



# St Dunstan's Review

June 1996

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BI-MONTHLY  
Free to St Dunstaners

JUNE 1996

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Cover picture: Flowers for a Tommy! A double gift from the Netherlands, the statue of a British soldier being greeted by a thankful Dutch girl was garnished by red, white, blue and orange flowers. For full details, turn to page 14.

## From the Chairman



This month marks the first anniversary of the reorganised St Dunstan's, Ovingdean, and it seems appropriate to congratulate Karen Morane and her dedicated and enthusiastic team for making it the success that it so clearly is.

In addition, and perhaps of greater interest to the wider membership, several reunions have been held at Ovingdean, and all have been happy occasions and much enjoyed by those who attended them. These are described in greater detail elsewhere in this issue. My congratulations go to the Amateur Radio Society who celebrated their 20th anniversary in March.

I very much hope that the new arrangements will be able to accommodate further events, thus making it possible for more St Dunstaners and Widows to experience the happy atmosphere of the establishment. We will continue to do all we can to maintain its very special qualities.

*Henry Leach*



This month marks the Official Birthday of our Patron, Her Majesty The Queen. We send Her Majesty our warmest best wishes. A feature will appear in the August Review.



## NOTICE BOARD



### ST DUNSTAN'S SKI-ING TRIP MARCH 1ST-8TH 1997

In keeping with tradition a weeks Ski-ing trip has been arranged for March 1st-8th 1997 in Wertach, Bavaria for all of you who enjoy a challenge AND a good holiday. Gerry Jones and Bill Dougall, from 5 Regt RA Wksp REME, have put together a package that is superb value and guarantees skiers of all abilities, from non-existent to experienced, a good time. The estimated TOTAL cost, including flight, insurance, transfers, hotel, half board, ski hire and ski passes is an unbelievable £350. Guides will be provided by the Army who are based locally, as well as a few old faces like Peter Zamudio, and the accommodation will be the REME Hotel at Wertach, all rooms en-suite. Those of you wishing to bring members of your family are more than welcome and the cost for children is estimated at roughly half-price. In addition, if we manage to fill the REME Hotel, we may qualify for a further reduction.

If you would like to take part in this NOT TO BE MISSED holiday please send a deposit of £50 per person, to April Hadert at St Dunstan's, Greenways, Ovingdean, Brighton BN2 7BS. Cheques (no cash please) should be made out to St Dunstan's. Anyone wishing more information please contact Gerry Jones on 01872 553862.

### ARMOUR DISPLAY

The Royal Armouries, one of the world's most famous collections of arms and armour, opened in Leeds on March 30th. Many items of general display can be handled. All floors are accessible to wheelchair users and guide dogs are admitted to the museum. There are also induction loops in the museum's two main theatres. Opening hours are 10am-6pm in summer, 10am-5pm in winter. For full details, telephone 0113 245 6456.

### BRAILLE LINE

The United Kingdom Association of Braille Producers is hoping to relieve some of the frustration of obtaining braille transcriptions. They have set up a new phone line for transcribers and customers to 'swap' information about who wants work done and who is available to do it.

Just dial 01858 555555, leave a message and they will try to help demand match supply.

### COMPUTER CLUB MEETING October 10/11th

by Ray Hazan

A meeting of the Computer Club will take place at Ovingdean from 2pm on Thursday, 10th to 4pm on Friday, October 11th. There will be a dinner on the Thursday evening. Any suggestions for inclusion in the programme would be appreciated. Those wishing to book accommodation at Ovingdean should contact Clare Woods on 01273 307811 extension 3221 as soon as possible.

### PEDAL POWER

Pedalabikeaway Cycle Centre in the Forest of Dean is trying to provide bikes for all needs including visually impaired people.

They have off-road and road tandems, a Buddybike and a Victorian trike for hire and are happy to help with providing steersmen.

For details contact Hilary or Fred Carpenter, Pedalabikeaway Cycle Centre, Trereece Barn, Llangarron, Ross-on-Wye HR9 6NH. Telephone 01989 770357.

### A SAP AMONG THE SAPPERS

This audio cassette (two tapes, running time 2hrs) by John Booth is the sequel to the book *The Day War Broke Out* and is again in support of St Dunstan's.

The author's interesting and often amusing recollections of army life are contrasted with terrible destruction and shortages facing a near starving Germany at the end of the War.

A hazardous voyage through a North Sea ice field, a near miss with a German brothel, the discovery of a secret hoard of German film of a Rocket Research Station, and the night a British General locked up his NCOs, are just a few of the incidents on these remarkable tapes.

The stories are read by Stanley Richards, perhaps better known as Seth Armstrong, the wily gamekeeper in Yorkshire Television's *Emmerdale Farm*.

To order, send a cheque or PO for £9.95, made payable to St Dunstan's Appeal Account, to John Booth, 30 Eden Vale Road, Westbury, Wiltshire BA13 3NY.

### HELEN STEWART

At the time of going to press, we have heard of the sudden death of Helen Stewart, a Welfare Visitor in the Southern Area. More details follow in the next issue.

## CHANGES AT HEADQUARTERS

From May 10th, 1996, the Fund Raising Department has taken over the administering, recording and acknowledging of bequests to St Dunstan's. This is now common practice amongst many major charities and has been made possible by the full computerization of the Fund Raising Department.

St Dunstan's will continue to assist beneficiaries in all matters relating to their wills and to administer beneficiary estates where applicable. Enquiries in the meantime should, in the first place, be addressed to Mrs Margaret Orr Deas at Headquarters.

## HOLIDAY VISITS TO OIVINGDEAN

As was announced in the last *Review* it is now possible to offer limited accommodation at Ovingdean to individual St Dunstaners and also Clubs. The booking arrangements should be made through Clare Woods who will be able to discuss the accommodation that is available and the charges applicable.

St Dunstan's is not able to fund the cost of travelling to and from Ovingdean which must be the responsibility of those making such visits. Mr Colin Bentley, whose firm Care Line in Birmingham has for many years provided car, minibus and coach facilities, has asked us to let it be known that private arrangements between St Dunstaners and his company for the provision of transport to and from Ovingdean could be negotiated.

