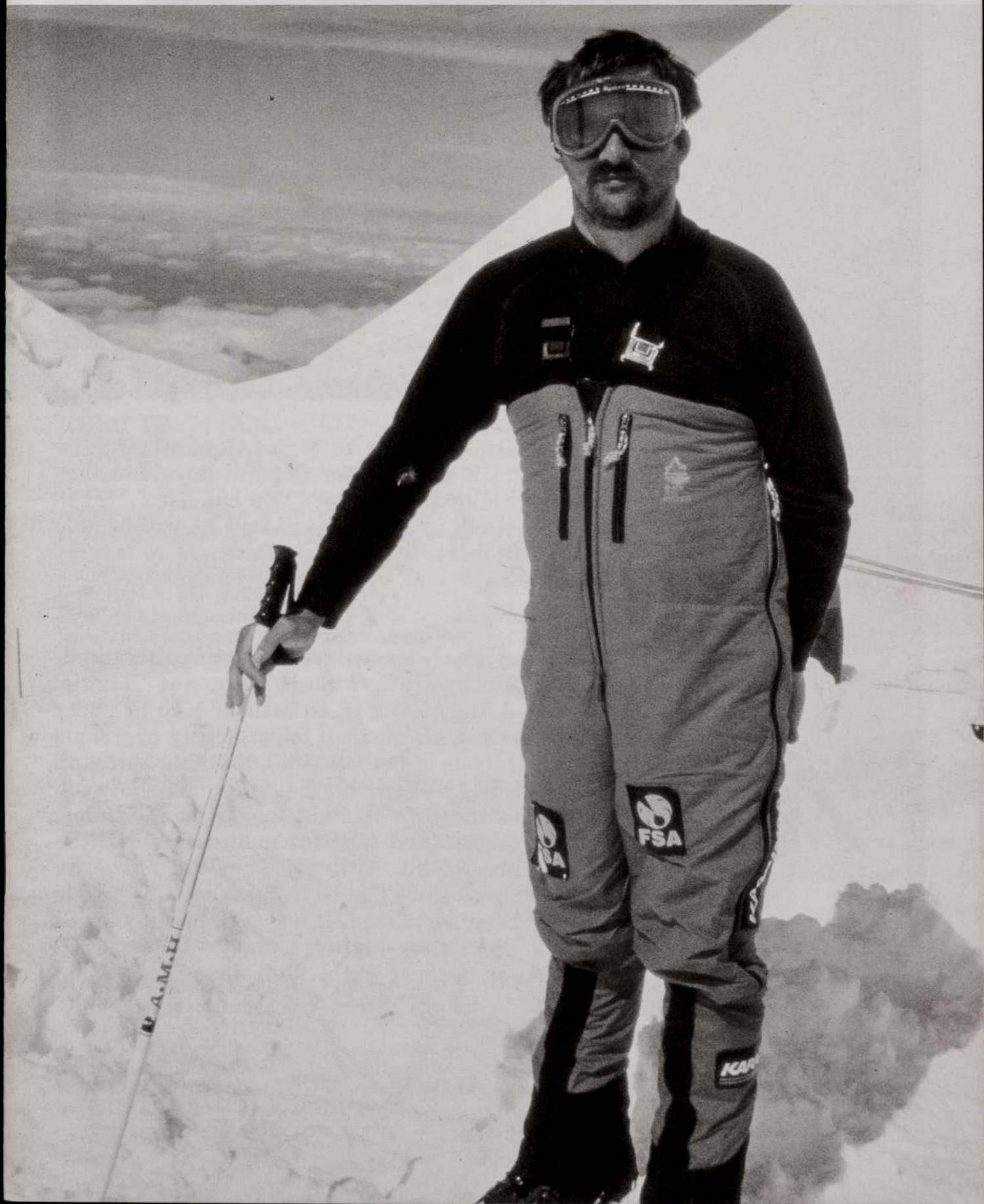




St Dunstan's Review

October 1995

No. 860



12-14 Harcourt Street,
London W1A 4XB

BI-MONTHLY
Free to St Dunstaners

OCTOBER 1995

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Cover Picture: St Dunstaner Alan Perrin on the extremely frigid slopes of Mount McKinley, Alaska. See From the Chairman for further details.

Picture by Peter Georgi, courtesy of the BBC.

From the Chairman



A very warm welcome to Major-General Andrew Keeling, CB, CBE, Major General Royal Marines who recently joined the Council. He has done a lot to help St Dunstan's in the past and now he will be able to devote still more time to our affairs.

* * * * *

I want to pay a very sincere tribute to three outstandingly resolute and brave men: Sergeant 'Reggie' Perrin, Royal Marines (a St Dunstaner who by sheer guts and against all medical odds largely overcame crippling paralysis of his left side), Dominic Marshall and Edward de la Billiere (his young escorts). Between them they ascended to 16,500ft up Mount McKinley, America's coldest and highest mountain with the worst weather record. Although they did not quite make the summit their feat of resilience and fortitude has seldom been surpassed. It was a proud day for St Dunstan's when they featured on the BBC's QED programme on August 29th. Well done.

Henry Leach



NOTICE BOARD



IN TOUCH PROGRAMME, RADIO 4

In a letter read out on the programme on the August 22nd following a previous broadcast on the 15th, the correspondent wrote that St Dunstaner tenants were having to pay Community Charges and Water Rates, which 'were previously included in the rent'. The quote is open to misinterpretation.

St Dunstaner and widow tenants have always paid their Domestic and Water Rates as itemised separately on their annual rent letter.

Previously St Dunstan's paid the Councils and Water Authorities direct, but recovered the cost from the beneficiaries. Occupiers were asked to pay Domestic Rates direct in April, 1991. The same applied to Water Rates in April this year.

KEEP THEM SERVICED KEEP THEM SAFE

At least 30 people die each year from carbon monoxide poisoning caused by gas appliances which have not been properly serviced or installed. The Health & Safety Executive point out that while you cannot see it, taste it or smell it, carbon monoxide can kill without warning - in just a matter of hours.

Tell-tale signs include tiredness, drowsiness, headache, pains in the chest and stomach. People are most vulnerable when sleeping.

The greatest risk of carbon monoxide poisoning occurs if:

- the appliance was poorly installed
- the appliance is not working properly
- the appliance has not been checked or serviced regularly
- there is not enough fresh air in the room, your chimney or flue gets blocked up, unqualified people are used to install or service the appliance

The Health & Safety Executive recommends:

- ALWAYS use a CORGI registered business for installation and servicing of your appliances
- ALWAYS ensure your appliances are serviced at least every 12 months
- NEVER block the vents on an appliance
- NEVER block or obstruct any outside grilles, flues or air bricks

- NEVER use a gas appliance if you think it's not working properly. Get someone to look out for tell-tale signs which include yellow or orange flames, soot or stains around the appliance and pilot lights which frequently blow out.

The Gas Safety (Installation and Use) Regulations 1994 place duties on gas consumers, installers, suppliers and landlords. Remember, for your own protection:

- all businesses which carry out work on gas appliances must be registered with CORGI (The Council for Registered Gas Installers). Always check that your installer is registered;
- by law all landlords are responsible for making sure that appliances are maintained in good order and checked for safety at least every 12 months. If you live in rented accommodation ask for written proof - your landlord is legally obliged to keep a record of the safety checks and show it to you;
- do-it-yourself work on gas appliances could be dangerous and illegal. By law, only a competent person - someone with the right knowledge and technical experience - can do such work;
- do not use any gas appliance you know or suspect is not safe - it is also dangerous and illegal.

If you need further advice ring the Gas Safety Action Line on Freefone 0800 300 363.

GOVERNOR ELSPETH

Long-time organiser of the *Daedalus* Camps Elspeth Grant was elected a Governor of St Dunstan's at the Council Meeting of April 27th. Previously, Elspeth was a Member.

TITANIC TAPE

The Loss of the Titanic by Sir Arthur Rostron KBE, RD and John Booth has been released as a double cassette.

Running 105 minutes and priced £9.95, it is available from White Star Publications, 30 Eden Vale Road, Westbury, Wiltshire, England BA13 3NY. Tel: 01373 823271.

CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY 1995

A Christmas Holiday, December 24th to 27th, open to all St Dunstaners and widows has been organised at the Wheatsheaf Hotel, Birmingham. Priced £240 per person, based on two sharing, the break includes:

Door to door transport; dinner on Xmas evening; breakfast, a six course Xmas lunch and buffet supper on Xmas Day and Boxing Day. Also included are two outings on Xmas and Boxing Day.

Departure is after breakfast on December 27th.

All rooms are ground floor with en-suite facilities and wheelchair users are welcome. For further details, please contact Colin Bentley on 0121 771 3558.

TATTOOED BRUM

The Band of Her Majesty's Royal Marines will head up a world-wide selection of military bands and display teams at the Birmingham International Tattoo, including the Massed Pipes & Drums of Ireland. The spectacle takes place at the National Indoor Arena, Birmingham on October 28th/29th.

Tickets start from £7.70 for senior citizens. Disabled bookings can be made on 0121 780 4141 ext 2908.

NEW TECH MAGAZINE

A brand new information technology cassette magazine is being launched for visually impaired people.

Infotech will contain equipment reviews and exhibition reports and editors Brian Hartgen and Jackie Cairns promise listeners the chance to give their views on operating equipment at home or at work.

Items featured will range from pocket calculators to sophisticated computer systems

using Windows with braille or speech access.

For further details and a free 60-minute pilot issue of *Infotech*, contact Brian Hartgen at Disability Network on 01744 451215 or write to him at 8 Wolverhampton House, 123 Church Street, St Helens, Merseyside WA10 1AJ.

