WHITTAKER

KG 11/2/10

Dave

Passed away at The Kent and Canterbury hospital on Sunday, January 31, 2010 aged 80 years. Much loved husband of Dot who died in 1994. They were both enthusiastic supporters of Wildlife and Nature conservation.

Funeral service to take place at Barham Crematorium on Wednesday, February 24, 2010 at 12 noon. Donations, if desired to either The Lord Whisky Sanctuary Fund or Macmillan Cancer Support c/o C W Lyons and Son Ltd, 70 Military Road, Canterbury, Kent, CT1 1ND, Tel: 01227 463508.

E ARCHIVES

raised the school to a position of outstanding success and efficiency."

50 years ago

When it was reported at Bridge-Blean RDC meeting that the six houses being built at Bridge had been allocated to various applicants, Cllr A. Taylor said that when he read the committee's recommendation he was flabbergasted to see that one of the houses had been given to somebody outside the parish. To think that with only six two-bedroomed houses they could not all be allocated to Bridge people – it was the perfect scandal!

OBITUARIES

'Tommy was one of a kind'

by Gerry Warren gwarren@thekmgroup.co.uk

WITH jobs including milkman, pub landlord and taxi driver during his life, Tommy Frier made lots of friends over the years in the Canterbury area.

And many of them are expected to pay their respects to the 68year-old at his funeral at Barham Crematorium next Wednesday.

Mr Frier, who used to run the Leopard's Head pub in Canterbury, died from cancer last Thursday at his home in New Dover Road with his wife, Deidre at his bedside. They had been married for 47 years. Born



in Petham, Mr Frier later left Chartham School to work at an upholstery firm in Canterbury. But unhappy in that job, he decided to he soon join Abbots Dairies as a milkman and built up a round delivering to 500 customers in the Bridge and Bekesbourne area, often with Deidre on the float to help him.

Cricketer

He was also a keen cricketer in his younger days, playing for Chartham and Kenfield at Petham.

He decided to join the pub trade in 1984 when he and Deidre became the landlord and landlady of the Leopard's Head in Military Road, which is now a pizza takeaway.

During their tenure of the pub, Mr Frier helped run the Canterbury Dart League and they raised £22,000 for charity through raffles and other activities.

He later drove a taxi in Canterbury for several years until he became ill after developing cancer of the bladder.

Mrs Frier said: "He was a real people person and made many friends through his different jobs. People used to say he was one of a kind."

He also leaves a son Nigel and and a daughter Beverley and six grandchildren.

His funeral is at 4pm on Wednesday.

FRIER

Tommy

Passed away peacefully at home on February 4, 2010 aged 68

A much loved husband, son, brother and brotherin-law. Dad, grandad and great grandad.

Funeral to take place at Barham Crematorium 4pm on Wednesday February 17, 2010. Family flowers only please. If desired donations can be made via A Welch and Sons 3-4 Burgate, Canterbury, to either Pilgrims Hospice, Macmillan Nurses or Marie Curie. Newsdesk: 01227 475985

Appeal to stop homes development

ENVIRONMENTAL campaigners in Bridge are appealing to the city council to withdraw planning permission for an affordable housing scheme on a greenfield site in the village because a more suitable location has become available.

The scheme at Brickfields, which is supported by the parish council, is for eight affordable houses, managed by Southern Housing.

Environmentalist Emily Shirley says the city council should now withdraw planning permission because of the new availability of a brownfield site in the village.

"It seems to me the former Coral oil depot in the village which just gone on the market would be a perfectly adequate location and save a greenfield site," she said.

City council spokesman Rob Davies said: "The development control committee resolved last October to grant planning permission subject to the applicants entering into a legal agreement to ensure the housing is retained as 'affordable' and payment of development contributions for transport.

"The legal agreement is in the process of being finalised, and when it is signed, the planning permission will

be issued."

'Friend's name was used to launder cash from brothel'

A MAN whose identity was hijacked by an alleged pair of brothel keepers told a jury he had never employed one of them or had any connection with the spa and sauna concerned.

Scarletts at the Joseph Wilson business park in Whitstable was raided by police in October 2007 and officers arrested a woman who claimed she was just a receptionist.

But the prosecution at Canterbury Crown Court say Lynn Amos Brown, from Bridge, was in fact a part owner of the brothel along with Sean Butler, from Sheppey.