Mr Bentley has made the suggestion that, if transport can be shared so that, for example, one car is used for carrying three passengers or if a luxury six-seater mini-coach is used (it could take wheelchairs) for picking up more passengers, the price of hiring could be attractive. It would be necessary to pick up passengers at pre-arranged times and drive them to and from Ovingdean as a group.

Anyone interested in using Care Line's facilities either on a group or individual basis should contact Care Line on 0121 771 3558.

## WHAT HAPPENED TO YOU ON THE WAY TO THE FORUM?

Funny stories and anecdotes involving blind people, such as the concerned passer-by giving directions to the guide dog, are being requested for a book being compiled by Chris Hallett. Any stories, which can be sent in tape, print, braille or disk, should be passed to Chris at 23 Beacon Way, Park Gate, Southampton SO31 7GL. Each story will be printed with the sender's name unless otherwise requested. Proceeds from the book will go to blind causes.

## WARTIME ENVELOPES WANTED

I am a partially sighted St Dunstaner with many hobbies which all help to keep me fully occupied during my twilight years and also act as a form of therapy, no doubt. I am now busy with a project which I have called *Lest We Forget*. I am gathering as many relics as I can to put into a large scrapbook, I am now busy with wartime envelopes that bear the signature of the Military censor and envelopes bearing the emblems of the different units as well. It would be such a loss if these envelopes were thrown away. Anything relating to the war years would be most helpful. I trained at Ovingdean during 1972 and 1973, I am sure that there will still be some of my St Dunstan's friends that still remember me.

If anyone can help, please send them to me, Avon Williams, Flat 47, Bel-Aire, 151 Snell Parade, Durban 4001, South Africa.

## CASSETTE LIBRARY ADDITION

G 61. 12 x C90's. *Looking for Trouble*, an autobiography by General Sir Peter de la Billière. Narrated by Michael Crouch, duration 17 hours and 51 minutes.

We are grateful to Sir Peter, his Agents and the Association of the Blind of Western Australia, who made the recorded version available.

Sir Peter left school at 16 and enlisted in time to serve in Korea. After that, soldiering in England was just not his cup of tea, so he joined the SAS. There follows a fascinating history of the SAS since the war. He was their Director during the Iranian Embassy siege.

His Command of the Combined Services in the Falklands following that war, together with his knowledge of special 'behind the lines' intelligence gathering operations put him in the ideal position to Command British Forces in the Gulf War.

Sir Peter gives a fascinating insight into political and military matters at the highest level. The book is written in a most unassuming manner and is ably read. In short, a book hard to put down.

If you wish to obtain a copy of this story on tape please send 12 C90s to the Public Relations Department at Headquarters.

## THANK YOU, NORMAN

The Editorial team would like to express their thanks to Norman Barnes, who has been involved with the printing of the *St Dunstan's Review* for the past 30 years. We are grateful for the personal attention he has always given us. Production has now been transferred to Maund and Irvine Ltd based in Hertfordshire.

# A VERY SPECIAL EVENT

Isn't it strange how time seems to fly nowadays? It is just under a year since I sat here writing my report on the 1995 Annual General Meeting, and yet it could have been only a couple of months ago because that occasion is still so clear in my mind. Yet here I am, once again, sitting here in my shack typing out my report on the 1996 AGM that was held at Ovingdean from March 30th to 31st.

This occasion had greater significance because it marked the twentieth anniversary of the Society since it was formed back in 1976 and a good deal has been achieved in that time. Once again, members and their wives stayed at the *White Horse Hotel* in Rottingdean, but this time we had learned from last year's experience that if we availed ourselves of the bed and breakfast facilities only at that establishment and had lunch and a light snack in the evenings at Ovingdean, then we could get more air-time in the shack and socialise on a much better basis than had been possible before. However, with the welcome news that was carried in the *April Review* about the future availability of accommodation at Ovingdean, it is hoped that we will all be able to spend the duration of our meetings under that one roof.

The Chairman, Bill Shea, G4AUJ, began the meeting by saying that it was his sad duty to report the death of a former member, Bob Davis,

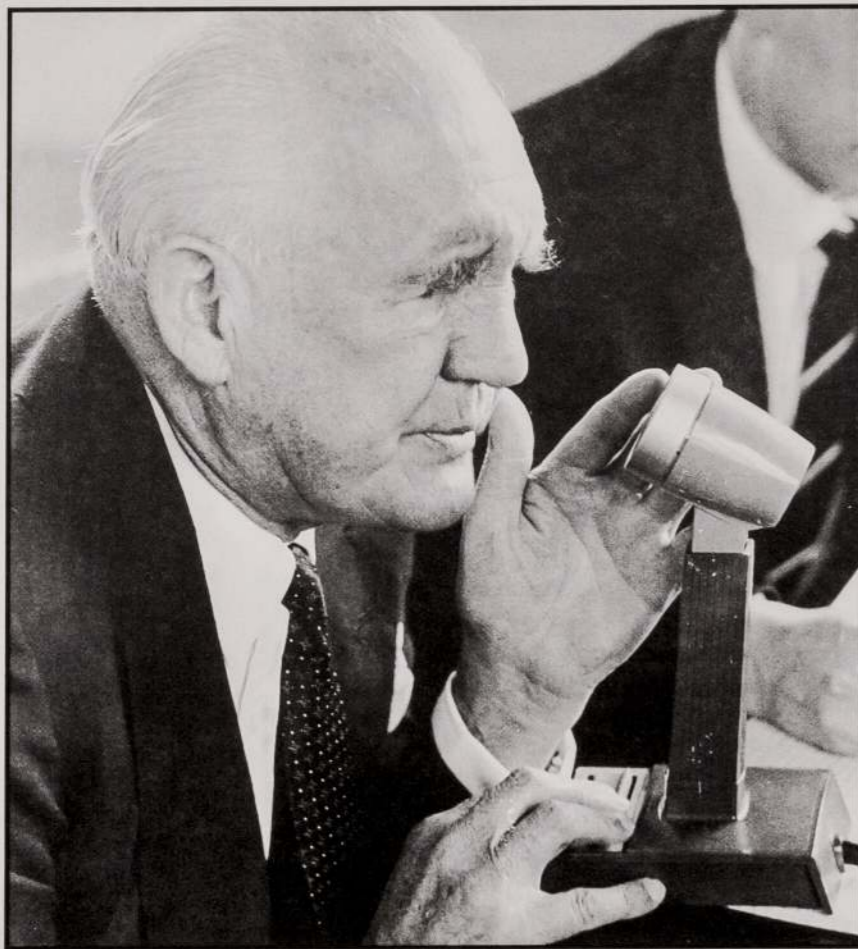
G4ZIK, who had recently gone 'silent key'. In requesting those present to stand in silent tribute to him, Bill said that we should also remember the other members who had passed on during the lifetime of the Society. He followed this by giving a brief

