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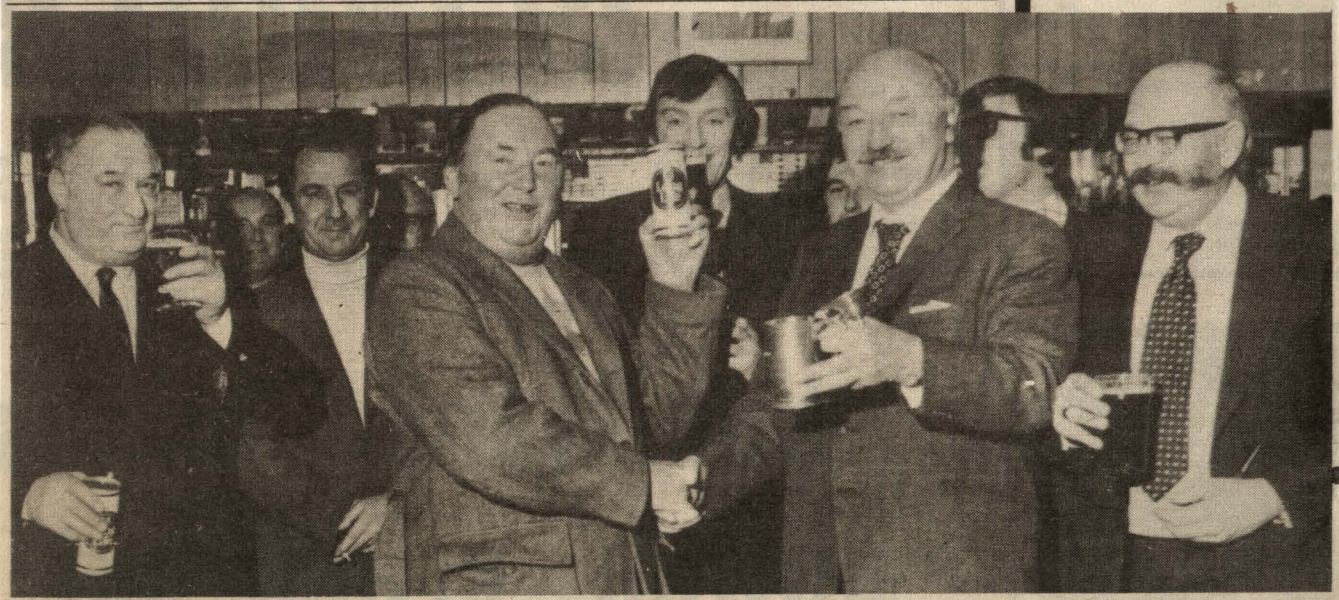
On Her Majesty's Service

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Conservative Club toast for Gerry



AFTER FOUR YEARS as treasurer of Waltham Abbey Conservative Club, 65-year-old Mr Gerry Gerrard has resigned. He is shortly moving to Bradford-on-Avon, Wiltshire.

At a ceremony at the club last week colleagues presented him with an inscribed pewter tankard. Later this month Mr Gerrard, a bachelor, retires from the Ministry of Defence explosives establishment at Waltham Abbey where he has been security adviser since 1961.

He said: "I have many friends in the area and I'm sure I shall miss them, but Wiltshire is a favourite county of mine and I always felt I should like to retire there."

He joined the Royal Air Force in 1932. He spent a couple of years as a civilian and then rejoined the service in 1939 to begin training as a navigator with Bomber Command.

He completed more than 22 missions over occupied Europe, including Germany, and was shot down near Nuremburg a few months before the war ended.

He finally left the service in 1953 and got a job in government security, part of which was spent at Porton Down, the top secret chemical warfare establishment in Wiltshire.

Mr Gerrard is a founder member of the Conservative Club and is one of its most popular members.

New treasurer is bank manager Mr Richard Playle.

● Club chairman Mr George Tuck (left) presents the tankard to Mr Gerrard.

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