Both are now on trial denying various charges alleging brothel-keeping and laundering the proceeds via fraudulent mortgage applications. On trial with them is Rachel Randall, from Herne Bay, who also denies fraud and transferring criminal property.

Prosecutor Danny Moore told the jury that when officers searched Unit 13A, which traded as Scarletts spa and sauna, they found a letter from Canterbury council addressed to a Mr Wallace, a one-time friend of Sean Butler. His name had been registered with BT as a contact for the brothel and his job and business were used in fraudulent mortgage applications when it was claimed he had employed Mr Butler.

Giving evidence, Melvyn Wallace said he ran Hiredrive UK at Vicarage Road, Gillingham, with about 20 vans, some cars and people carriers.

His workers were self-employed and were paid the minimum wage by cash or cheque but he had never employed Sean Butler.

They met socially in 2005 and became friends. Mr Butler would come to his premises. "He was a businessman but did not really tell me how he was employed. I have never paid him any wage," said Mr Wallace.

At one time they had both been looking for a place to stay so had shared a house in Halling, paying everything 50-50.

He said there were a couple of times when Mr Butler helped him



Unit 13A, the site of the alleged brothel at the Joseph Wilson Business Park, Whitstable Picture: Barry Duffield PD1665940

Defendants deny all charges

On trial denying a total of 16 charges are Lynn Amos-Brown, 62, of High Street, Bridge; Sean Butler, 42, of Rushenden Road, Queenborough, and Rachel Randall, 34, of Herne Avenue, Herne Bay.

Lynn Amos-Brown and Sean Butler jointly deny keeping a brothel for prostitution.

Lynn Amos-Brown-further denies two allegations of obtaining a money transfer by deception; fraud; three offences of acquisition, use and possession of criminal property; controlling prostitution and keeping a brothel for prostitution. Sean Butler denies three charges of obtaining money transfers by deception, fraud and acquisition of criminal property.

Rachel Randall denies two offences of fraud and transferring criminal property.

The prosecution allege the services were advertised in newspapers owned by Kent Regional News and Media, owners of the Whitstable Times and Herne Bay Times, among others.

The KM Group which owns this newspaper, does not accept this type of advertising.

out in the office as he had a good head for business and was there to analyse bits and pieces, but he was not paid.

Mr Wallace said he gave Mr Butler a cheque for rent at Halling and used several cheques to repay a £2,500 loan from Mr Butler written on Hiredrive's business account.

He said he did not know Lynn Amos-Brown or anybody called Jane Spencer – a name allegedly used by Ms Amos-Brown.

"I have no connection with Unit 13A and have never paid any rent to Mr Butler," said Mr Wallace.

He said he had never paid for a TV licence or paid for a phone bill registered at those premises and was not registered to pay council tax at that address.

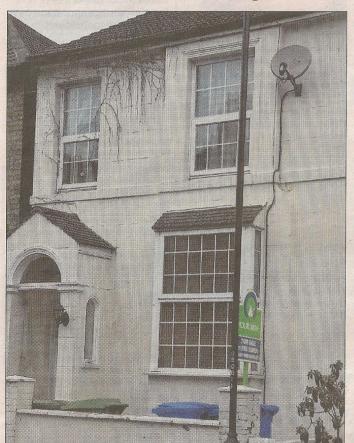
It was false that he paid Mr Butler £50,000 salary with £20,000 bonus as claimed in one of the mortgage applications allegedly made by Mr Butler.

Mr Wallace said he had no part in the mortgage application.

The trial continues.

DEFENDANT WAS IN HOUSE EVERY DAY FOR SEVERAL HOURS, WOMAN TELLS TRIAL

Neighbour's disgust at 'blatancy of brothel'



The 'blatant' brothel at 82 Ospringe Road, Faversham

EXCLUSIVE

A WOMAN told a jury of her revulsion at the blatancy of a brothel operating near her Faversham home.

She said she alerted the police as early as March 2009 about her suspicions involving 82 Ospringe Road but it wasn't until July that police forced their way in and arrested a woman believed to be the madam.

Lynn Amos-Brown from Bridge is currently on trial at Canterbury Crown Court accused of brothel-keeping.

Also in the dock is Sheppey man Sean Butler who was allegedly involved with Amos-Brown in running a brothel in Whitstable and both are accused of laundering the proceeds.