outline of the history of the Society from its inception to the present day, and he was just finishing when there was a sudden unexpected interruption with the arrival of a cameraman from the local newspaper, the *Evening Argus*. He said that he had been asked to come and photograph the radio shack and please could he have a couple of members to come along and pose with the equipment in order to make the shot more interesting!

Bill and the Secretary, Ted John, G3SEJ, obviously considered themselves to be the most photogenic pair in the room and they volunteered their services, with profuse apologies for their temporary absence. On their return, Bill took the Chair and the AGM got



By Arthur Taylor (Short Wave Listener)



*Champion of the airwaves. Lord Fraser was an advocate of radio for St Dunstaners from the days of the crystal set.*

underway in its normal happy and convivial atmosphere. To round off the meeting Bill said that he would like to pay a very special tribute to Ted John who, since the Society was formed back in 1976, had attended every meeting and every activity that it had been involved in. He added that there could not be many people who could claim a 100 per cent record like that over such a long period of time, and both he and the membership were extremely grateful to him for such dedication. The statement was very warmly applauded and it was a very good indication of the very high regard that everyone has for their Secretary.

After lunch, Bill and Ted performed a cake-cutting ceremony without, I am glad to say, inflicting any damage upon themselves! This item

had been made by my wife, Jane, to mark this very special occasion, and it was in the shape of an open book, suitably inscribed on the left and right hand pages. It also bore three St Dunstan's seals that had been made by pressing my lapel badge into moulding icing. My own contribution to this project was to be drafted in to stir the mixture and I can assure you that when that job was completed, I knew what my right arm was for!

And so to the radio shack. Unfortunately this was a bit of a disappointment because, as it transpired, there was an international amateur radio contest going on that weekend and all of the available frequencies were jammed with people trying to make as many contacts as they could in the shortest possible time. The only alternative was to go

down to the 80-metre band where things were a bit more civilised and less frustrating.

There were many old friends to be found there amongst our UK contacts and we did get the occasional continental station that popped in for a chat.

All in all, it was a very enjoyable weekend and it was good to meet old friends once again. We shall now be looking forward to our next meeting in October. Finally, our sincere and grateful thanks are due to the staff at Ovingdean who made us so welcome and provided us with such excellent service.

**We reproduce an article written by Ted John in February 1982.**

There is little doubt that the seeds of the Society were sown many years ago by a certain schoolboy at Marlborough College. As far back as 1912 and 1913, Ian Fraser, together with some of his fellow pupils, set up a simple crystal receiver on which news bulletins in morse were received from the Eiffel Tower. Captain Fraser was blinded in the Battle of the Somme in 1916, and on his return home, he maintained his interest in wireless and was active as G5SU.

In view of the pleasure that wireless had obviously brought him, he enlisted the aid of the Wireless Society of London to help other blind people to build wireless apparatus. He was of the opinion that wireless could have been invented for the blind, so exactly did it fulfil their needs.

Ian Fraser joined the Radio Society of Great Britain, formerly the Wireless Society of London, in December 1922 and became President in 1928. As Lord Fraser of Lonsdale, he still retained his interest in amateur radio. Indeed he was Guest of Honour

at the Sixth Annual Reunion of the Radio Amateur Old Timers' Association in May 1964.

Radio amateurs all over the world owe a debt of gratitude to Lord Fraser and many of his contemporaries for the time and energy they devoted to attending committees and negotiating through the International Amateur Radio Union and other bodies for the allocation of frequencies to the radio amateur. Perhaps it was no coincidence that Ian Fraser G5SU, was the first practising amateur of the post World War 1 era to become President of the Radio Society of Great Britain.

So much for our heritage. In February 1967, a suggestion was put forward that all St Dunstaners who were licensed radio amateurs should meet at Ian Fraser House, for the purpose of discussing problems which had been encountered and overcome by blind operators. The first of these gatherings took place during the weekend 7th to 9th April 1967, and on this, and several successive annual occasions, contact was made with the late Iris de Reuck, ZS2PY, St Dunstan's only licensed lady amateur, who lived in Port Elizabeth on the Cape of Good Hope. Radio Shack Limited very kindly provided equipment for demonstration and operation - the call-sign was GB3STD. Lord Fraser took the Chair at these meetings, and under his inspiration and never-failing enthusiasm, more and more St Dunstaners showed an interest in amateur radio and this was nurtured by the Radio Amateur, Invalid and Blind Club and individual local Amateur Radio Societies.

The endeavours of Mr Norman French are greatly appreciated, for it was he who organised the meetings in the formative years and gave encouragement and advice to

those who became keen on amateur radio as a hobby.

By 1976, interest in amateur radio had grown to such proportions amongst St Dunstaners that it was decided to consider forming a Society. To that end, Ted John, G3SEJ was asked to convene a meeting of those interested and this was held at Headquarters in London on Saturday, 17th January 1976. This turned out to be the inaugural meeting of the St Dunstan's Amateur Radio Society, at which election of officers occurred and Articles of Association were adopted. The objects of the newly-formed Society were 'To create and encourage an interest in, and further the knowledge of, amateur radio amongst St Dunstaners, their contacts and friends'.