PHYLLIS KAYE - a personal tribute by Penny Lord

When Phyllis Kaye retired recently, it meant much more to me than parting with an outstanding personal assistant. Phyllis became a great friend on whom I could totally rely, particularly when my MS was diagnosed in 1988. Nothing was too much trouble for her.

Phyllis joined St Dunstan's as secretary to Miss Phyllis Rogers in the Southern Area Welfare Department on October 21st 1974.

She worked tirelessly for the organisation, had a sympathetic and caring approach to all the St Dunstaners with whom she came into contact.

Now Phyllis and her husband, Gerald, have moved to live in a retirement cottage in Littlehampton. We wish them many happy years together.

OBITUARIES:

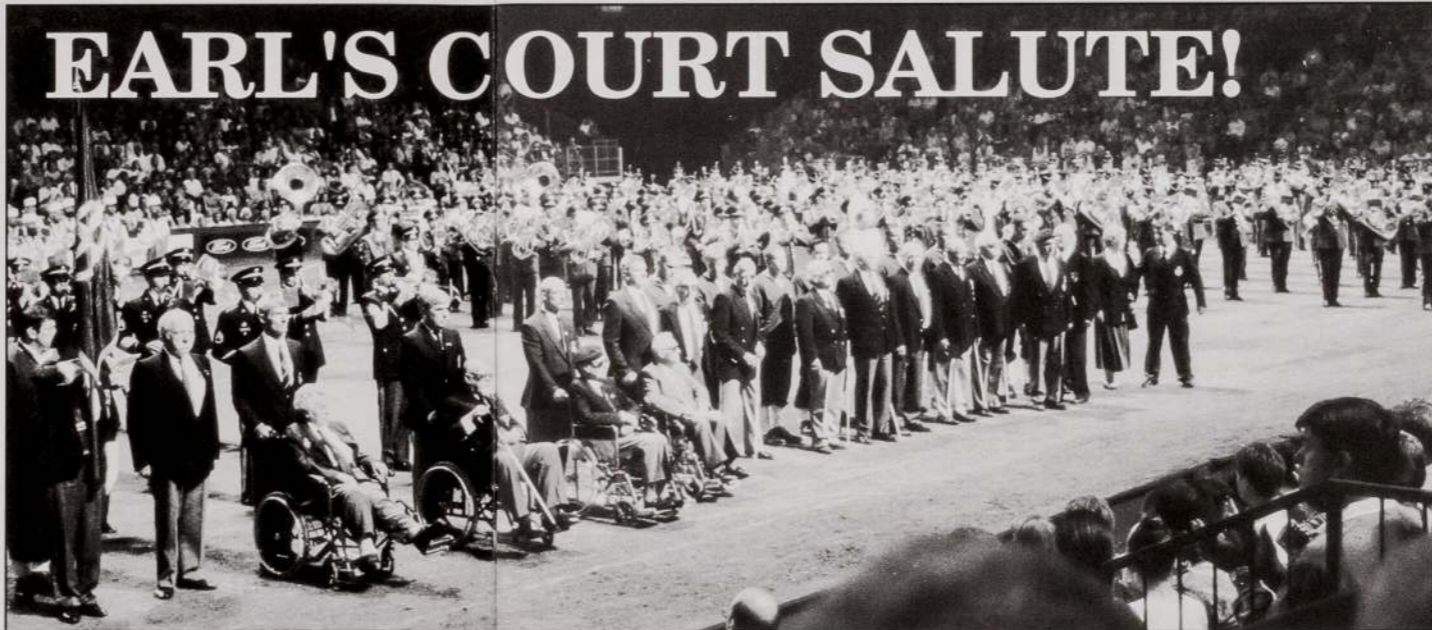
Mr Edward F. Garner

Eddie Garner of Hoby, Melton Mowbray, Leicestershire died on July 18th, aged 97. He became a Member of St Dunstan's in 1959 in recognition of many years spent fundraising on our behalf.

Mr Thomas Parker, OBE

Tom Parker, OBE died on August 11th. He played a prominent role in many organisations of the Blind at both a national and international level. He worked unstintingly for the rights of blind people.

EARL'S COURT SALUTE!



Standard high! The spectating crowds cheered loudly and proudly when the St Dunstan's contingent marched into the arena at Earl's Court.

ONCE AGAIN, St Dunstan's had a stand in the exhibition hall at Earls Court for the Royal Tournament, July 18-29th.

But this year, the icing on the cake was an invitation extended to us and other Veteran Organisations to parade in the arena during the finale. St Dunstan's was exclusively given pride of place on the afternoon of Friday, July 28th.

As they marched, sixteen St Dunstaners and one widow were escorted into the arena by present and past members of the Field Gun Crew, a highly appropriate liaison!

The contingent stood in line

before the Royal Box, occupied that afternoon by Air Chief Marshal Sir John Willis, KCB, CBE, Vice Chief of the Defence Staff, whilst the commentator described the work of the organisation and explained how most of the theatres of war were represented, including Northern Ireland. He ended with the words - 'We salute them.'

St Dunstan's then received a standing ovation from the spectators, the only organisation in the two week period to do so apart from the 21 holders of the Victoria Cross who paraded be-

fore Her Majesty The Queen earlier in the week.

It was a truly moving occasion and demonstrates the sympathy for St Dunstan's amongst the general public.

The following represented St Dunstan's:

Arthur Carter carried the Standard. Margaret Bingham represented our lady St Dunstaners and Jan Wright the widows. The Second War Veterans were represented by Colin Beaumont-Edmonds, Dr Stanley Pavillard, Ron Cattell, Tom Hart, Reg Page,

Bill Shea, Ted John, David Taylor, Richard Bingley, Paul Walker, John Walburgh and Norman Killick. The 'third generation' St Dunstaners were represented by Steve Pendleton and Ray Hazan.

The exhibition stand grossed £2,244 in donations and many handicraft items including trays, wooden toys, stools and an attractive assortment of knitted and other toys kindly donated to us by our widow, Mrs Jill Dunn of Worthing, were sold. The making of toys was demonstrated, which attracted many to the stand - people love to watch others at work! Stickers were given out and much literature and information distributed. Several St Dunstaner relatives came and said 'hello'.

This was a valuable and worthwhile event. We extend our thanks to all those who participated or contributed; to Ron Cattell, Ted and Beryl John, Arthur Carter and his escort Tom, who manned the stand; to Barbara, Dorothy, Linda, Andrew, Margaret and Roberta from HQ. It was extremely warm work. We shall return next year, so please get knitting, sawing and sandpapering. Any contribution will be gratefully accepted.

Forty years in the pulpit

Over 50 years ago, St Dunstaner Tom Taylor was left for dead on the battlefields of Burma, struck down by a sniper's bullet. But in August this year, he was feted for 40 years of preaching the Methodist gospel, reading from a braille Bible all over the country.

Tom's service to the Church was commemorated by a special 40 years certificate at Longton Methodist Church, Preston.

NEW BOWLING CHAMPION

St Dunstaner Colwyn Lloyd of Llanelli has just won the Welsh Association Visually Handicapped Bowling Championships. He claimed the title with a decisive 21-5 victory over former champion David Bradshaw.

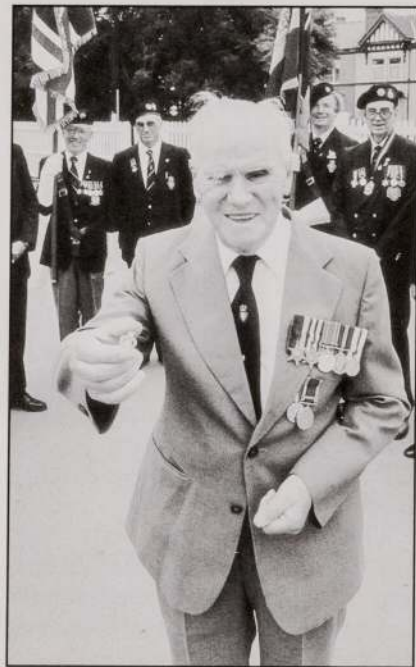
In taking the title, Colwyn also beat Gubbay Morton Williams who has held the title four times. It was the first major title for Colwyn and an essential step forward in realising his ambition to represent the Welsh team at the world championships in 1997. Could this mean that there will be a stiff challenge waiting for our English champ, Jackie Pryor?

RECEPTION AT WINFIELD HOUSE

The original site of St Dunstan's in 1915 is now occupied by Winfield House, the residence of the Ambassador of the United States of America. It is the most prestigious of the US residences and occupies 14 acres of London's Regent's Park.

On July 12th, the Ambassador of the United States, the Honourable William Crowe, Jr, hosted a fundraising reception at his home. Guests, Members of Council, St Dunstaners and staff were charged for their tickets and invited to add a contribution. As a result £11,942 was raised for St Dunstan's.

LEGION HONOUR FOR GRANVILLE



A ST DUNSTANER has been feted by his local Royal British Legion for his dedication to the welfare of other war veterans.

Granville Waterworth was presented with a gold badge of honour by the national executive for his service as a member of Coventry No 4 branch during the past 50 years.

The 80 year old St Dunstaner was serving with the Reconnaissance Corps as a trooper when he was blinded by a bazooka blast in Germany in March 1944.

Branch Chairman Les Benger praised Granville thus: 'Being blind has never stopped Granville from doing what he calls helping others worse off than himself. In all the years he has never missed a parade, never missed a social and has always sold poppies. He has been a tower of strength to our branch.'