The witness gave her evidence from behind screens as she told how she knew number 82 had been unoccupied for sometime then suddenly a woman appeared by car every morning and within an hour or so, a man would arrive and stay for a short time.

A younger woman had also arrived and men would come and go until the early evening.

Wan internati

eral hours.

She said the Faversham police had been marvellous but she was annoyed it went on for so long. She denied jumping to the wrong conclusion out of frustration and anger.

"I hated the blatancy of it, it was dreadful," she said.

The trial continues.



The alleged site of Scarletts brothel at the Joseph Wilson business park, Whitstable PD166594

Case dropped against third defendant

A THIRD defendant, Rachel Randall, 34, of Herne Avenue, Herne Bay was also on trial with Amos-Brown and Butler but the case against her is no longer before the jury.

Judge James O'Mahony directed the jury to find her not guilty on a charge of fraud, alleging she had made a false mortgage application in February 2007.

A second charge alleging she transferred criminal property - cash - was withdrawn from the jury.

Amos-Brown, 62, of High Street, Bridge, and Butler, 42, of Rushenden Road, Queenborough, jointly deny keeping a brothel used for prostitution between May 2004 and April 2008.

Amos-Brown has been cleared of two allegations that she obtained money transfers by deception on the Judge's direction.

She continues to deny one allegation of fraud; three offences of acquisition, use and possession of criminal property; controlling prostitution; and keeping a brothel for prostitution.

Butler denies three charges of obtaining money transfers by deception, fraud and acquisition of criminal property.

'Keen interest'

She described the older woman as having dyed ginger hair with a yellow flash across the front which 'stuck out like a sore thumb' said the witness – a description of Lynn Amos-Brown.

"I was taking a keen interest because I have lived there for 36 years and need to know what is going on in my street," she said.

The day of the police raid, June 15, she saw an Asian man arrive, stop at the front door and talk on his mobile.

When officers arrived soon after, they found the man in an upstairs bedroom wearing only boxer shorts with a woman wearing just panties.

Questioned by Terence Woods, for Amos-Brown, the witness denied the defendant was only there two or three times saying she was there every day for sev-

Car hire boss denies involvement

EARLIER in the trial the jury heard from Melvyn Wallace, owner of Hiredrive UK – a Medway-based company Butler claimed to have worked for in a mortgage application.

The Crown alleges the accused hijacked Mr Wallace's identity to run a brothel called Scarletts Spa and Sauna at the Joseph Wilson business park in Whitstable.

It closed after a police raid in October 2007.

Mr Wallace was recalled at the request of the defence and Louis French, for Butler, put it to Mr Wallace that he had lied in his

evidence and it was he who had acquired Unit 13a at the business park from where Scarletts operated, not Butler.

"Complete and utter rubbish," said Mr Wallace.

He denied entering into a tenancy agreement or employing Butler at his Medway company.

Mr Wallace said he knew Butler and regarded him as an astute businessman, but never paid him any wages.

The Crown says false pay slips and tax payment details were manufactured to support Butler's mortgage applications and it was put to Mr Wallace that he had created them.

Mr Wallace said: "I give my accounts to an accountant and would not know how to go about forging employment documents.

"I do not know anything about Unit 13a.

"If I had employed a manager at Hiredrive it would have been at the going rate of £350 a week," he said.

Butler had claimed to be paid £70,000 a year by Hiredrive – a figure Mr Wallace said the company could not have afforded to pay.

COURT TOLD PROCEEDS FROM PROSTITUTION WERE LAUNDERED THROUGH MORTGAGES

'I had no idea my business unit was used as brothel'

EXCLUSIVE

A MAN accused of brothel keeping and fraud told a jury he was unaware a brothel was operating from a unit he owned at Whitstable and mortgage applications allegedly laundering the brothel's proceeds were not fraudulent.

Sean Butler, 42, from Sheppey, was giving evidence at Canterbury Crown Court where he has been on trial with Canterbury woman Lynn Amos-Brown, who denies similar charges. She has not given evidence.

Butler said he and his coaccused had at one time been in a relationship but split up in 2004 although they remained friends.

He worked with Lynx Taxis in Canterbury before setting up Tower Bookmakers with Amos-Brown and had shops and pitches at various racecourses.

He was declared bankrupt in 2002 but it was discharged in 2005 and at the time of various mortgage applications he was no longer a bankrupt.

The allegations say Butler not only failed to declare he had once been bankrupt but also gave false details about Butler. his employment in the money loan applications.

