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“A SURVIVAL PARTY”

In November 2008 the Warwickshire/Northamptonshire Air Ambulance airlifted me to Coventry Hospital by the following a fall out hunting which was subsequently diagnosed as two broken vertebrae in my neck.

I spent the next seven days immobilized on my back staring at a rather uninspiring hospital ceiling and this brought home to me how extremely lucky I had been.

Firstly, the friendly and highly efficient service provided by the Air Ambulance Crew was, at the time, not only very reassuring but also delivered me to full medical care without delay. Secondly, it gave me a chance to reflect on the fact that I had spent over 60 years being involved in, and enjoying a wide variety of Country Sports particularly during the last 40 years with the Warwickshire Hunt.

I decided I must do something, especially as I have been fortunate enough to enjoy a virtually complete recovery. I enclose an invitation for you to join us for a very informal “Drinks and Nibbles” at midday on Monday 30th August 2010 jointly in aid of the County Air Ambulance and the Countryside Alliance. It will be followed, if you would like to stay on, by a barbeque and pay bar and the closing stages of “Warwickshire’s Wimbledon” a tennis tournament in aid of the Countryside Alliance.

It may seem ironic for it to be in aid of these two organisations as, if I had not been Hunting I would not have needed the Air Ambulance! However I am convinced that the work and campaigning of the Countryside Alliance is essential to ensure that we, and more importantly our children and grandchildren, can continue to enjoy our wonderful countryside and the activities that have taken place within it for many generations.

I am pleased to be able to report that most of the costs of this party have already been underwritten and we have available, if the “summer” weather lets us down a large barn and/or tent.

I hope you will be able to join us and if not, any donation would of course be very gratefully received. Children are welcome and are any friends (under 16 free). Please spread the word. The more we can raise the more we can donate.

Ian McConnel