RUNNING BLIND FOR BRITAIN

The European Blind Athletics Championships 1995 was held between July 17th and July 22nd in Valencia, Spain. The team travelled out on the Sunday before and came back on the Monday following the event. There were around 24 in the team including three management, five guide runners and a fairly motley crew of athletes.

Throughout the week the temperature was no less than 35 and was as high as 42, quite unbearable for us from North of the Border!

I took part in the 800m and

the 1500m events. The heats for the 800 were on Wednesday morning with the semi-final that evening. I had not expected, from previous best times, to qualify for the semi-finals, but, after running a personal best time in 2:18:21 mins, I scraped through. Who said this was because one of the other runners messed up his tactics! Anyway I had raced the first race at around mid-day so the relative cool of the evening semi-finals was a bit of a relief. Indeed it must have done me some good, because although I ran a very

close race and managed a gallant fourth (out of four) I did manage to beat my personal best time again, bringing my new PB to 2:16:40 mins. Both my times were new Scottish records for the B1 category.

I then had a couple of days break and time to concentrate and get nervous about the 1500m. This had semi-finals on Saturday and final the same evening. Although I managed to break my own PB again (4:46:40mins) I did not manage to qualify for the final. I did at least have the pleasure of beating a Span-

Jamie Cuthbertson reports on a personal triumph in Spain

iard in a sprint finish. This time was again a new Scottish record.

That evening saw many more finals and the team eventually came home with around 17 medals (ten of which were golds). The closing ceremony (as the opening ceremony had been also) was a typically Spanish affair with a fiesta atmosphere and a fairly magnificent fireworks

display. I am told that it was only audio fireworks and no fancy colours but to me it sounded more like the *1812 Overture* 'in the flesh', so to speak.

It had been a very exciting week altogether with the opportunity to meet athletes from many other countries around Europe. Indeed, there had been 26 countries taking part which is very impressive.

FLYING TRIBUTE FOR BILL



RAF daredevils, the Red Arrows paid tribute to St Dunstaner Bill Griffiths for enduring life in a Japanese PoW camp. Bill and his wife, Alice, were invited to a display of aerial acrobatics at Warton and were given the opportunity to examine a Hawk jet at close range.

NEW FUNDRAISERS

THE FUNDRAISING Department is pleased to welcome Pat Moore-Searson and Merle Adams who joined in August. During the months of September and October we hope to have all the necessary infrastructure in place to

enable us to have the department up and running. We hope to keep all beneficiaries informed as to what we are doing and how it is going. We look forward to receiving any help and advice that you may have to offer.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Letters to the Editor are always welcome. Drop us a line, tape or disk at 12-14 Harcourt Street, London W1A 4XB

From: Jack Fulling, Harrogate, North Yorkshire

The Atlas mountains of St Dunstan's achievements arose from the mole-hills of public sympathy directed towards our less fortunate colleagues blinded on active service in World War One. Sir Arthur Pearson, his name be praised, perceptive though he was, in his wildest flight of war blinded fantasy could not possibly have imagined the development of his brainchild in his hopes for us all. The penny producing public at that time had little to give but give they did. Those early St Dunstaners for whom the Nation's gratitude was originally intended may have benefited to a degree, but not in the same league as the present beneficiaries.

At St Dunstan's Physiotherapy Conference held in Ovingdean, probably in the Sixties, Brigadier Smythe VC, the then Parliamentary Under Secretary to the Ministry of Pensions observed that 'without any doubt St Dunstaners were the most spoon-fed of all the war's disabled and deservedly so.' This was not a criticism, he continued, it was commendably right, was a shining example to all. Those envious other supporting charitable groups who might envy our fortunate position should strive to emulate our example. To this day none have surpassed or yet equalled. Some may need reminding, others be una-

ware, that Sir Arthur's original concept was against an institution in which we took refuge on a permanent basis, rather that we be retrained to be self-supporting, learned to be blind, returning to our own environments to lead as normal and full life as possible.

Ovingdean was and still is for training, temporary respite and long term care for them as needs. Never intended as a naafi nor should it be so used. White's, Crockfords, Athenaeum and similar clubs cost real money to run and the annual membership subscription is high. Those wishing something similar more locally may find subscriptions lower in Brighton but still expensive. For that reason most of us forgo such luxuries. Life doesn't, and St Dunstan's hasn't, stood still. Increased benefits were made available as and when thought possible, the assets can only be spent once, and they have been to the benefit of us all, each according to his needs, and equality of opportunity. You can't spend it twice. If you find otherwise let me know too, I would like a chunk of those economics.

We all accepted share increases when business was booming and should equally accept cuts when the ledgers show a loss and the order book is empty.

There never was and probably never will be a more caring and generous charity this side of Valhalla. 'If you knows of a better 'ole go to it.'

O Vingdean 1995

A tour of refurbished facilities at Brighton

O Vingdean has seen many changes in both fabric and role since its completion in 1938. Although there was a limited occupation by St Dunstaners until France was overrun in 1940, when it was considered that its proximity to the coast made it too risky for beneficiaries to remain there, these purpose-built premises were not fully utilised by St Dunstan's until 1946. During the War, our Chairman, Sir Henry, was there for a short time when the building was taken over by the Royal Navy.

Ovingdean prepared for casualties. It became not only a training centre but also a hospital during the early months of the War. Dormitories became wards and a new hospital wing was built. This wing, with an ultra-modern and perfectly equipped operating theatre, was a generous gift from Lord Nuffield. For several years, Ovingdean was a training centre. Many St Dunstaners will remember the dormitories sleeping 20 or 30 people. In 1972, the building was renamed 'Ian Fraser House' to mark the 50th



Relaxation in the lounge - Thirties style. Below: The original dormitories.

anniversary of Lord Fraser's chairmanship.

As time progressed, whilst training continued, holidays and hobby activities played a larger role, reflecting the changing pattern of St Dunstaners' lives. As their expectations rose, so the standard of accommodation mirrored those expectations. Dormitories were divided into double rooms to provide for the admission of wives. At the same time, en-suite facilities were added. A bar and bowling rink also became important facilities. However, in the 1980's, despite much encouragement and financial assistance, the building was, on average, half empty throughout the year.

On June 4th this year, the



building returned to its original name, 'St Dunstan's, Ovingdean' and it is now our principal Home covering all our commitments to training, nursing, residential and respite care. The Wings are now known as 'Pearson', 'Fraser' and 'Ansell' after Sir Arthur Pearson, Lord Fraser and Sir Mike Ansell, three illustrious individuals in the history of St Dunstan's.

Nursing Wings

The second and third floor wings provide excellent nursing care, with 40 beds, each with en-suite facilities. A nurse-call system incorporates two-way talk between the patient and duty members of staff. In the fuselage on these two floors are specialised bath and toilet facilities for those who need extra help. A doctor's surgery, dining area, store rooms and accommodation for visiting relatives complete these newly refurbished areas. Those receiving nursing



Above: Alex Nesbitt has his blood pressure monitored by David Hapgood and Lynda Lee, RGN.

Below: Peter Surridge hones his skills on a handicraft course.



care are charged £203 a week - very much less than one would pay outside.

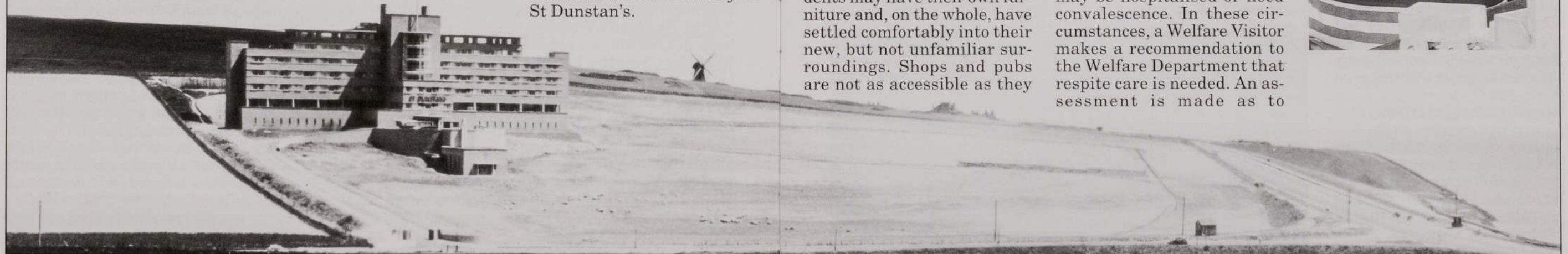
Residential Wings

The first floor is devoted to residential and respite care. There are currently 21 'perms' contributing £126 per week towards their keep. Residents may have their own furniture and, on the whole, have settled comfortably into their new, but not unfamiliar surroundings. Shops and pubs are not as accessible as they

were in Kemp Town, but every effort is made to assist perms in getting out.

Respite Care

The need for respite care becomes more important with the greater age of our beneficiaries and their wives or husbands. One or other partner may be hospitalised or need convalescence. In these circumstances, a Welfare Visitor makes a recommendation to the Welfare Department that respite care is needed. An assessment is made as to





A timely tea-break for St Dunstaner George Cole.

whether nursing care or residential care is appropriate, and the charge is fixed accordingly.

Rehabilitation & Training

This department is in the process of being reorganised under our new Head of Rehabilitation and Training, Kendrick Morris. Mobility, braille, computer handling, independent living and vocational skills continue to be taught, and a widening of the scope of some of these subjects is being considered. Kendrick will also be responsible for placement in employment. The teaching of any skills, either with employment or leisure time occupation in mind, will be regarded as 'training'. Hobbies and interest-linked activities will continue to be supported, but beneficiaries cannot book themselves into the Training Wing. The Training flat and the converted former Ladies' Wing on the 4th floor now provide ten beds for trainees.