The Society is affiliated to the Radio Society of Great Britain, the three Armed Forces Societies - Royal Navy, Royal Signals and Royal Air Force, and the Radio Ama-

teur Invalid and Blind Club. There is a Tape Library at Headquarters, which contains recordings of meetings and lectures over the past 20 years. These can be obtained by sending the requisite number of blank tapes to Headquarters. A recent addition to the Library is 'A Guide to Amateur Radio' (18th edition) and our thanks are due to Mr Victor Hazan, who read the book on to tape, and the Radio Society of Great Britain for granting permission for this to be done.

At a meeting of the Society held at Ian Fraser House on 21st May 1977, it was decided unanimously to accept the offer of a Trophy as a token in remembrance of the late Wally Wardrop, G3MOW, who died on 28th December 1976. Wally was known throughout the world and acted as a net controller of the Royal Signals Amateur Radio Society, and he was a personal friend of many St Dunstaners. Mrs Ann

*Early equipment for the Society.*



Koloboff F6CYL, a great friend and admirer of Wally, received contributions from all over the world for what is known as the G3MOW Memorial Trophy, which is inscribed 'Gentleman of the Air Memorial Floating Trophy in Memory of Silent Key Wally Wardrop, G3MOW. Presented by the St Dunstan's Amateur Radio Society for Outstanding Service'. A secret ballot is held each year amongst the members and, as the inscription suggests, the Trophy can be awarded to

anyone who fulfils its conditions, whether a St Dunstaner or not.

The Society acquired its own transceiver and was eventually allocated a room at Ian Fraser House which could be used as a shack, from which it is possible to use the TA-33 Jr. Mosley beam and co-linear aeri-als. The members of the Society recognise the debt to those who so willingly and readily gave their time and expertise to the setting up of the station, namely:

Len Wooler, G8GEZ; John

Houlihan, G48LJ; Chris Winton, G8RSM; local amateurs, Bob Field and Dave Mitchell, staff at Ian Fraser House.

The next step was to attempt to obtain a suitable call-sign and, with the assistance of the R.S.G.B and other agencies, the call-signs G3STD and G8STD were allocated to the base station at Ian Fraser House. At the time membership of the Society was 42, and quite a number have obtained their licences since joining the Society.

## Prisoner of War Reunion April 30th to 31st 1996

by Richard Bingley

It was wonderful to be back in this wonderful St Dunstan's building at Ovingdean. Thank you St Dunstan's Council for making this possible.

Our attendance was somewhat down on previous years but we do hope that more St Dunstaners, with their escorts, will attend next year.

Sadly our Chairman, Billy Griffiths and Alice could not attend owing to sickness in the family, so a greetings card which we all signed, was sent to them.

On Friday evening we had a get-together in the Brighton club room which proved enjoyable. An excellent buffet was provided.

The AGM was held on Saturday morning in the Winter Garden. Our President, Air Chief Marshal Sir John Gingell gave us a warm welcome and we had a first-class meeting. Tom Hart, as well as being our Secretary, acted as Chairman, in the absence of Billy Griffiths. The Treasurer, Ray Sheriff rendered a satisfactory report of our sound financial position. Mrs Beryl Gardner read Tom Hart's Secretarial Report in impeccable fashion.

During Saturday evening we had a reception followed by dinner in the Winter Garden. As usual the tables were splendidly laid out with flowers and the national flags of Great Britain and the Netherlands on display. The meal was superb. Grace was spoken by Richard Bingley and the Loyal Toast was proposed by Ray Sheriff. Our President, Air Chief Marshal Sir John Gingell, welcomed St Dunstan's Chairman, Admiral of the Fleet Sir Henry Leach, and there was a warm applause, also for our guest of honour Air Chief Marshal Sir

John Allison, KCB, CBE, RAF. He gave an amusing talk which was enjoyed by all.

Tom Hart organised a presentation of St Dunstan's handicraft work to Lady Allison and Dr Heikens and a plaque was presented to the Air Chief Marshal. In addition, Tom presented a thank you present to Mary Frith for her long service to St Dunstan's.

On Sunday morning we attended a first-class Divine Service in the Chapel where staff had arranged a beautiful flower display. The attendance was very good with several residents and staff present. Richard Bingley recited the lesson from memory, it was Paul's first letter to the *Corinthians*, Chapter 13 verses 1 to 13. The new chaplain, the Reverend Duncan Lloyd-James (a curate attached to St Margaret's Church, Rottingdean) gave a clear and appropriate address. He will prove a fine chaplain and deserves our support on all occasions. Tom Hart recited the exaltation and, after a two minute silence, we had some really wonderful cathedral music, it was most appropriate. The congregation sang a fine selection of hymns with great exuberance.

On Sunday evening a concert was given by the Brighton Male Voice Choir and were in splendid shape. We thankfully had a large audience and all were most appreciative of the fine selection of music and songs.

So thank you Tom Hart for your excellent programme of events, which we thoroughly enjoyed. Thank you also to the staff of Ovingdean for making us so welcome and to the Residents as well.

The 1997 PoW Reunion will be held at Ovingdean on April 11th, 12th and 13th.

## Heroes of the longest mile

A record 30,000 runners turned out on an unusually warm April day to test their personal durability in the London Marathon.

Among the athletic mass were four people associated with St Dunstan's. Starting from Blackheath, they were running the 28 mile route through historic Greenwich, futuristic Docklands and imperial Westminster, heading for the climax in The Mall.

Although paralysed on one side of his body, St Dunstaner Alan 'Reg' Perrin forced himself over 15 miles of the Marathon, eventually beaten by the heat.

Dr Hal Sosabowski, grandson of St Dunstaner Stan Sosabowski, ran the length in just over four hours, while Ovingdean Sports & Leisure Supervisor Grant Cooper made the course in just over six hours after injuring his feet along the way.