While bankrupt he worked as a window cleaner and told the court he could earn up to £40,000 a year working full-time.



Sean Butler and Lynn Amos-Brown at Canterbury Crown Picture: Paul Dennis PD1672736 Court

The defendants set up a company called Langdon Trading Services in 1999 which acquired Unit 13A as an investment.

Butler said one-time friend Melvyn Wallace wanted to rent it in 2002 but did not say what for and he paid Mr Butler a £3,000 deposit and regular rent in cash every month.

In 2006 the unit was transferred solely to Mr Butler. Mr Wallace had the tenancy and made improvements and did the decoration but there was no discussion about use, said

Mr Wallace told the jury he knew nothing about Scarletts and had no idea it was a brothel and said he had never employed Butler at his Medway firm, Hiredrive UK, although Butler said he worked as a manager at Hiredrive for £70,000 a year.

Amos-Brown, she went to work in Guernsey but when she returned, she took a job working with a woman called Sharon at the unit. Amos-Brown told police after her arrest that she worked as a receptionist and was paid a

Butler said he wanted to buy a flat at The Coach Yard, Maidstone, to live in and he gave his occupation as a hire firm manager.

He explained the situation about his bankruptcy to the lenders in his application for £173,700 and at the time he was dealing with a mortgage broker, did not believe he was bankrupt.

The Crown claimed employ-

ment documents submitted to support the mortgage application were forged, but Butler said he believed they were genuine.

He wanted a loan of £66,000 to buy Unit 13A for investment and he denied failing to inform the lenders he had once been declared bankrupt.

When he applied to borrow £105,000 to buy property at Manor Road, Queenborough, he gave his employment details as a manager at Scarletts Contract Hire earning £36,400 which he said was genuine and he had no intention to deceiving potential lenders. When the mortgage was granted, he kept up the payments.

He had acquired a house at Sturry for investment pur-After Butler split up from poses and when he wanted to start a business in Maidstone, he applied for £101,970 and again gave his employment details as manager at Scarletts Contract Hire on £49,000 a vear.

He said when he was bankrupt he worked as a window cleaner then between 2005 and 2008 had a salary and income from property rentals.

Mortgages for properties bought on a buy to let basis were repaid by rentals and Butler said he totally denied the allegations that he was involved in the management of a brothel and used the proceeds of crime.

He had no previous convictions for dishonesty.

The trial continues.

Charges

Lynn Amos-Brown, 62 of High Street, Bridge, and Sean Butler, 42. of Rushenden Road, Queenborough, jointly deny keeping a brothel used for prostitution between May 2004 and April 2008.

Mr Butler denies three charges of obtaining money transfers by deception, fraud and acquisition of criminal property.

Ms Amos-Brown denies one allegation of fraud, three offences of acquisition, use and possession of criminal property, controlling prostitution and keeping a brothel for prostitution.

Fraudsters 'dishonest and resourceful'

EXCLUSIVE

TWO brothel keepers who laundered their ill-gotten gains through fraudulent mortgage applications have been jailed for four-and-a-half years.

The pair were branded "utterly dishonest and resourceful fraudsters" by the sentencing judge, who said evidence against them was overwhelming.

Lynn Amos-Brown and Sean Butler together ran Scarletts Spa and Sauna at a Whitstable business park until a police raid in October 2007.

But two years later Amos-Brown set up another brothel in Faversham, an aggravating feature of her conduct, said Judge James O'Mahony at Canterbury Crown Court.

He said they were professional and clever criminals, adding: "The evidence disclosed persistent criminality and greed for money over a period in excess of four years of organised crime.

"You do not get punished for having had your several weeks in court, but in your last desperate gamble you have lost any mitigation that could have come from facing up to reality and pleading guilty and showing some remorse, which you have not shown in any sense whatsoever."

They set up Scarletts Spa and Sauna at Unit 13A on the Joseph Wilson business park having set up an off-shore company, and took a professional and determined business-like approach to running it as a brothel, he said.

The judge accepted there was no coercion or excessive exploitation of the women working there, but it was a ruthless pursuit of money from organised crime.

The money was passed through accounts which made the accused "cash rich" then properties were acquired in Kent, paid for with mortgages obtained fraudulently. Judge O'Mahony accepted Amos-Brown was only involved in one mortgage application.