Hobby Activities

Lenie Hinton and Mary Scourfield continue to offer handicraft activities to residents, to those staying in respite care and to any St Dunstaner who can make their own way to and from

Ovingdean. The same applies to Pam Durie in the Cookery Department. Help with the acquisition of handicraft kits will be given, where possible, by the department.

Keeping Fit

Some sceptics considered the gymnasium an unnecessary luxury. Grant Cooper, the Sports and Recreation Officer has other ideas! Grant works closely with the visiting physiotherapist. For new trainees, physical therapy is an integral part of their rehabilitation and recovery. Age is no exception! On Tuesdays and Thursdays, Grant supervises classes for the older residents in the gym. Those unable to make their way there are given light exercises in their rooms. Grant has proposals for 'exercise to music' and hydrotherapy classes in the future. Already, some of those, who have to use wheelchairs, have been in the swimming-pool.

The swimming-pool is open for St Dunstaners from 9am to 12.30pm, Mondays to Fridays. St Dunstaners, staff and guests can use the pool during the afternoons and at weekends (9am to 4pm).

Club Activities

These are slowly beginning to resume at Ovingdean. The Archers, Amateur Radio So-

Time to relax in the sun-lounge.



ciety and Computer Club have held or will be holding meetings there. The building offers familiar surroundings to participants. For the moment, members book their own accommodation in local hotels.

Visiting

Some St Dunstaners and widows have enquired about visiting Ovingdean. All are welcome to call in, but it would be helpful if visitors carried some proof of identity as there are many new members of staff and there have already been cases of outsiders trying to obtain unauthorised access.

Bar prices are higher than hitherto. Whilst they may never go back to the previous levels, when St Dunstan's made a loss on the bar, they are being reviewed.

There have been unfair accusations that Ovingdean is 'just a nursing home'. It is not reasonable to compare the current building with Ian Fraser House as was; their roles are somewhat different. Remarkable strides have been made in the four months since the building reopened. It will continue to evolve and be the flagship of excellence that it always was, maintaining the very reason for St Dunstan's existence - the rehabilitation, training and lifelong welfare of those blinded in the Service of their country.

St Dunstaners remember the 'Forgotten War'

OUR SUN ASCENDENT!

THE WEEKEND OF the August 19/20th witnessed the nation's tribute to those who fought, suffered and died in the Far East, SE Asia especially. George McDonald Fraser, author of the *Flashman* series, said that succeeding generations cannot apologise on behalf of their forebears and only those involved have the right to forgive or otherwise. The weekend will have witnessed many emotions - tears of happiness and sorrow, relief and pride.

St Dunstan's currently cares for 73 ex-Far East Prisoners of War and more continue to join our ranks each year. The Commemoration and Tributes were nationwide, as the following accounts reflect:

Commemoration on the coast

Tracie Jones reports on acts of VJ remembrance at Ovingdean

ST DUNSTANERS, their families, guests and staff all joined together at the newly refurbished Ovingdean to spend the weekend both commemorating and remembering the 50th Anniversary of VJ Day.

On Saturday, residents attended a special lunch. On the menu was 'memories of home', English roast beef, 'from the allotment', a selection of vegetables, and 'on the black market, please don't tell', fresh ground coffee and cream. At each place setting was a reproduction of a leaflet dropped by the Allies to the PoW camps. The lunch was rounded off with a Forties sing-a-long with the Palm Court Duo.

St Dunstaner Margaret Bingham carried the St Dunstan's Standard as residents joined in the Royal British Legion Service in nearby Rottingdean on Sunday morning.

In the afternoon, the Tea party got into full swing with the Dave Masters Big Band playing a selection of dance and jazz music. As the sun shone, tea, sandwiches, strawberries and cream were served in the garden. A finale to the weekend was the arrival of a Vintage Bass Charrington Van carrying



Glad to be here for the beer! Bamboo Doctor Stanley Pavillard receives a special brew from Paul James of PBK and a representative of Bass Charrington.

free bottles of 1945 brew beer for the residents. Its presence was arranged by Paul James of PBK. A limited edition bottle of beer was presented to St Dunstaner Dr Stanley Pavillard in recognition of his wartime experiences.

The author of *Bamboo Doctor*, Pav appeared twice on BBC TV's *South Today* news programme. On the second occasion he was shown with a fellow FEPoW whom he had not met since the war. This

former inmate had recognised Pav on the first show.

In another reunion, he met up with the widow of Scottish born 'Snuffy' Craig whose life he had saved through a makeshift blood transfusion.

Snuffy's widow, Margaret, who came over from Canada, said: 'It's very special to see Dr Pavillard again. He did so much for the prisoners and he helped my husband to live for another 26 years. Without him my family wouldn't be here.'

SERVICE OF REMEMBRANCE AT BUCKINGHAM PALACE

Our President, Colin Beaumont-Edmonds, together with his wife, Joyce, represented St Dunstan's in the Royal Box at the Official Service of Remembrance at Buckingham Palace on August 19th.

WITHIN THE allocated block we could sit where we wished, so it was a strange coincidence that I found the gentleman sitting next to me was Mr

Trower, who had been Lord Fraser's solicitor, and until his retirement, a partner in the firm of solicitors used by St Dunstan's.

The service, and words of commitment, over, Joyce and I found ourselves walking alone down The Mall, a group of those who had seats in the Royal Box ahead of us, and another group a little way behind - but we, with a young officer from the Intelligence Corps, were on our own, my

white cane showing that I was blind; we found this short walk quite moving, for the crowds on the pavement clapped us as we passed them.

Joyce found us seats in the front row, from which to watch the Parade. Next to me was Lady Limerick, a charming person and head of the Red Cross.

It took an hour and a half for everyone to pass us, and apart from being thrilled to see our own contingent of St Dunstaners, one widow and their

escorts march past.

It was a lovely evening when we reached The Tower of London for an official reception. From the Wharf, we watched the display of a group of helicopters, and the fly past of a Spitfire and Lancaster bomber, as well as formations of various present day planes.

So, to the incredible display of fireworks on the Thames. We had moved to seats provided for the disabled, once again right in the front, and, life being full of surprises, we were soon greeted by

the Home Secretary, the Rt. Hon. Michael Howard, whom we knew personally as he was our MP when we lived in Folkstone.

The noise of the rockets going off, followed by the crackle of exploding stars, was incredible enough, but, as Joyce said, the many colours, the displays and fantastic shapes, as they all spread out and showered down was all too varied and quick to be described - it was just a most wonderful display.

The reception for the Commonwealth Chiefs of Staff on Sunday morning, at The Queen Elizabeth Conference Centre, lacked the excitement of the previous day, but was just as interesting. By the time we left, we had spoken to an officer from Antigua and a gentleman who had been a 'Snowdrop' having served with the Royal Navy in Arctic convoys to Russia.

It had been two hot, sunny and very memorable days.

VJ DAY 50 YEARS ON

Bill Griffiths has mixed feelings about public celebration

EVERYONE old enough to have experienced or witnessed the National and personal tragedies, anxieties and deprivations of the 1939/45 war, and particularly survivors of the Japanese PoW Camps, will, I feel look upon the 50th Anniversary of VJ Day as a singularly poignant reminder of that glorious first VJ Day and Victory on August 15th 1945.

Concurrent with the highly publicised National Memorial and Thanksgiving Services and Commemorative activity in London on the 50th Anniversary, Lancashire and no doubt most other counties were remembering and celebrating with energetic enterprise. HM The Queen was represented by the Lord Lieutenant of Lancashire at two principal VJ Commemoration Services. At St John's Parish Church, Blackpool was a service for FEPoWs and the Burma Star Association. While over at Blackburn

Cathedral I was privileged to hear the Bishop of Blackburn and several other Church Leaders give the highest praises and thanks to War Veterans and their families.

It was good to know that Civic Leaders and representatives of all sections of the Lancashire Community were present.

After both services several hundred ex-Service and Service personnel marched to the local War Memorials, many proudly wearing their Pacific Star and Burma Medals.

Alice and I accepted an invitation from our home town of Blackburn to be guests at a special VJ evening Anniversary Concert. The Mayor in her speech of welcome eloquently emphasised that although she was born after the war, she and the younger generation would always be mindful and grateful for the service and sacrifice of war veterans.

At the conclusion of the

evening a Tribute and generous donation was made to St Dunstan's.

A few days prior to the anniversary of VJ Day, I met a small group of FEPoWs in London at a press launch of a TV film entitled *Scars of War* in which I had participated. Although there were harrowing revelations of inhuman treatment by the Japanese in the film, off screen we forgot about the bad times for a while and enjoyed a brief, but spiritually uplifting mini-reunion, which for me and my colleagues was one of the VJ Anniversary highlights. We had sur-

vived and were grateful.

I received a letter from Sir Laurens van der Post, dated VJ Day. I was a PoW with him and quote from his letter.

'I have not really been able to join in what passes for celebrations, I think perhaps I pray more than ever when I am alone, because that is the only way we can, the rest has become a kind of political and media event and has nothing to do with the reality that we experienced.'

Sir Laurens has to a great extent expressed my own thoughts.

VJ 50th Anniversary at Cardiff Castle by Norman Hopkins

THE proceedings commenced with a Remembrance service in the arena of the Castle grounds with approximately 10,000 people present. Trevor Tatchell and myself represented St Dunstan's in the Veterans parade and we marched through the city streets which were lined with thousands of spectators. The salute was taken by HRH The Prince of Wales on the forecourt of the City Hall.

