur with the country's highest civilian award, the Order of Mother Teresa, in recognition of his humanitarian services.

Arthur was listed as a recipient of the British award, known as the OBE, in The Queen's Birthday Honours List, which is drawn up by the national government of British Prime Minister Tony Blair. According to the official Web site of the British monarchy, King George V established the Order in 1918. Today it "is the order of chivalry of British democracy. Valuable service is the only criterion for the award, and the Order is now used to reward service in a wide range of useful activities."

Useful activities would certainly describe John Arthur's life. Following a four-year stint as president of the Adventist church in Britain, he headed ADRA in the church's Trans-European region, based in St. Albans, England. During these years he was responsible for coordinating millions of dollars worth of humanitarian aid, dispatching emergency supplies and initiating numerous development projects throughout Europe, the Middle East and Northeast Africa.

Not content to remain behind his desk, Arthur made many visits to countries where ADRA funds were sent. Frequently, he put his own life at risk when, with several willing volunteers from the area, he delivered huge amounts of aid into Albania, Bosnia, Croatia and Serbia, at the height of the civil war in the Balkans.

When the Bosnian capital, Sarajevo, was cut off from the outside world for three years, ADRA was a major player in distributing food, clothing, medicines and hospital supplies to thousands of desperate people. The agency even operated the city's post office during the darkest days of the conflict. Two of its 103 volunteers were killed in action.

Arthur was also active in publicizing and promoting ADRA's work at home. Many local schoolchildren will recall how Arthur, accompanied by BBC Television News Correspondent, Bill Hamilton, visited their schools and asked for help, particularly for the children of Albania. At the

time, the infant mortality rate in this country was more than four times higher than the rest of Europe and some babies were dying, weighing a pound less at six months than when they were born. Moved by the plight of these innocent victims of war several local schools got together and raised enough money to buy life-saving respirator/ventilators for each of the country's maternity hospitals.

Arthur's role with ADRA has also taken him to Afghanistan, Pakistan, Kashmir, and Sudan. It was here he had an amazing escape when local tribesmen wielding submachine guns attacked the vehicle in which he was travelling.

Nominations for the Queen's Birthday Honours are carefully vetted and researched, and those who eventually receive the honours have to come very highly recommended. Although we do not know the full details of how Arthur's nomination was dealt with, a number of high profile individuals spoke on his behalf. Among these were: Sarah, Duchess of York, who is highly involved in charity work; comedy actor Sir Norman Wisdom, who travelled to Albania with John Arthur and formally opened an ADRA warehouse there; Pavli Qesku, the former Albanian Ambassador to the UK; and Adventist Pastor Ralph Watts, ADRA president for 16 years; and leaders of several other aid agencies.

One of Arthur's foremost supporters has been Bill Hamilton, who first met him in connection with a report he was preparing for BBC Television about the deplorable conditions in Albania in the early nineties.

"ADRA was conducting a feasibility study regarding the urgent need for locally-produced food for babies," he recalls, "bearing in mind that Albania had the highest infant-mortality rate in Europe at that time. Subsequently, I saw ADRA deliver countless tons of aid to the most vulnerable in Europe's poorest country. Later I did some additional filming relating to the agency's £20 million (US\$37 million) aid package for the people of Kosovo in 1999. Projects included the renovation of 400 school buildings, the cleaning of 2,000 contaminated water-wells, the vaccination of 40,000 cattle, the installation of wood stoves into hundreds of homes, and the re-establishment of a children's dental service."



Hamilton added, "I have also accompanied John to dozens of schools throughout Britain to increase awareness regarding the needs of the under-privileged and the disenfranchised. What a thrill it was to see children as young as four engaging in all sorts of fund-raising activities to help their unfortunate counterparts. One school in High Wycombe raised no less than £16,000 (approximately US\$30,000) for respirator-ventilators which directly saved many lives."

"I have seen John appealing to a large [European Union] sub-committee in Brussels on behalf of the needy, negotiating with prime ministers regarding cooperation agreements, and liaising with the leaders of other agencies to ensure that the delivery of aid is well coordinated."

On hearing the news about his award Arthur said, "This is the mother of all surprises, and really it is a tribute to the marvellous international team with which I have been privileged to work. Their unflagging and sacrificial efforts in the most desperate circumstances have to be seen to be believed."

Arthur is writing a memoir about his travels to 106 countries around the globe.