Finally, St Dunstaner Gerry Jones and his escort, Commander Colin Douglas, completed the Marathon in under four hours.

## CAUSE FOR CONCERN

After examining the *Book of Remembrance* at a recent reunion, one wife turned to her husband with a worried countenance. 'You're not in there!' she exclaimed. 'I should hope not,' was the reply.

Surely not a case of wishful thinking.

## Service of Dedication

St Dunstaners on parade at St Paul's



Front (l to r): Mr and Mrs Tatchell, Mr and Mrs Revis, Mr and Mrs John, and Dr Pavillard. Back: Sir Maurice Johnston and John Allen.

A Service of Dedication was held at St Paul's Cathedral, London on Wednesday, May 8th for Members of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire.

Two Members of St Dunstan's Council attended, Lieutenant-General Sir Maurice Johnston, K.C.B., O.B.E., DL and Mr Dennis Cadman, C.B.E. together with four St Dunstaners, Ted John, M.B.E., Dr Stanley Pavillard, M.B.E., Ken Revis, M.B.E., and Trevor Tatchell, M.B.E. Also present was Supplies Officer John Allen, M.B.E.

Trevor writes: 'Due to traffic problems, St Dunstan's coach was delayed and we were obliged to follow Her Majesty and the Duke of Edinburgh through the West Gate. Nevertheless, the ushers safely, and most timely, steered us into the right seats. 'I was enormously impressed. It was a great honour

to be present. I was moved by the atmosphere, the singing of the choir, the participation of the congregation, the fanfare of the trumpets, the magnificent organ music and the military bands that were playing.

'We were privileged to sit in the centre of the Cathedral, virtually within touching distance of the Royal Party and entourage, the Beefeaters, clergy and choristers. The hymns that were chosen were most appropriate and as a Welshman, the quality and volume of the voices ringing throughout this magnificent building was close to our Celtic hearts.

'It is said that the British excel at pageantry and this was exemplified by the heraldry, organisation and precision of the proceedings. It was incredible to be present and to witness such overwhelming atmosphere.'

'If I brought along about 30 people of widely differing ages, several of whom are blind, plus their guide dogs, would you be able to organise some walks for us, please?' The immediate response from the Stratford Ramblers was, 'Yes, of course, we would.' A slight hesitation over what they had let themselves in for did creep in later when they read that Mike Tetley had climbed Mount Kilimanjaro (19,340 ft) in Africa. The highest point in Warwickshire at 850 ft was little match! But any doubts were soon to disperse and it was the start of a warm and generous encounter with the Stratford Ramblers.

Although the previous year's visit to Church Stretton had been highly successful, it was decided to explore the Cotswolds this time. This was to prove a well founded decision. An earlier stay at the *Moat House Hotel* in Stratford, plus a bit of grovelling to the Manager, resulted in our being offered extremely generous rates in this four star hotel. The only sad disappointment being that they could only fit us in during the same dates as the PoW reunion in Brighton, which prevented our numbers being even greater. It is a large hotel with shops, conference facilities and joy of joy, a health centre with very small pool, sauna and steam rooms to massage away the stiffness of limb! Despite the size of the hotel, the service is personal, friendly and efficient.

Much preparatory work had been done prior to the group meeting up on the April 11th. Ray Bennett of the Stratford Ramblers, a retired research chemist

# Much Ado About Walking

## St Dunstan's Walkers in Stratford-upon-Avon

By Ray Hazan



Best foot forward! St Dunstan's walkers head off into the elements. **Left:** Mike Tetley and escort stride ahead.

with ICI, had planned the four 8 mile walks, supplying an itinerary and leader for each day. It was with great pleasure and anticipation that we listened to Alan Cumming, Chairman of the Stratford Ramblers together with his wife, Janet and Ray accompanied by his wife, Betty when they came to the hotel on the first evening to introduce themselves and describe what lay ahead. Both Alan and Ray proved to be of Welsh origin, swelling the already large contingent of Welsh Walkers - Norman and Mary Hopkins, Trevor Tatchell, Stan Tutton and Catherine Johnston. This could only mean that trouble lay in store!

This did indeed prove so on the first day, when the weather can only be described as typically Welsh - rain and more rain! It was with undampened spirits that the group, including several local ramblers as guides and escorts, set off along the towpath. We weaved around mooring bollards, ducked

through a tunnel and made sure our guides were nearest to the river side! There were several splashes, but they were feet through puddles! Later on, through one field, we felt as though we were walking on stilts as everyone grew by some three inches as a clay mud clung to our boots. The Welcombe Hills opened their arms to us, but with more rain and a biting wind. *The Foxhunter* at Snitterfield for lunch was a lot more hospitable. It must have made a strange sight as we walked around the pub with plastic bags as over-shoes, an abso-

lutely correct concession the Ramblers make in return for being allowed in with muddy boots! We returned via a shorter and more direct route to the *Moat House* in view of the conditions. Congratulations to Stan Tutton, the eldest member of the group, accompanied by Jonathan Ridge, who completed this and every other walk. To warm oneself in a hot bath or sauna afterwards made the discomfort worthwhile.

The hotel dining-room offered a carvery style meal. The more than fresh air meant plates piled with sev-

Snow dog! Chilly fun canine style.



sary that day and who was due to join us on the morrow. There was consternation however, as we retired to bed that night, with snow falling and laying an inch deep.

Help lay at hand in the form of Alan Cumming, the leader of the next day's walk. A lay Methodist preacher, he had obviously had a word in the right quarter and from then on, the weather improved dramatically. Saturday's walk was beautiful, starting from the car park at Bidford-on-Avon and roughly following

eral different meats, thereby undoing all the exercise of the day! Convivial conversation in the lounges and bars afterwards meant further additional calories were imbibed. Most of the participants have taken part in the previous seven annual walks, so it was good to catch up on news. This year we very much welcomed two new members, Stewart Harris and Tom Roddy, one of our more recent St Dunstaners. We thought of Bob Fullard celebrating his Golden Wedding Anniver-

the river. The going was smooth and open, though the stiles were not the easiest we have crossed. In the afternoon, we followed a ridge with superb views over the river and its glorious surrounding countryside. It was the only day we heard any aircraft noise as tugs towed aloft gliders from a nearby field. One of the local Ramblers that day was an ex-wartime Spitfire pilot, moving on to Meteors after the war. Don proved excellent and interesting company, one of the pleasures of these walks.