A splendid garden party was provided in Cooper's Field which adjoins the castle grounds and during this we were entertained by a flying display of World War II aircraft, a parachute drop by the Red Devils display team, equestrian events by the ladies of the Hon. Artillery Co. Saddle Club and some folk dancing.

The feature of the evening was a superb concert and we assem-

VJ Day celebrations in London 1945.



bled for this about 7pm. The audience was in good fettle and accompanied the soloists and choirs alike with fervent Welsh singing. The programme was varied and included displays of cavalry units, armoured vehicles, military bands and a civil war pageant.

The Queen's message, live from London, was relayed to the assembly. There was a mov-

ing, and poignant moment in this magnificent setting when a lone bugler could be seen in the twilight high up in the Keep sounding the last post.

Following the official proceedings there commenced a spectacular fireworks display. The day had been highly successful and one felt a warmth and sincerity from all the people around.

Paul Walker reports on events in the Mall

THOUGHTS ON VJ DAY

ON SATURDAY, August 19th a group of 16 St Dunstaners, one widow, and their escorts assembled for lunch at our Headquarters.

There friends and old friends met and held bright conversation. There was no sign of sadness or bitterness for the Forgotten Army here.

Boarding our buses we made our way to the assembly point in Birdcage Walk, off Horseguards Parade. This road was thronged with thousands of medal bedecked veterans from all three services and from the home front.

No sign of gloom from these veterans who underwent so much pain and suffering in the 14th Army. Today was the day their countrymen gave thanks and paid tribute to their courage.

Soon we were on our way to the Service outside Buckingham Palace. Leaders of various denominations paid moving tributes and we gave strong voice to the hymns that were sung. My sister, Mrs Pat Burrwood, wearing her late husband's Burma Star, told me that there were many old soldiers who had their handkerchief in their hand, particularly when the sole Lancaster bomber droned overhead dropping a million poppies on the assembled crowd. This sound was equalled by the following Spitfire, Hurricane and Firefly and brought to mind thoughts of dark days.

Just before we marched off down the Mall, Major (Ret'd) Peter Marshall called me by name and said, 'Paul, would you

raise St Dunstan's colour quickly.' The 18 year old cadet standing next to me with a board saying 'St Dunstan's' raised it likewise. There in front of us all, boarding a vehicle, were Her Majesty and Prince Andrew. We had the privilege of giving a special salute to our Queen.

Marching off to the Mall with our colour flying and St Dunstan's name immediately in front, it was a most emotional march. On both sides of the road members of the public in their thousands gave us a special cheer.

To hear scores of men giving three cheers and the crowds shouting 'Bravo' was a moving experience. Even the policemen and women were clapping as we walked down the Mall. Suddenly,

near Marlborough Gate, we had the command 'Eyes Left'. What an experience to look upon that great audience that had done so much in the history of the last 50 years. With 'Eyes Right' given we made our way down, passed Horseguards Parade into Birdcage Walk where we dispersed. As we moved towards Whitehall and our buses a band came towards us. We were all moved to know that it was the distinctive band of the Gurkhas. How much we owe these great soldiers. Whether I should have done it or not I do not know but I pushed myself into the road and, raising St Dunstan's Colour to attention, gave them a salute. I think it was merited. The tears ran.

To those St Dunstaners who wear the Burma Star, I can only say 'thank you and WELL DONE.'

Veteran's reunited

THE QUEEN Elizabeth II Conference Centre, off Parliament Square, became the Veteran's Centre for the weekend.

A 'Vetlink' enabled old comrades to find each other and Ex-Service charities were invited to mount display stands. This was done by members of the Public Relations and Fundraising Departments.

Although initially placed in an anteroom, we were allowed to move to another area where, on the Sunday a reception was given for Prince Philip and the Commonwealth Chiefs of Staff. Our name and literature travels abroad!

VJ DAY IN ULSTER

by Joe and Marjorie Humphrey

THE DAY started very early for many of the Veterans travelling from all parts of the Province, so we were lucky in having to leave home at nine o'clock in the morning when we made our way to a pre-arranged car park for transportation to a large assembly point.

When departure time came, a sizeable procession, each group, preceded by a different Regimental Band, headed for the Royal Ulster Agricultural Society Showgrounds at Balmoral. On this occasion I was extremely proud to represent St Dunstan's after all it has done for me, and I took every opportunity of telling others this fact. After the arrival of Prince Andrew, Duke of York the welcoming address by Vice-Admiral Sir Arthur Hezlett referred to the fact that Ulstermen could be proud that despite the very high turn-out to the forces in the war, there was no conscription at all here. Most of the Veterans stood for the entire Drumhead Service but we chickened out and sat with other veterans in the full glare of an unrivalled mid-day sun. Even the Bandsmen - and Bandswomen, of course, in these days of equality - were dropping like flies but the majority stood firm until the Veterans Review by Prince Andrew from his open-topped army car.

By the time we were reunited with our car, it was much too late to take advantage of the buffet lunch because we had to park for our next rendezvous, the service of Remembrance and Commitment at St Anne's Cathedral.

During the Silences we ob-

served that day I thought not only of my own Commando friends who had lost their lives, but particularly of our own FEPoW St Dunstaners whom I know - Billy Griffiths, Bill Masson, Archie Putnam, Fred Charlick and Bob Forshaw. It has been made very obvious to us all how much you blokes suffered.

From the Cathedral we were bussed to a Leisure Centre in Belfast where we were entertained to a fabulous meal laid on by the Catering Corps (How army catering has improved!) which would have competed with Harrods's Food Hall when displayed before the Veterans who fell upon it. The Menu's were a facsimile of a war-time ration book. While we were enjoying our meal the Prince suddenly appeared at our table unescorted and asked us if we were having a good time, this must have been obvious as there was so much noise we didn't even notice his arrival, he made a few cracks about the food being a bit different to war-time and we all agreed. Everything including the wine was in unlimited supply, but most people had to go off to Carrickfergus Castle before eight o'clock and it was now nearly seven. We dashed home for a wash and when we felt the cool comfort of the electric fan and comparative luxury of our sitting room after the heat and dust of the day we decided to watch the proceedings at Carrickfergus on television and opt out of the reality. Nevertheless it was a wonderful day and I hope it has brought it home to some folk that Hiroshima and Nagasaki were essential casualties of War.

VJ DAY AT BASSINGBOURNE

by Ron Grimes

ON SUNDAY, August 20th our party of four left Letchworth for Basingbourne Barracks, home of the Royal Anglian Regiment. The Service was to have started at 3pm, but on our arrival at 1.30pm there were nigh on 1,000 people present. They had travelled from as far as North Walsham in Norfolk.

The band of the Royal British Legion was in attendance, looking resplendent in their blue and gold uniforms. Looking round I realised I was the only St Dunstaner there and I too looked resplendent in

blue suit, Sapper tie and medals, feeling I was representing St Dunstan's. Just before the Service, the RSM got up and asked the younger generation 'would you please get up and offer your seats to the older generation.' For once, it worked.

The Service was very impressive and emotional. Two particular hymns *O Valiant Hearts* and *Abide With Me* did bring tears to the eyes. I noticed people dabbing their eyes with their handkerchiefs.

We then had two minutes silence preceded by *The Last Post* and finishing with *Reveille*. We felt we had indeed

remembered our comrades still lying there in the Far East. The Service ended with the National Anthem.

We then walked over to the Regimental Restaurant where tea was provided. The four of us were sitting under the shade of a tree. We noticed a disabled gentleman struggling along on two walking sticks. His comment to us was 'I have four legs but cannot get there any quicker.' A fine example of the spirit and humour that kept us going in those dark days. Looking back, we felt that we who had fought in the Far East, had at long last been recognised.

A residential romance



Frank and Brenda after becoming man and wife.

True love is found in the halls of Ovingdean

CUPID'S BOW has hit the target for two love-struck St Dunstaners, both residents at Ovingdean, who were married in London's East End on August 21st. The happy event comes less than a year after they met by chance at our

Brighton home.

Family and friends witnessed the marriage of Frank Tinsley and Brenda Rea during a quiet ceremony at Hackney Town Hall where Frank once worked as a union official. Brenda's grand-daughters had the honour of acting as bridesmaids.

Frank, originally from Holloway, served with the Royal Artillery and lost an eye in 1941. He became a St Dunstaner in 1980. Brenda, from Haringey, was blinded and lost a hand in an explosion whilst serving with Naval Ordnance.

The newly weds were honeymooning in France as this issue of the *Review* went to press.



The People's Princess

Author: S.W. Jackman

Reader: Gordon Delieu

Duration: 6 hours

Catalogue number: 5469

It is fairly widely known that the Royal House of Hanover provided six monarchs for the British throne; the first four Georges, William IV, and Queen Victoria. The other Hanoverians are not nearly so famous, certainly my personal knowledge of 'Fat Mary', the subject of this excellent biography, was minimal.

They call her 'Fat Mary' for the simple reason that she was fat! Enormous! From early on she was of very large dimension. Soon her over-healthy appetite had given her the bulk of a super heavyweight.

But, as the daughter of George III's youngest son, she was undoubtedly a royal princess, the cousin of Queen Victoria no less, and as such she was entitled to be provided for - out of the privy purse. Though what the taxpayer was supposed to be receiving in return is unclear, except for attending dinners and balls she performed few other duties.

Extravagant in the extreme, ungainly and sorely in want of both beauty or an attractive personality, Mary created many more problems than the typical princess. Finding a husband was obviously particularly difficult, a battle tank was more manoeuvrable than Fat Mary was around the ballroom, and as to the prospects of more private duties, well!

But the problems were overcome, and very successfully too - Fat Mary came to occupy a very special place in British history.