Aggravating

He said: "You carried on getting income from prostitution and ending up, as you sought to do, with a substantial property portfolio and considerable financial reward."

The fraud involved with Unit 13A involved the hijacking of the identity of a former friend of Butler's, Melvyn Wallace, which meant that in the event of being caught, the defendants had cover and could pretend it was someone else. "That is a particularly aggravating feature, the



Sean Butler and Lynn Amos-Brown have been jailed for four and a half years

judge said. In Butler's case it involved the clever forgery of documents, such as a tenancy agreement and a P60, to keep the "whole dishonest show" going.

This involved ultimately more than a quarter of a million pounds going into Lynn Amos-Brown's account and almost £100,000 going into Butler's accounts, which showed joint venture.

Judge O'Mahony said: "It was claimed that some of that money was legitimate proceeds of property rental, but you declared hardly a penny of that to the revenue and in my judgement a vast propor-

tion of the money disposed of in cash in round figures, which is significant, was the proceeds of prostitution."

He said Amos-Brown was less involved in mortgage fraud, but her involvement with 82 Ospringe Road, Faversham, meant he would treat them both equally.

Judge O'Mahony said: "There is no relevant history of criminality. Although relevant, I do not punish you for not having paid hardly a penny piece of tax over the years and it may be matters of that kind will come home to roost in financial proceedings that will follow"



The building used as a brothel on the Joseph Wilson business park at Whitstable Picture: Barry Duffield PD1665940

'You carried on getting income from prostitution and ending up, as you sought to do, with a substantial property portfolio and considerable financial reward'

Premises was 'protected environment'

Terence Woods, for Amos-Brown, said she no longer had a portfolio of properties.

The building society concerned in her case had not lost money because the property was tenanted and the mortgage being paid.

But Amos-Brown was going to be hit very firmly in the pocket, he said. He said there was an easy relationship between her and the girls and no evidence of coercion, adding: "If premises were ever licensed, the sort of premises found at 13A would perhaps be the sort of premises that would be licensed. It was a protected environment, safer than prostitutes working independently, with some

regard for regulations and health."

The money in her bank accounts was easily traceable, not plied into other ventures with a view to disguising the proceeds of crime, he added.

He said Amos-Brown suffered depression and had been due for a hip replacement operation. She had lost two sons in road accidents.

Louis French, for Butler, said all the properties had been repossessed and he seemingly had no assets.

He was not in good health, having suffered heart attacks. Since his arrest there had been no subsequent allegations.



The house in Ospringe Road, Faversham, used as a brothel

Picture: Barry Duffield PD1665934

Charges the organisers faced

Lynn Amos-Brown, 62, of High Street, Bridge, and Sean Butler, 42, formerly of Rushenden Road, Queenborough, but now of no fixed address, were both convicted of keeping a brothel used for prostitution between May 2004 and April 2008 - Scarletts Spa and Sauna in Whitstable.

Butler was found guilty of three charges of obtaining money transfers by deception, fraud and acquisition of criminal property - a total of six offences.

Amos-Brown was convicted of one fraud, three offences of acquisition, use and possession of criminal property, and keeping a brothel for prostitution – relating to the Faversham brothel. The jury were discharged from giving a verdict on an allegation of controlling prostitution for gain against her.

Bridge would make road safer for pedestrians

THE recent critical letters about the new bridge over the A2 at Kingston have rather missed the point. Since the A2 was improved some years ago, it has become by stealth a virtual motorway.

It is used like a motorway but lacks the safety features of a proper motorway. There are no hard shoulders, some junctions are still sub-standard and only recently has another gap between the carriageways been closed to prevent right turns.

Perhaps the worst aspect is that pedestrians, cyclists, horses and even prams are allowed on this virtual motorway. These users are prohibited on a proper motorway, but here they can use it without even the benefit of a hard shoulder for protection.

Another major improvement after a vigorous local campaign was the flyover that replaced the traffic lights at the old Barham cross roads.

I don't recall any complaints when this bridge was built, so why now? Without this new bridge, the position is very dangerous.

People and children using the bus stop have to cross this motorway and wait on the narrow central reservation, standing between two fast lanes of traffic at speeds up to 100mph.

One day, with more improvements I've no doubt, this road will be designated the A2 (M) like some parts of the A1 (M) now, but until then this new bridge goes some way.

Robin Townsend, Railway Hill, Barham



Two men were seriously injured on the A2 near Canterbury

Picture: Paul Dennis PD1675799.