A bonus was provided on Saturday night for those with energy left to dance. Staying at the hotel were retired staff from the Tesco group and they kindly invited St Dunstan's to join them for an evening's entertainment. It was appropriately reminiscent of the war-time dances with big band music, songs and games of the era. St Dunstaners participated with gusto! Trevor Tatchell was asked to say a few words and, for once, they were few! 'I shop at Sainsbury's, at Safeway's and Asda.' There was an ominous silence - had he forgotten who were our hosts? 'But from now on,' and there was an audible sigh of relief, 'I shall shop at Tesco's!' His complaint that he had heard no Welsh songs was immediately followed by strains of 'We'll keep a welcome' and our Welsh contingent stood to a man! Trevor drew rapturous applause.

It was Ray Bennett's turn to lead us again on Sunday. The start was from the car park at Hidcote Manor, owned by the National Trust. We made the intrepid climb to the highest point in Warwickshire, which raised hardly any puffing or blowing, so gradual was the ascent after our experiences over the South Downs! We averted our eyes from the rather ugly radio masts

adorning the hill top. But our lunch stop in the village of Ebrington more than amply made up for the eyesore. How reassuring to know that England still has its quiet, traffic-free villages with their thatched cottages, colourful gardens and tolling church bells calling worshippers to prayer.

All too quickly the final day had arrived, and with it, our leader for the day, Iris Edson. Iris had been a former WAAF, serving with the RAF Police. At four foot nothing, she had probably proved a formidable opponent!

We started from Dover's Hill, which takes its name from a local flamboyant solicitor, Captain Robert Dover, who, in 1612, transformed a small Whitsuntide Feast into a grand festival of sport and pageantry, which he named 'The Cotswold Olimpicks'. The Games are still held on the Friday evening after the Spring Bank Holiday Monday. We followed the Cotswold Way to Broadway, diverting briefly to take in Broadway Tower, a folly built in 1799 and commanding extensive views. Though most of the route followed flat, open grassland, several roads crossed our path. Because of the contrast, both the noise and smell of cars and lorries seem that much more offensive on such outings.

The aim of these walks has been to provide relatively flat easy-going excursions, rather than mountaineering. Ray Bennett and his team could not have chosen better. They even went to the extent of helping across a road one of our escorts, who was temporarily carrying someone else's white pole! The Cotswold countryside is both beautiful to behold and full of interesting sites and villages for description. The feel of soft grass under your feet, a gentle breeze (well mostly!) on



Birthdays cheer! Ted John and birthday boy Stan Tutton share a hearty appreciation for a dinner time joke.

your face, the smell of fresh greenery and a sense of peace and tranquillity is immensely refreshing. Only one jet plane was heard throughout the four days. Add good food, comfortable quarters and excellent company, and you have a recipe for good living, surely? Our gratitude to Bill Weisblatt for providing transport. We thank the Stratford Ramblers for sharing their beautiful walks with us.

By tradition, we hold a special dinner on our last night, at which Alan, Ray and their wives were our guests. Trevor, St Dunstan's own Eisteddfod and 'bard par excellence' gave a witty and amusing speech thanking our escorts. He bemoaned the fact that all the water that fell on Wales was pumped to Birmingham and the Welsh had then to pay to get it back! Ted John was called upon to give a rendering of his 'Bum-bum' joke, well known to members of the Amateur Radio Society.

Finally, one could not be in Stratford-upon-Avon without making some reference to the real Bard. It was suggested that Shakespeare had written his 'All the world's a stage' sonnet with the St Dunstan

walkers in mind. 'At first the infant mewling and puking in the nurse's arms'. As it happened, the pub was called the *King's Arms* - there was plenty of mewling, but fortunately none of the latter! 'The soldier full of strange oaths' speaks for itself! Should not the line 'and then the whining school-boy with satchel and shining morning face, creeping like snail unwillingly to school' have read 'Bill Reid, with Tatchell and dubiously smelling pipe, creeping like snail unwillingly up Dover's Hill'? The final line 'that ends this strange eventful history' ends, perhaps appropriately, 'sans teeth, sans eyes, sans taste, sans everything.'

*Dunramblin'.*

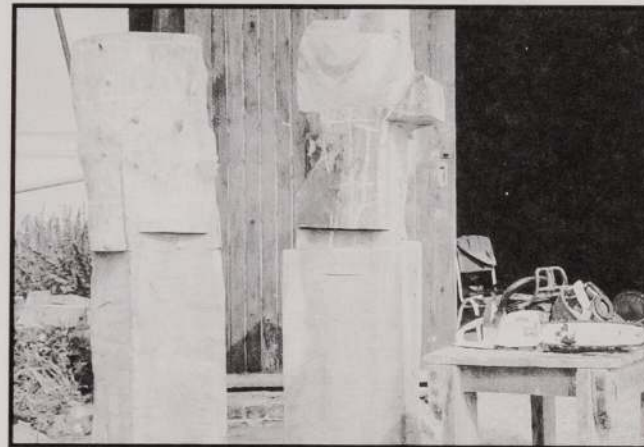


Stan Tutton and Jonathan Ridge take in the country air.



# The Hand of Friendship

## Unveiling of the Liberation of Holland Memorial



The strong ties of friendship between the United Kingdom and Holland were remembered on Thursday, April 11th at St Dunstan's, Ovingdean. His Excellency Mr Jan van Roijen, Ambassador of the Netherlands unveiled a statue in the garden at Ovingdean. The statue was a gift from the Federation, Combat Stress of Eindhoven, Holland as a gesture of gratitude for the Liberation of their country in 1945 by the Allies.