BUNTING GETS BALANCED

For once the grass could be said to be greener on the otherside. The *Review's* connoisseur of books, Ted Bunting had his own work scrutinised in the story contest and was not found wanting. Celebrity judge Jon Pertwee deemed a short story called *Un-Shellfish* by Tom Noddy - the nom de plume used by Ted - to be the best of the batch.

'*Un-Shellfish* was a delightful story with a beautiful touch of humour to add to the sting in the tail,' commented the *Dr Who* actor.

Second place went to *The Miracle* by Polo (Fred Ripley) while *The Reject* by Tucker Childs (Maurice Aldridge) was third.

UN-SHELLFISH

by Tom Noddy

THANK YOU very much,' said Mr Shimura in his flawless English.

'Thank you all for your excellent work.' As the last of the paying public left the motor show he beamed benignly on the small team which had made his trade stand such a success, and he concluded his little oration with, 'And tonight we will celebrate in my favourite restaurant.'

'That's very good of him,' observed Albert West, as soon as Mr Shimura was out of earshot, 'that's really generous that is.' But Roger Brown, his companion and fellow salesman gave a staccato 'Ha', and responded cynically with, 'Don't you believe it, my boy, it only comes off his expenses; and make no mistake about it, the likes of you and I wouldn't be invited at all if he thought that young secretary would go by herself.'

The truth, let it be known, was that Roger Brown had been eyeing 'that young secretary' himself, but throughout the week of the show, Miss Rachel Jones had given him scant cause to think she had even noticed his presence. She had obviously been try-

ing to impress Mr Shimura though; seemingly saying, 'Yes Sir, yes of course Sir,' every time Roger had seen them together.

Well on this last night he was determined that she really should take notice of HIM, and his resolve was bolstered by several drinks he and Albert West shared before they entered the eating house.

'Ah, there you are Roger,' greeted Mr Shimura as Brown and West approached the small bar. 'What will you drink before we order the food?'

'I'll have whatever you're having,' Roger boldly replied. Miss Jones, he noticed sourly, was sipping a colourless liquid by Mr Shimura's elbow, but as their host turned to order whisky her eyes met his with a pleasant twinkle and a most encouraging smile.

'Oysters,' said Mr Shimura after only a perfunctory glance at the menu. 'I really appreciate oysters, don't you, Roger?' Roger nodded: he was at the table now, with Miss Jones at his right hand: it was neither the time or the place

to confess that he'd never eaten an oyster in his life, and he was certainly not about to admit he was squeamish. 'Love them,' he lied. 'And how about you, Miss Jones?'

'Oh please call me Rachel,' she said sweetly, but to the question she answered, 'Well I'm not really sure; I've never had them you see.'

'Then I'm sure it's time you did,' said Mr Shimura, beckoning the waiter. 'You'll adore them, won't she, Roger?' 'Bound to,' agreed Roger.

With envious eyes Roger looked across the table to where Albert West was slicing into a juicy fillet steak, and then returned his gaze to his own plate which was crowded with alien bivalves. But Mr Shimura was showing the way, so Roger, determining, 'Well if you can so can I,' lifted the first shell and let the oyster flow along his tongue. It felt like a piece of slimy raw liver, salty and nauseating to his palate... Knowing this was only the first of many did not make the task of keeping it down any easier but with an effort of will he achieved it. Furthermore, by concentrating solely on the job in hand he repeated the operation until finally he succeeded in despatching the whole dozen.

Actually he must have consumed them much faster than he had imagined, for when at length he allowed himself to look around, Mr Shimura was only just putting down his final shell. Smiling widely at Roger, he said, 'Splendid, hey?'

'I'll say,' responded Roger, and then he felt the soft feminine hand on his sleeve and heard Miss Jones saying, 'Would you like to eat mine too, Roger. I'm afraid I don't really like them after all.'

'Yes, you have them Roger,' agreed Mr Shimura. 'You really deserve them.'

Dick Hall looks to the future as he reports on the final camp to be held at HMS Daedalus for St Dunstaners

FAREWELL DAEDALUS - HELLO SULTAN!



Arthur Carter ventures into Robin Hood territory.

ON A BLAZING Friday afternoon in what must have been the hottest ever Summer, we rolled in through the gates of HMS *Daedalus* for the last time. Hot, sticky, thirsty and longing for a cool shower.

What we got was a very warm welcome from all our old friends, 'Dogs' new and old, and Elspeth Grant and all her helpers. Here we were looking forward to another week of fabulous fun, friendship and festivities.

We started off in the evening by being met by Dennis Day, President of the W.O.'s and Senior Rates (known as the 'Chiefs') Mess. Prior to that we had been welcomed by Elspeth and the First Trainer of the Field Gun Crew, Don Philpot, who ran over the week's programme of events.

Saturday dawned bright and fair, a perfect day for sailing organised by the Gosport Cruising Club, with some dozen boats taking part. We set sail in some sort of convoy and most of us got within hail-

ing distance of the shoreline of the Isle of Wight. The wind got up on the return journey and three of our intrepid sailors were seasick; two were Welsh (no names, no packdrill - I shared their cabin!).

Ted John and his 'dog', 'Spud' Murphy, became stranded in Portsmouth Harbour-mouth - no engine, no wind. However, the well known international rescue celebrity, Kevin Rixon, was on hand and saved the day.

Meanwhile, others took to the air, gliding over the flotilla in the Solent and the 'Robin Hoods' were busy shooting off a few arrows.

Dirigible

In the afternoon, we spotted a large blue dirigible overhead, advertising a certain make of car. So Liz Walker and Don Minter strolled over to the airfield and twisted the arm of the organiser who agreed to take six campers on a flight over the Solent and off into the blue - another first for St D's!

After a glorious first day we

all relaxed in the 'Chiefs' Mess for a social evening.

Sunday followed its traditional pattern, early Communion Service taken by our Chaplain, Alison Norman, followed by an Ecumenical Service taken jointly by Alison and our old friend, David Goodburn. Once more the roof was raised, sadly here for the last time by the rendering of our traditional programme of Hymns of Praise. (A 'little dicky-bird' tells me that Alison is destined to become the first female Chaplain to go to sea - on a real ship! Here's wishing her good luck on her new appointment). We then made our way to the Ward Room for the group photo on the lawn followed by a splendid lunch hosted by *Daedalus* Commander Ken Jones, with Tom Hart 'doing the honours' on our behalf. The afternoon was free for our own activities - sleeping, walking, swimming and meeting up with old mates.

Sports Day was taken at a slower pace than usual because of the heat but a wel-

come breeze blew up which played havoc with the javelins and archery - a complaint from the local gliding club about low-flying gliders and high-flying arrows was treated with the contempt it deserved. Meanwhile the 'dogs' got quite adept at dodging the missiles coming from the javelin and discus events!

In the evening, we were invited to a social at HMS *Sultan*, which we now know is to be our future home for camp. We were welcomed by the President of the 'Chiefs' Mess, Mike Cook, who announced that all drinks were 'on the house'. We took it that it would just be the evening. I think Elspeth nearly had kittens with visions of having to have everyone carried out to the coach. But all was well and we had an excellent evening and Mike Cook said how much the crew at *Sultan* were already looking forward to having us with them next year - all of which bodes well for the future.

Next day, off to the Isle of Wight in the *Solent Enterprise*, our 'private yacht' for the day, for a delightfully calm trip with the traditional rum ration provided by the Field Gun Crew. We disembarked at Cowes and were met at the door of the Royal British Legion by our dear old friend, the Chairman, Jimmy Higgins - 82 this year and still as spry as ever - his story about the present Queen Mother at Simonstown in the Fifties when she sat down at the bottom of the stairs, took her shoes off and murmured, 'Oh, my poor feet!' is a classic. After lunch and a drink 'on the house' we strolled along the promenade

which is always interesting because of the hundreds of yachts still around after Cowes Week, and rounded off by doing a bit of shopping in the local shops. A leisurely trip back to Gosport, tired but happy and full of fresh sea air.

Completely lost

On Wednesday, we took off for the Mystery Car Drive organised by Peter Westbrook.

There were some who got completely lost while others steamed home in record time having found all the clues. The winners of this event many times in the past - John Gilbert with Sue and 'Chipper' Stilton - won the booby prize this time having 'gone up the creek without a paddle'! Needless to say, they received their due reward - a couple of mini-paddles and a toy Air Sea Rescue Helicopter!

Best Newcomer! Captain David Newberry presents Stephen Nixon with the Sheila McLeod Cup. Stephen's 'Dog' is Andrew Westbrook.





Is it a goal? Stan Tutton is assisted by Peter Westbrook.

the top table with, as our principal guest, the Commander at HMS *Sultan*, Commander David Pond - this gave him a golden opportunity to meet St Dunstaners and their helpers - and to see what we all got up to at *Daedalus*.

After a splendid dinner to which the Mess had donated all the wine, the sports prizes were presented by Captain David Newberry, the winners being greeted with much acclaim, especially our new camper, Steve Nixon, who did particularly well in all events in spite of his physical handicaps as he proudly walked from

his place to receive his awards. Then the 'Sunshine Girls' a new cabaret act (Liz, Pam, Pat, Sue and Yvonne) brought the house down with their rendering of *You are my Sunshine* - more of the same, please, girls! The compere, our old mate CPO 'Marty' Webb, called upon Ted John to make a speech of thanks to the Captain and Ships Company which he did with style and some nice humorous touches. He was followed by a moving speech of thanks by Bill Shea to the Mess President, Trainers and successful Field Gun Crew, and not least, our faithful and devoted 'dogs'. The Captain replied and wished us well in our future camps at HMS *Sultan*. So ended an historic evening of happiness and not a little emotion.