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- The official news service of the Trans-European Division of the Seventh-day Adventist Church

Fundraising dream completes a new school in Albania

14 January 2016 St Albans, England [Victor Hulbert]

Twenty-five years on from his initial visit to the former totalitarian state of Albania, Pastor John Arthur, a now retired director of the Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA) both in the UK and later the Trans-European Division, sits comfortably in his wheel-chair, rejoicing that a lifetime dream has been achieved. He is also a little surprised, and maybe embarrassed, that a

newly rebuilt school in a remote mountain village is now called the John Arthur School.



Vrap is a small village some 38km south of the Albanian capital, Tirana. Already retired but still active on behalf of the country, John visited there in 2010 and discovered a run-down building that pupils could only access via a gaping hole in an external wall. He says, "It was just like a scene from the Middle Ages, totally unacceptable for any European country in the 21st century!" He determined to raise

funds back in Britain to facilitate a desperately-needed upgrade.

Things were not so straightforward for him as with previous ADRA projects. On his return home, he developed septicaemia and double pneumonia. This led to a severe stroke and then a long and slow path to a partial recovery. But John is not a man to give up easily. Despite being limited to a wheelchair and only able to type with one finger, he has not stopped fund-raising and PLANNING.

With strong family support, and encouragement from former BBC TV reporter, Bill Hamilton, funds were raised and just before Christmas Bill, together with Maureen Kennedy of the Herts. Women's Institute, delivered educational equipment and school uniforms to the totally refurbished school.

Bill and John had first met in Albania where a combined passion to improve the lives of this impoverished nation meant that their combined skills in journalism and fund-raising have led to many successful ADRA projects over the years. As Bill delivered supplies to the school, his mind also went back over the years, noting the change and difference that the many members of the ADRA team have made. Watch his full video report:

Hashmet Biba, the man in charge of the building project, is just one of at least 100 individuals who have been attracted to the Seventh-day Adventist Church as a result of ADRA's humanitarian influence. Many thousands more have had their lives changed for the better.

ADRA's work may have started in Albania 25 years ago. However, the work it does today is still essential in changing lives and providing hope.

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Retired ADRA Director Restores Rural School in Albania

By Victor Hulbert, [Trans-European Division](#)

John Arthur doesn't let double pneumonia or a severe stroke stop him from fulfilling a lifetime dream.

Twenty-five years after his first visit to Albania, John Arthur sits comfortably in his wheelchair, rejoicing that a lifetime dream has been achieved. He is also a little surprised, and maybe embarrassed, that a newly rebuilt school in a remote mountain village in the former totalitarian state is now called the John Arthur School.

Arthur discovered the run-down school in Vrap, a small village some 25 miles (40 kilometres) south of Albania's capital, Tirana, in 2010, about 15 years after he started visiting the country as director of the Adventist Development and Relief Agency in Britain and later the Trans-European Division, which coordinates the Seventh-day Adventist Church's work in 22 countries, including Albania.

Arthur, already retired when he found the school, was surprised to see students could only enter the building through a gaping hole in an outside wall. "It was just like a scene from the Middle Ages, totally unacceptable for any European country in the 21st century," Arthur said.

He determined to enlist ADRA's assistance to raise funds back in Britain to facilitate a desperately needed upgrade. But his hopes did not materialize as simply as with previous ADRA projects. On his return home, Arthur developed septicaemia and double pneumonia. This led to a severe stroke and then a long and slow path to a partial recovery. Arthur, however, was not a man to give up easily. Despite being limited to a wheelchair and only able to type with one finger, he pressed ahead with fundraising and planning.



The funds were finally raised with strong family support and encouragement from a former BBC television reporter, Bill Hamilton. Incidentally, Arthur first met Hamilton in Albania, and their mutual passion to improve lives in the impoverished country meant that their combined skills in journalism and fundraising resulted in many successful ADRA projects over the years. In late December, Hamilton delivered educational equipment and school uniforms to the totally refurbished school.

Thousands of Albanian lives have been changed through ADRA's humanitarian work, including Hashmet Biba, the man who oversaw the refurbishment of the Vrap school.

ADRA supports numerous programs in Albania. The organization runs a full health program from its local headquarters in Tirana. It also works with Roma families, educates people on human trafficking, and assists national education authorities in reducing violence and bullying in schools. Over the Christmas holidays, ADRA workers distributed Christmas parcels to Roma children and others in need in cooperation with ADRA's offices in Austria, Germany, and the Netherlands.

While ADRA entered Albania 25 years ago, its work continues to change lives and provide hope through the efforts of people like Arthur. Just ask the children at the John Arthur School.