The project began in January, 1995 when Combat Stress approached St Dunstan's expressing the wish to donate a memorial to the events of 1945. The memorial was to benefit those who would be unable to travel to Holland to take part in the 50th anniversary commemorations and was to be in a form which could be appreciated by St Dunstaners. Several St Dunstaners who had fought in Holland were approached for their opinions. Trevor Roberts, a wood carver whose workshop lies adjacent to Ovingdean prompted the medium and Ray Sheriff, blinded

by Ray Hazan

at Arnhem suggested the theme. The six foot high statue represents a British Tommy and a Dutch Resistance woman extending a hand towards each other. The plinth, which supports benches right around the base, also bears a plaque in both print and braille;

'To those who could not join us in the commemoration of the fiftieth anniversary of the liberation of Holland  
Thank you liberators  
From the people  
of Holland'

Trevor, age 36, obtained a BA Honours from Coventry Polytechnic. He has experience of organising workshops and public exhibitions in both the UK and in Europe. Trevor spent a lot of time researching the project. He visited the Imperial War Museum and libraries to check on uniforms and insignia. He further vis-

ited Eindhoven to learn about emblems and to absorb the feelings of our benefactors.

The carving itself started as two six foot high by two feet diameter blocks of elm. He used a chain saw initially to rough cut. The blocks were then taken up to Ovingdean where he worked for the next several weeks. The benches are made of oak. Although a marquee was erected over the statue in case of inclement weather, the sun shone brilliantly as guests arrived. Karen Morane, Mike Hordell, Billy Rundle and all members of staff at Ovingdean had gone to a lot of trouble to ensure the smooth running of the day.

The Chairman, Gerard Frost and Karen Morane welcomed His Excellency, who was accompanied by Captain J.J. Blok, RNLN (Royal Netherlands Navy), Defence, Naval and Air Attache at the Royal Netherlands Embassy.

Introductions to the Ambassador were made immediately prior to the unveiling. These included the Mayor of Brighton, Councillor Mrs Sheila Schaffer, our President



Genesis of a tribute! (From top left) Two blocks of wood were selected for the sculpture. Rough geometric shapes were cut into the structure which slowly began to take on the form of two people. When joined and moved into place at Ovingdean, the finer details were carved from the cubic mass.





Flowers for a 'Tommy'.

and Trevor Roberts. Combat Stress was represented by their Chairman, Dr Derk Heikens, accompanied by his wife Piet, and Messrs de Voogd and Mes, Committee Members. Most important of all, some of those St Dunstaners who had fought in Holland - Norman Hopkins, involved in the Liberation of Roosendal, Richard Bingley and Ray Sheriff, veterans of Arnhem, Ted Miller, who sacrificed sight and both hands in Holland and Granville Waterworth, now a Resident at Ovingdean. Guests in attendance included Members of Council, Residents and local members of CESA (Combined ex-Services Association).

In his address, the Chairman described how the two countries had fought very fervently side by side during the last two World Wars. 'Today's ceremony is a marvellous mark of appreciation of that comradeship and liaison stemming from World War II. We attach enormous gratitude that you, the people of the Netherlands, should have found it possible to make this gesture.'

Dr Derk Heikens responded most eloquently in what was a foreign tongue for him by saying that more British Veterans than ever before had travelled to the Netherlands in 1994 and 1995 to take part

in the commemorative events marking the Liberation of Holland. 'We realised that many Veterans, who became inflicted by World War II and who are still suffering, could not join us. They had taken part in our liberation and they paid and still pay a high price for it. That had certainly not been forgotten. As we could not thank every person individually, we thought the best solution was to present tokens of gratitude to the institutions, which take care of these Veterans. We hope that the sculpture will be accepted by you, the St Dunstan's Veterans, as a sign of the people of the Netherlands. We have not forgotten you and we will never forget you, nor the role of your country in the war for our freedom.'

His Excellency, the Ambassador described this as a unique occasion for several reasons; 'This meeting is marked by the profound gratitude of the Netherlands to those men and women who risked their lives and health for the liberation of our country. It is significant, fitting and proper that Dr Heikens and his organisation have taken this opportunity in con-

Granville Waterworth, blinded in Holland, is introduced to the Ambassador.



crete deeds to show that the Netherlands people do remember their liberators. Finally, it is very apt that the Veterans here have chosen a sculpture as a symbol of remembrance. It will be a very tangible reminder to future generations of the sacrifice made by so many and especially by those here today.' His Excellency then pulled the cord, and, with a little encouragement, the curtain fell away to reveal the statue.

There followed a very touching moment in an impromptu ceremony and words from Mrs Piet Heikens; 'This morning I bought some flowers in red, white and blue and the orange of Holland. I will remember the day of our Liberation when people ran into the street shouting, "We are free, we are free". We couldn't believe it. We rushed to the top of the street and there they were. But, I must say, they were not British, they were Canadians! I will remember that all the girls came out with flowers. But I must confess, I didn't. So I thought that this was just the moment for me to give the flowers to a Tommy and not a Canadian!' With those words,

Mrs Heikens placed the flowers into the outstretched hand of the statuesque woman.

After lunch, gifts were exchanged between Combat Stress and the 'Dutch' St Dunstaner Veterans. Thus ended an occasion symbolised by 'touch' - the 'hand of friendship', which links our two countries personified in the statue where the Tommy and Dutch woman hold out their hands to each other and it will be by touch that St Dunstaners will be able to feel this mark of gratitude by the people of the Netherlands.

#### The following letter was sent to the Chairman by Mrs Heikens.

First I want to thank you for your kind letter. But foremost, after arriving home safely, yesterday evening, the first thing I wanted to do was to thank you and all others involved, for making the 11th of April to such an unforgettable day.

Needless to say how overwhelmed we all were by the warm and kind reception we received from all of you at St Dunstan's. Also the unveiling by Her Majesty's Ambassador, his Excellency Mr J.H.R.D. van Roijen, gave just that touch of importance the veterans so well deserved.

We could not have got a better finish to our fundraising to mark the 50th anniversary of the liberation of Holland, than this visit to St Dunstan's.

