

Old Manor Lodge, Halford, Shipston-on-Stour, Warwickshire, CV36 5B1  
Telephone: 01789-740877

April, 2009

Dear Chris,

Another 'round robin' to thank everyone who has sent cards, letters, telephoned and/or visited my father, Tony Deane-Drummond, in hospital during the last three months.

He has continued to make slow progress at the rehabilitation hospital, which he has found incredibly frustrating and difficult to comprehend. Like most of us, he felt he was invincible and indeed kept up the most unbelievable fitness record for someone of nearly 92 until his stroke in January.

The physiotherapists have been working with him and attempting to get him to walk again over the last few weeks. Unfortunately, his balance is so poor that he is unable to maintain his posture (falling either forwards, backwards or sideways). He also keeps crossing his feet over when trying to walk. He has difficulty remembering their instructions/advice for more than a few minutes. They have tried him with a zimmer frame but this was even more unsuccessful which is a pity as he might at least have recovered some level of independence if he could have mastered the use of it.

He has become known as the 'escapologist' by the other men in his ward (not surprising in view of his history!). He has made many attempts to get out of the end of the bed but ended up on the floor as a result. Fortunately, so far, no broken bones but the physiotherapist said right at the beginning that the more mobile he got the more at risk he would become of falling.

We have met the consultant clinical psychologist/neuropsychologist who discussed the CT scan report which showed the expected bleed on the right side of the brain with leakage to other parts. He also commented that the brain injury on the left side he suffered in Cyprus in 1956 meant that that part of the brain was unable to 'take over' any of the now lost function on the right side. His "immediate verbal memory is impaired with loss of mental flexibility and dyspraxia (difficulties in the production of novel and automatic movements) with markedly reduced cognitive functioning". All rather a lot of jargon but anyone medically inclined might be interested!

Having said all that, he appears well and certainly recognises all his old friends and is delighted to see anyone who visits. We have been able to take him outside in a wheelchair recently in the better weather which has been a nice change from the confines of the ward.

However, we now seem to have reached the end of the road as far as rehabilitation is concerned. We have been advised that he needs two people during the day and two people at night to cope with his needs and any care package he would need at home would be prohibitively expensive.

Therefore, at the moment, the decision has been made to transfer him to Alveston Leys Nursing Home, Kissing Tree Lane, Alveston, Stratford-upon-Avon, CV37 7QS. Telephone: 01789-204391. He will go there on Monday, 20<sup>th</sup> April. It has been an extremely stressful and sad conclusion to accept. As a nurse, I always thought I would be able to cope but I have to be realistic and know that I am not getting any younger myself (65 in 9 months time - help!). The family still hope that his slow improvement may continue so that alternative arrangements can be made in the future. He has been told he needs a long period of convalescence.

We should be very grateful if as many people as possible could visit him at Alveston Leys. We don't expect him to like it (or any other nursing home for that matter). His room is small but bright (important with his poor eyesight) and the gardens are lovely with plenty of ramps for wheelchairs. There is a second sitting room with a dining table on the lower ground floor where friends can have lunch with him if they wish (it needs booking in advance). It is quieter than the main dining room and should be easier for him to hear people talking to him.

Again, thank you all for all your support and love shown to me in particular. I appreciate it so much.

Kind regards

Shirley Carr (Mrs)

I tried to telephone you today but you were unavailable so am sending you a copy of my letter instead