

REWARD FOR LONG SERVICE

Oxford Circle's Alan Edmondson has been awarded the Bene Merenti medal



Alan wearing the Bene Merenti medal, with Margaret



Alan and Margaret flanked by Jonathan Holder (left) and Denis O'Driscoll (right)

The award is in recognition of his longstanding service at St Vincent's Nursing Home in Eastcote, west London.

The medal was presented by Father John Deehan, chairman of the trustees of St Vincent's, at a surprise ceremony at Danesfield House near Marlow. "It was totally unexpected," Alan says. "I thought I was going to a retirement party for one of the sisters who worked at the home."

Alan joined the board of St Vincent's when it was an orthopaedic hospital back in 1978. He has remained on the board ever since. During his time there he has been chairman of the hospital board and at one time he became the director and general manager.

Father Deehan explained how Alan "put his business expertise and time at the service of the hospital and later the home".

The hospital was founded in 1908 by the Vincentian order and run by the Sisters of Charity for poor London children who had fallen victim to diseases like tuberculosis and rickets. It eventually became an orthopaedic hospital part funded by the NHS. When that funding was withdrawn in the late 1990s, the hospital closed and was eventually rebuilt as a care home.

Father Deehan recalled that when the hospital closed, Alan "played a major part in the work of the team to ensure that the mission of St Vincent's would continue. He became an ambassador for the home, approaching religious orders and inspiring them to use the home for retired priests and sisters."