The last day, Friday, was almost an anti-climax but

still there was much to enjoy as some went off to Wickham to play skittles at the King's Head and the remainder to a most pleasant lunch at the Conservative Club in their lovely garden, after which we strolled home before getting ready for the final farewell dance. This again was an evening to remember as we were joined by so many friends from earlier camps - trainers with their wives, girl friends and grown and married couples whom we had known as children. I think it is possible that Jock Scott, the First Trainer in 1945, was the only person there who had been to camp throughout all 51 years and we salute him for his loyalty and support - come and visit us at *Sultan*, Jock!

Just before we close this final chapter in the history of *Daedalus* camp, a couple of 'mentions' which would otherwise not get into print:

A) Frank Newcombe and his 'opo' Alan Price, who never fail to turn up trumps with their early morning cup of tea - thanks lads!

B) Alan Welton, former Commander at *Daedalus*, there as usual after breakfast with his motorbike ready to take anyone for a 'ton-up' round the airfield. And who was his first 'customer'? Steve Nixon!

C) Last but not least, Bidy Reed, our very own MO, always on hand to tend to our ailments and any other problem - all put right with a smile and words of comfort.

Next morning, to beat the heat of the journey, we were on the road really early and off to all points of the compass, taking with us so many memories of friendship, happiness and goodwill over so many years.

HMS DAEDALUS PRIZE GIVING 1995

Archery

Partially sighted

3rd	60 points	Norman Killick
2nd	62 points	Reg Page
1st	71 points	Eric Church

Totally Blind

3rd	36 points	Joe Kibbler
2nd	40 points	Tom Whitley
1st	96 points	Norman Perry

Novice

16 points	Stephen Nixon
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Bowls

The Ben Mills Pairs Cup

Eric Church & Paul Walker

Best Bowls beginner

Runner up	Norman Perry
Winner	Tom Hart

Kath Riley Trophy for Mystery Car Drive

Braille Reader	Billy Miller
Driver	Kevin Rixon
Writer/Navigator	Yvonne Rixon

The Walk

3rd	Bronze	John Gilbert
2nd	Silver	Arthur Carter
1st	Gold	Gary Lomas

Charles Stafford Novice Cup

Stephen Nixon

Denny Deacon Veterans' Cup

Arthur Carter

Sports

Goal Kicking

Totally Blind

Brian Lang

Partially sighted

Stephen Nixon

Sheila McLeod Cup for Best Beginner

Stephen Nixon

Victor Ludorum

Partially sighted

Runner up

Dick Hall

Winner

Gary Lomas

Totally blind

Runner up

Norman Perry

Winner

Brian Lang

Team result

3rd

Tutton's Terriers

Stan Tutton (Captain), Tom Hart, Jesse Mills, Carl Williams, Norman Hopkins, Jim O'Donnell & Paul Walker

2nd

Lang's Loafers

Brain Lang (Captain), Tom Whitley, Arthur Carter, Stephen Nixon, Dick Hall & Mansel Lewis

Winners

Church's Angels

Eric Church (Captain), Norman Perry, Julian Stevens, Billy Miller, Gary Lomas & John Gilbert

Where's Farah Fawcett? The deceptively cherubic faces of the winning team, Church's Angels, join Captain Newberry after prize-giving.



Warm welcome at Warminster

THIS YEAR WE had 19 campers who met in the Warminster Assembly Rooms. Our hosts, the Warminster Rotary Club and Sergeants' Mess of Warminster Training Centre were there to greet us. After a warm welcome, we were then taken to the Infantry School of Training where we were to be billeted for the next few days.

After a wash and brush up, it was off to The Old Bell for the Rotarians' meeting which was also attended by three Sergeant Majors from the camp and their wives. The President made his of-

50 YEARS AGO

TEMBANI, St Dunstan's preliminary training centre in South Africa closed down on September 30th 1945. It was established when access to the Mediterranean was closed and evacuation, by necessity, had to follow the East coast of Africa to South Africa. Princess Eugenie of Greece (Princess Radziwill) who was a VAD there, was reunited with six St Dunstaners when she visited HQ at Regent's Park.

Still abroad, the Viceroy of India visited St Dunstan's Hostel for Indian war-blinded at Dehra Dun, while in the Far East steps were being taken to ensure early repatriation of blind FEPoWs. At that point St Dunstan's knew of four such cases.

A group of St Dunstaners embarked on what would quickly become a tradition. They went to camp at Lee-on-Solent, aided and abetted, of course, by crew members of HMS *Daedalus*.

Two teams of St Dunstaners took on the world at bridge in Harrogate, winning four out of five matches.

Reg Goding on an annual treat

Official welcome to us and said he was delighted we could make it under the present circumstances. I responded, adding that we had four new campers, Gordon Smith, Bill Webb, David Taylor and John Bailey.

On Friday, we were up bright and early after having received an early morning cuppa from the Sergeant Major. The Rotarians had hired a mini bus for the day plus private cars. We embarked for Lark Hill REME RA. An interesting afternoon was spent inspecting the heavy mobile guns and all the various modern equipment used for tracking and spotting.

Our hosts that evening at the Con Club were the British Legion. This is an annual social event, meeting up again with friends old and new.

Saturday dawned with a large coach arriving, again hired for the day. A full complement left for Chepstow Races, to include a picnic lunch. As it was a very hot day, we had to find shade in the bar! An excellent day, en-

joyed by us all. We went home - tired, happy and broke - ready for our evening at the Sergeants' Mess. We enjoyed supper and entertainment, with prices at the bar which you couldn't afford not to drink.

After supper, the CSM invited me to come up and be presented with a cheque for £656 for St Dunstan's. At the same time, Richard Yates, on behalf of the Rotarians, gave me a cheque for £50. Gratefully received and faithfully applied.

Each Camper on Sunday is allocated a Rotarian Family where we spend the day together at Church and at lunch. A good family day winding down the weekend.

Leaving for home on Monday after lunch, at the Assembly Room final speeches from Richard Yates and a vote of thanks given by Dougie Field for the generosity of the Rotarians for the wonderful weekend they gave us.

This camp has been going for well over 60 years. Long may it continue.

Welcome to St Dunstan's

On behalf of St Dunstan's we welcome St Dunstaners recently admitted to membership and the Review hopes they will settle down happily as members of our family.

Mr Ian Spence of Cottingham, Hull joined on July 6th. Aged 30, he served in the Royal Air Force between 1989 and 1995. His loss of sight followed the onset of multiple sclerosis. After a period of rehabilitation at RAF Headley Court, he came to Ovingdean for mobility training before his discharge from the Service.

Mr Spence is single and has his home near his parents.

Mr Peter Walker of Sutton Courtenay, Oxford became a St

Dunstaner on August 9th. The son of a soldier, born in Germany, he joined the Royal Engineers at 18 and, following training as a combat engineer, was himself posted to Germany. Whilst serving on an emergency tour of Northern Ireland, he was blown up by a booby trap in County Antrim, resulting in serious injuries to his eyes and face. This, in time, led to his loss of sight.

After his discharge, he joined the Ministry of Defence as a civilian storeman. During his service, Mr Walker was a keen sportsman representing his Regiment at running. He also enjoyed both soccer and athletics. He married his wife, Susan, in 1975, shortly after his discharge, and they have two sons and two daughters, aged between 10 and 17.

Mr Jeffrey Redbond of Cleethorpes, South Humberside joined on August 30th. He was called up for service in the Royal Navy in 1941. He was trained as an air mechanic but in 1942 was transferred into Coastal Forces and served mainly on Military Torpedoe Boats where he saw plenty of action, mainly in the Channel. In 1944 he received severe damage to his right eye when hit by a rocket flare.

He left the Service in 1946 and joined the British Transport Police but after 13 years was invalidated out due to deterioration of sight in his 'good' eye. He then became a Security Officer and continued working until a heart attack forced his retirement in 1977. Mr Redbond and his wife have one adult son.

FAMILY NEWS

BIRTHS

Congratulations on the birth of: Anuska Andriounas on July 18th. She is the grand-daughter of *Frederick Field* of Chapel St Leonards, Lincs.

MARRIAGES

Congratulations to: Richard and Carla Aylen, on April 15th in Georgetown, Grand Cayman. Richard is the grandson of Mrs Mary McCarthy of Godalming, Surrey, widow of *Alfred McCarthy*.

Ken and Mary Mayes on July 26th. Mary is the daughter of *Sydney and Margaret Scroggie* of Kirkton of Strathmartine. The couple work for the Guide Dogs for the Blind Association.

ACHIEVEMENTS

Congratulations to: Charlotte Ward, grand-daughter of *Bert and Mavis Ward* of Leeds, on attaining a 2.1 Honours Degree in Mechanical Engineering from Leeds University. This was achieved despite the sad loss of her father at the beginning of the course.

RUBY ANNIVERSARIES

Congratulations to: *Cyril and Margaret Vickers* of Beaminstor on August 29th.

GOLDEN ANNIVERSARIES

Congratulations to: *Roland and Mary Painter* of Birdham on August 1st.

Alf and Audrey Waters of Rottingdean on August 11th.

Jimmy and Theresa Higginbottom of Winlaton, Blaydon-on-Tyne on August 22nd.

Tommy and Theresa Mogan of Steyning on August 25th.

Cliff and Rene Gower of Westbury, Wiltshire on September 8th.

Fred and Daisy Greenaway of Dibden, Purlieu, Southampton on September 15th.

SPECIAL ANNIVERSARIES

Congratulations to:

Joe and Hannah Dalton of Fawdon, Newcastle upon Tyne on their 61st wedding anniversary on July 14th.