Two badly hurt as lorries collide

TWO men were seriously injured in a crash between two lorries on the A2 at Bridge.

Investigations into the accident on the coastbound carriageway were still taking place last night (Wednesday), with one man taken to the QEQM Hospital in Margate and the other airlifted to a London hospital.

Both men's injuries were described as very serious.

The vehicle they were travel18.2.2010

ling in appears to have collided with a stationary lorry and overturned. Firefighters from Canterbury, Faversham and Aylesham, along with the Maidstone-based urban search and rescue team responded to the scene at about 9.45am.

The road was closed in both directions, between the A2050 at Canterbury and the A260 at Denton, to allow for the Kent Air Ambulance to land

The Londonbound carriageway was reopened at about noon.

Queues stretched back coastbound as far as the A28 Thanington Road, while traffic was also diverted through Bridge and Wincheap.

Police were not expecting to reopen the coastbound carriage-way until 7pm last night, while highways officers assessed if the road needed resurfacing.

Regular news updates - www.kentishgazette.co.uk



ARCHAEOLOGY GROUP APPALLED AT CITY COUNCIL'S MONEY-SAVING SCHEMES

Public protest hopes to stop museum closures

by Gerry Warren gwarren@thekmgroup.co.uk

ONE of the city's most respected organisations has added its weight to the growing campaign to stop the planned closure of the Roman and Westgate Towers museums.

Members of Canterbury Archaeological Trust are said to be appalled at the proposals which are being recommended in the city council's budget to help save £3m.

It is urging people to join a public protest outside the Roman Museum in Butchery Lane at noon on Saturday in a show of strength against the plans.

Ridiculous

The council's Tory administration says it has to save money and insists key exhibits will still be displayed under one roof at the Museum of Canterbury in Stour Street.

Canterbury Archaeological Trust spokesman John Hammond, who is a part-time lecturer in archaeology at the University of Kent, says the protest has the backing of the trust's director, Paul Bennett.

He said: "We are extremely worried about these planned closures. It seems the council is unaware just how important these museums are to the city's

"We believe, that properly marketed, the museums could be viable.

Urging

"I have seen people trying to get into the Westgate Towers only to find it is shut because its opening hours have been cut to one day a week. It is ridiculous to argue it's not viable when it closed more often than not.

"We are urging people to turn out on Saturday in a show of solidarity against these closures

which we believe will be damaging to the city's history and economy.'

The planned closure has prompted a growing internet petition which already has nearly 2,500 signatures.

The Canterbury city guides have also written to the chief executive of the city council in

Chairman Richard Linforth says the Roman Museum is a valuable tourism asset to the city which should be better promoted.

He argues that the museum must stay where it is because is the site of the hugely important Roman pavement and water-

The demonstration is being supported by the Liberal Democrat group on the city council which will challenge the proposals at the full council budget-fixing meeting next Thursday.

Leader Alex Perkins said: "We will be recommending our own fully-funded proposals to show how these museums, and the one at Herne Bay, can be kept

What do you think? Write to the Kentish Gazette at Gazette House, 5-8 Boorman Way, Estuary View Business Park. Whitstable, CT5 3SE or email ke ntishqazette@thekmgroup.co.uk



The threatened Roman Museum in Butchery Lane, Canterbury Picture: Chris Davey PD1665714

Visitor attaction company linked to running of Roman site

IT has been revealed that the city council has had confidential discussions with a company that runs visitor attractions with a view to it taking over the Roman Museum.

Senior officers and councillors have met representatives of Continuum, the company which runs the Canterbury Tales in

St Margaret's Street and other attractions in Portsmouth. Oxford and Edinburgh.

No deal

It is an option under consideration which would reduce or remove the financial burden of the museum on the council while retaining the

museum in its present place. But council spokesman Rob Davies insisted the talks were at preliminary stages and no deal had been done.

He said: "We are looking at all the possible options and the museum is certainly not closing on April 1 as has been rumoured."

POWLER Norman George, FRCVS., Dip Bact., DVR

Loving father of Jane, Mary and their families.

Died peacefully on 15th January, aged 86, some days after a fall.

Cremation has taken place privately at Norman's request.

Donations if desired to Veterinary Benevolent Fund c/o C W Lyons & Son Ltd., 70 Military Road, Canterbury.

Thank You