

Alderman Sir Roger Cork DSc FCA FICM FIPA FICSA MSP

Sir Roger Cork, who was Chairman of the Board of Governors of the Foundation from 1991-1999 and Lord Mayor of London in 1996, died suddenly on 21 October 2002, at the age of 55, from a heart attack.

Sir Roger Cork, as his father before him, had a long and distinguished association with the City of London and St Dunstan's College. Educated at Uppingham School, his chosen career was in the field of finance and accountancy. After obtaining his specialist qualifications he joined the City Partnership which bore the family name. For the subsequent three decades until his retirement in 1999, he pursued an active business life earning for himself a reputation for his integrity, high principles, dogged determination and sheer hard work.

In addition to his demanding business life, he was actively involved in many aspects of the wider scene in the City. He held responsible positions with the City of London Branch of the Institute of Directors, the Society of Young Freemen, the Institute of Credit Management and the Society of Practitioners of Insolvency, to name but a few. Even after his retirement, many continued to benefit from his wisdom, guidance and knowledge based on long experience, since he remained active in the life of the City and his support of numerous charities.

He was made a Freeman of the City of London in 1972 and was elected as Alderman of the Ward of Tower in 1983. It was then that Sir Roger's association with St Dunstan's first began, as the Articles of the Foundation provide for the Alderman of the Ward of Tower to be a member of the Governing Body. In these positions - Alderman and Governor - he succeeded his father, Sir Kenneth Cork, who himself had given distinguished service to the college for some thirteen years.

Despite the heavy pressures on his time, particularly during the year in which he served as Lord Mayor, Sir Roger was tireless in promoting the best interests of the



college and fostering the ongoing links between the College and the City of its origin. As Chairman of the Governing Body, he guided us through a time of unprecedented development and change for the College and it was because of his leadership, drive, determination and encouragement that so much was achieved.

This Obituary would not be complete without mention of Sir Roger's wife, Barbara, who died from cancer in 1996. Barbara was also a staunch supporter of the College, constantly at Sir Roger's side giving encouragement, love and support. Sir Roger worked tirelessly to promote cancer research and during his busy mayoral year found time to raise more than £1.3 million, involving a sponsored cycle ride from John O'Groats to Land's End.

Memories of Roger Cork are inevitably selective and I very much appreciated his wise counsel and rock solid judgement when I was appointed Head in 1997. My wife, Sara, and I also enjoyed sampling the legendary Cork hospitality in his family home in Port Grimaud in France, followed by hair-raising rides on his jet-ski!

We will always cherish the memory of both Roger and Barbara and take this opportunity to extend our prayers and deepest sympathies to his three children, Christopher, Georgina and Melissa, and to his three grandchildren.

Ian Davies, Headmaster

As we go to press we learned the sad news of the death of John Russell. He joined the College shortly after the 2nd World War to teach art and subsequently became Head of Department. Many Old Dunstonians will recall his patience and enthusiasm in teaching them as well as his care and concern about their overall progress. Many colleagues will miss his friendship and humour. He will be remembered for being a 'true' gentleman. A fuller appreciation will appear in the next edition of the *Chronicle*.



Sir Roger Cork on a sponsored walk from St Dunstan's-in-the-East to Catford, November 20th 1994