Mark and Dot Kingsnorth of Tunbridge Wells, Kent celebrated 61 years of married life on August 4th.

Sidney and Marie Whiting of Ashford, Middlesex on their 64th anniversary on September 12th.

DEATHS

We regret to announce the death of:

Mrs Elizabeth Chalmers on July 17th. She was the wife of *Robert Chalmers* of East Boldon, Tyne & Wear.

Mrs Margaret Fenny of Chester-le-Street, Co. Durham on July 18th. She was the widow of *John Fenny*.

Mrs Doris Millward on July 20th. She was the wife of *John Millward* of Oldham.

Robert Nesbit on July 22nd. He was the brother of *Alex Nesbit* of Teignmouth, Devon.

Mrs Elsie Butler of Redhill, Surrey on July 25th. She was the widow of *Bernard Butler*.

Mrs Sandra Lindsley on July 30th. She was the daughter of Mrs Gwen Vincent and the late *Ronald Vincent* of Cricklewood.

Mrs Diana Trent on August 1st. She was the wife of *John Trent* of London.

Mrs Olga Rimmer of Bristol on August 2nd. She was the widow of *Alec Rimmer*.

Mrs Jessie D. Mingard of Cleethorpes on August 11th. She was the widow of *William J. Mingard*.

Mrs Dorothy Rivers of Rednal, Birmingham on August 14th. She was the widow of *Daniel Rivers*.

Mrs Elizabeth Phillips of West Denton, Newcastle on August 16th. She was the widow of *Frank H. Phillips*.

Mrs Lily Clarke of Blackpool on August 17th, aged 90. She was the widow of *Arnold Clarke*.

Mrs Irene Harrison of Sheffield on August 22nd. She was the widow of *Thomas W. Harrison*.

Mrs Edna Mooney of Moston, Manchester on August 23rd. She was the widow of *John Mooney*.

Our sympathy goes to their families and friends.

IN MEMORY

It is with deep regret that we have to record the deaths of the following St Dunstaners and we offer our deepest sympathy to their widows, family and friends.

Harold Bice, Middlesex Regiment Harold Thomas Bice of West Moors, Dorset died on June 14th, aged 76. Known as 'Tommy', Mr Bice had been a St Dunstaner since April 1944. Soon after his admission, his home was destroyed by enemy action.

A steel furniture fitter, he enlisted on September 1st 1939 and served with the Middlesex Regiment. In 1944, while based in Tunisia, the accidental explosion of a detonator resulted in the mutilation of his right hand and injuries to his eyes.

After training, he took up telephony, initially with the Borough of Tottenham, retiring in 1976. Mr Bice was particularly interested in handicrafts, including toymaking, picture framing, wrought iron and chair caning. He also became a registered lecturer for the Guide Dogs for the Blind Association. In order to raise money for that charity, Mr Bice, who had been taught first class driving techniques by the Army, drove six laps of the Ringwood Cheetah car race-track with the aid of a sighted navigator. He was also a member of the Buffaloes.

Our sympathy goes to his wife, Louisa, son and daughters, and all members of the family.

William Elgood, Royal Artillery William Frederick Charles Elgood of Clacton-on-Sea, Essex died on June 20th, aged 75.

He served as a Gunner in the Royal Artillery from November 1939 and was taken prisoner in Java in March 1942. Discharged in March 1946, the privation he suffered during captivity caused his loss of sight. After a short period in our Borderline category, he became a full St Dunstaner in 1960. Mr Elgood trained at Ovingdean and

then worked in industry until retiring in 1978.

Our sympathy goes to his wife, Constance, their twin sons, Billy and Brian, and all members of the family.

Thomas Claxton, Royal ^{Naval} Navy Voluntary Reserve

Thomas Llewellyn Claxton of Cheltenham died on June 22nd, aged 86. He had been a St Dunstaner since 1944.

Prior to his war service, Mr Claxton was engaged upon scientific work with the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries. He joined the Royal Navy Voluntary Reserve in May 1940 and was attached to the Department of Unexploded Bomb Disposal at the Admiralty. He was wounded in June 1944 while clearing a beach in England and had to undergo extensive surgery for the injuries he received. When he eventually left the RNVF, it was with the rank of Lieutenant.

Our sympathy goes to his wife, Sheila and all the family.

James Hancock, Royal Engineers

James Philip Hancock of Woodbridge, Suffolk died on July 2nd, aged 83. A Sapper in the Royal Engineers, Mr Hancock lost his sight and suffered a back injury as the result of an explosion while boring at an oil well in Persia in July 1942. He came to St Dunstan's within a few months of this accident and went to Halex Ltd, Chingford for training on plastic press work. Changes in employment took him to Chelmsford, Bedford and finally, Ipswich, where, from 1955, he gave excellent service to Messrs. Ransomes. He retired in 1966.

Mr Hancock then retrained in joinery which became his occupation at home, making articles for St Dunstan's Stores Department until it closed in 1979.

Our sympathy goes to his wife, Nancy, son, Philip, daughter, Jane, and all members of the family.

Joseph Colgan, Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers

Joseph Patrick Colgan of Forres, Grampian died on July 6th, aged 89. A Major with the Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers, he joined the Army as a private in 1924. While serving on the North West Frontier in 1936, he was wounded in the right eye. After the outbreak of the Second World War, his Regiment went from the UK to India and then Burma where he was captured and wounded by the Japanese. This further wound to his eye was more serious.

After his release from captivity, Major Colgan continued his Army career in Germany and was finally discharged in 1949. In civilian life,

his career was mainly with the hospital administration service.

A keen gardener, he was a founder member of the Inverness Branch of the Burma Star Association.

Our sympathy goes to his wife, Kathleen, daughter, Monica, and all members of the family.

Albert Stroud, Queen's Own Royal West Kent Regiment

Albert Leslie Stroud of Ovingdean died on July 26th, aged 80. He had been a St Dunstaner since 1945.

He enlisted in the Queen's Own Royal West Kent Regiment in June 1940 and served with them as a private until he was wounded in action, blinded in Italy by gunshot.

Mr Stroud had been in the printing trade before the war and, on his return to civilian life, he started work for a large electrical company, Mullard Equipment Ltd, Crawley. In 1974, his efforts were recognised when he was awarded the BEM for 25 years service to industry. He retired in 1979 after 33 years continuous service. His leisure time interests included listening to the radio, particularly cricketing commentaries. He married shortly after enlisting, but sadly the marriage did not last.

Our sympathy goes to his sister, Mrs Bernie and all the family.

Rex Robinson, Home Guard

Rex Robinson of Acton died on July 28th, aged 69. He had been a St Dunstaner since 1944. An apprentice motor mechanic, he became a Home Guard volunteer. He lost his sight in March 1943 when he went to take a trench mortar bomb from some children who had found it. The bomb exploded, two of the children were killed and Mr Robinson was injured in the eyes and leg.

At Church Stretton he became skilled as a boot and shoe repairer. He pursued a career in industry, including assembly work for Lancashire Dynamo and Crypto Ltd. and the Diamond H. Electric Company, retiring in 1975. He enjoyed listening to the radio and Talking Books.

Mr Robinson's wife, Georgina, died in 1981, but he remained at home, valuing his independence. Our sympathy goes to his daughter, Ann and all other members of the family.

John Deyes, Royal Navy

John Clark Deyes of Ovingdean died on August 3rd, aged 80. He joined the Royal Navy in 1936 and served as a Stoker until 1943 when he had to leave the service because of the onset of defective vision. It was not until 1961 that he became a St Dunstaner, learning braille and taking industrial

training. This enabled him to work in the Hull area as a capstan lathe operator until 1972. In retirement, he enjoyed his greenhouse.

Our sympathy goes to his children, John, Denise and Glynis, and all members of the family.

David Phillips, The Buffs (Royal East Kent)

Captain David Godfrey Phillips of Shortlands, Bromley, Kent died on August 10th, aged 80. He joined The Buffs in 1940 before completing his degree (Captain Phillips was reading History at Cambridge). Commissioned shortly afterwards, he was hoping to make a career in the Army, but was seriously injured in a battle inoculation exercise in 1942. He lost his right eye and received serious facial wounds. After training at Church Stretton, he returned to duty with his regiment but was unable to obtain a regular commission due to his injury.

He then trained as a mechanical engineer, became an armament inspector and, finally, a sales engineer. Captain Phillips also qualified as a linguist in both French and Arabic. During his time at University, he captained his college in both hockey and tennis.

Our sympathy goes to his wife, Joan, son, Simon, and all the family.

Albert Parsons, Royal Army Service Corps

Albert Ronald Parsons of Southwick died on August 12th, aged 77. He had been a St Dunstaner since August 1944. Having worked on the Fruit Exchange, he enlisted in December 1939 with the Royal Army Service Corps. He lost his sight as a result of gunshot wounds to the head, leading to his discharge in 1945. Following training at Church Stretton, he became skilled in the making of string bags and, returning to civilian life, worked for Remploy. In his leisure time, Mr Parsons enjoyed following horse racing.

Our sympathy goes to his wife, Isobel and all other members of the family.

Harry Wilson, Pioneer Corps

Harry Wilson of Burnley, Lancashire died on August 30th, aged 87. He served as a private in the Pioneer Corps from 1939 to 1945. After suffering wounds to both legs, he was held prisoner of war in Germany and Poland. His loss of sight resulted from the privation suffered during captivity. He became a St Dunstaner in 1984.

Our sympathy goes to his son, Harry Jnr., daughters, Shirley and Dorothy, and all members of the family.