

On Last Word this week:

Sargent Shriver - who married into the Kennedy family and founded the Peace Corps.

Reg Ward, who led the controversial regeneration of the London Docklands.

Penny Tweedie, the photographer who took a principled decision not to cover an execution in Bangladesh - John Pilger pays tribute.

The legendary Indian classical singer Bhimsen Joshi.

And America's fitness king - Jack Lalanne, who personally towed seventy boats one and a half miles through the water on his seventieth birthday.

SARGENT SHRIVER

American politician and founder of Peace Corps who has died aged 95.

Sargent Shriver, often known as "Sarge", was the American lawyer and politician who married into the Kennedy family. The relationship proved both a blessing and a curse for his career. Many of his achievements, which included founding the Peace Corps and other educational and anti poverty projects, couldn't have happened without their patronage. But his own political ambitions were thwarted by the family's fiercely competitive instincts.

Last Word spoke to his biographer Scott Stossel and to the American writer Paul Theroux.

Robert Sargent Shriver was born 9 November 1915 and died 18 January 2011.

REG WARD

First Chief Executive of the London Docklands Development Corporation, who has died aged 83.

In the 1980s, the London Docklands was an area of deprivation and poverty. Attempts at regeneration by the Greater London Council and local boroughs seemed to have stalled. So the Secretary of State for the Environment, Michael Heseltine, set up the London Docklands Development Corporation. Criticised by some as an unaccountable quango, the new body was given extensive powers over planning decisions and faced strong opposition from local community groups. The man appointed as Chief Executive was an entrepreneurial former local government manager called Reg Ward. Reg is credited with being the driving force behind the transport links, ambitious building projects and clever marketing which led to the area's resurgence.

Matthew spoke to the former head of communications for the Docklands Development Corporation, David Donoghue.

Albert Joseph Reginald Ward was born 5 October 1927 and died 6 January 2011.

PENNY TWEEDIE

Photojournalist who has died aged 70.

Penny Tweedie was an award winning photographer who covered conflicts around the world. She narrowly escaped death on the Golan heights and was thrown out of Uganda whilst covering the expulsion of the country's Asian population by Idi Amin. Penny also produced a number of books documenting the culture of Australia's Aboriginal people; she took photos for press and advertising campaigns for the charity Shelter in the 1960s and was in demand for portraits. Penny felt that she was defined by her work – and when commissions dried up as she entered her seventies, she decided to end her own life.

Matthew spoke to her son Ben, to her former assistant, the photographer Mike Wells and to the journalist John Pilger.

Penelope Anne Tweedie was born 30 April 1940 and died 14 January 2011.

BHIMSEN JOSHI

Indian classical singer who has died aged 88.

Bhimsen Joshi was one of India's greatest classical singers. He was renowned for his virtuosity and everywhere he performed across the vast sub continent he attracted thousands to his concerts. As a little boy, Bhimsen learned Hindu hymns from his mother and became besotted by music and, at the age of 11, ran away from home to look for a guru to teach him music.

Last Word hears from fellow classical singer, Shubha Mudgal.

Pandit Bhimsen Joshi was born 4 February 1922 and died 24 January 2011.

JACK LALANNE

American fitness guru who has died aged 96.

Jack Lalanne was America's self styled 'godfather of fitness'. For more than thirty years he appeared on TV exhorting the nation to take more exercise and eat more healthily. Lalanne, who had beaten

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and set up a chain of 200 health clubs nationwide, as well as inventing his own fitness apparatus.
But as a young child Jack had lived on a junk food diet until his life was turned around by hearing a health lecture.

Matthew spoke to his wife Elaine and to his son Jon LaLanne.

Jack LaLanne was born 26 September 1914 and died 23 January 2011.

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