Hopefully this does not mean the finishing of our contacts with St Dunstan's! Thank you and all of you on behalf of our committee.

## CHANGING FACES!

I sat in the Lounge on my favourite window seat recently, talking to Fred Hobbs. We spoke at great length on the changes which have occurred in our lifetimes. Fred said 'I believe I have lived through the greatest period of change in modern history.' He remembered seeing an airship entering, and later, leaving Brazil, where he worked in the Coffee Industry! The following is a modified document one drops across from time to time. I cannot lay claim to it, but it seemed to fit the bill here with a few alterations.

Terry Walker

### THE SURVIVORS

We are the survivors, we were born before television, frozen foods, videos and before men walked on the moon. We got married and then lived together. We thought fast foods were what one ate in Lent, a Big Mac was an oversized raincoat, and crumpet was something you had for tea. We existed before house husbands, computer dating and dual careers. A meaningful relationship meant getting along with cousins and sheltered accommodation was where one waited for the bus. We'd never heard of FM radio, hi-fi and men wearing earrings. For us, time sharing meant togetherness, a chip was a piece of wood or a fried potato.

Before 1940, 'Made in Japan' meant 'junk'. The term 'making out', meant how you were doing in your exams and a stud was something you fastened your collar with; 'going all the way', meant staying on the bus until it reached the depot. A 'windup' was strictly for clockwork toys, we were 'stitched up' only after an operation and 'gobsmacked' was the result of street fighting.

In our day cigarette smoking was fashionable, Coke was kept in the coal house, a joint was a piece of meat you cooked on Sunday and grass was to be mown. Rock music was a grandmother's lullaby, an 'Elderado' was an ice cream and a 'gay' person was the life



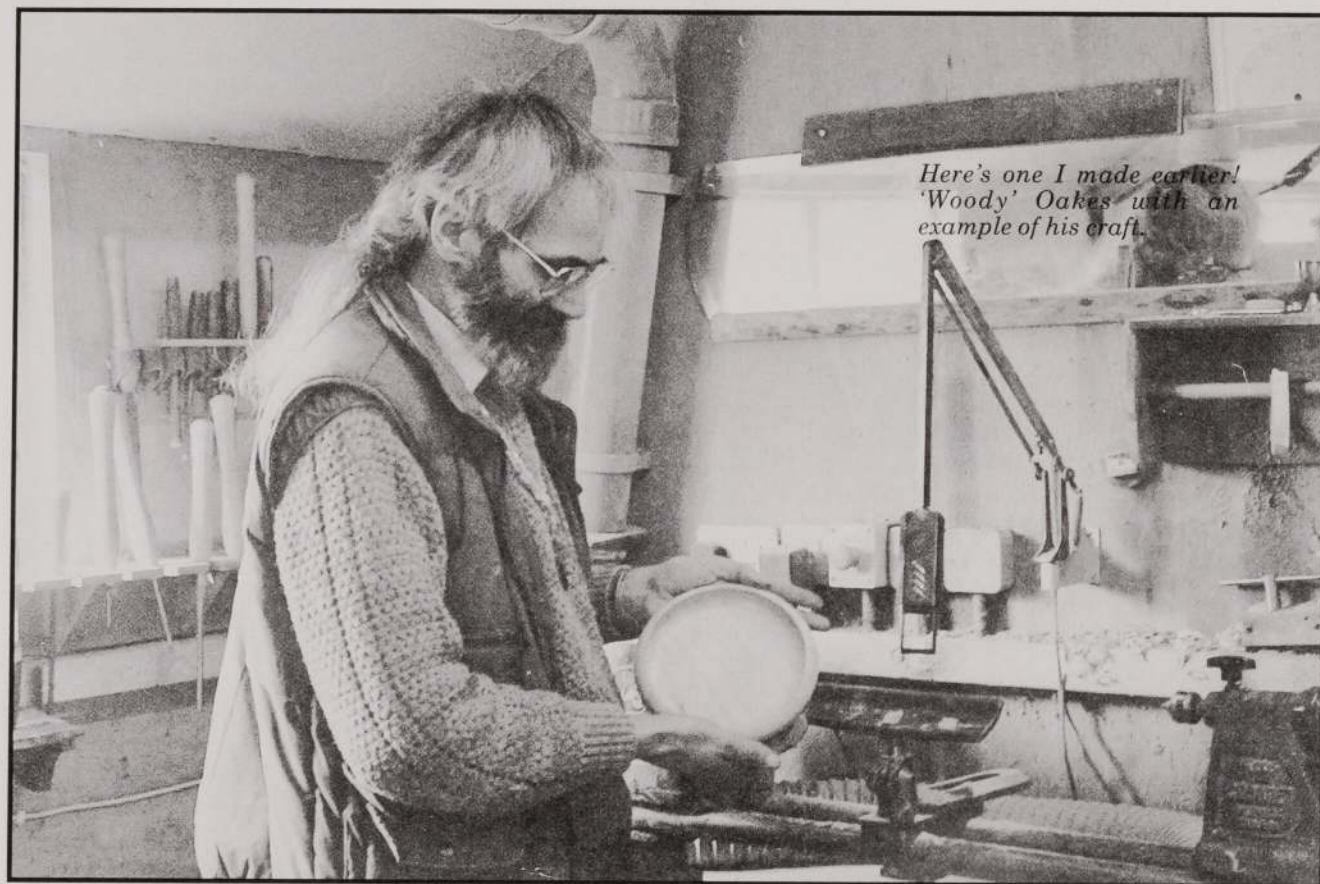
Having prompted Terry Walker's thoughts about the changing world, St Dunstaner Fred Hobbs relaxes at Ovingdean on his 97th birthday.

and soul of the party.

We who were born before 1940 must be hardy when you come to think all the changes that have been made; no wonder we're all confused and there's a generation gap. Remember we old folk are worth a fortune! We have silver in our hair, gold in our teeth, stones in our kidneys, lead in our boots and gas in our stomachs. The vicar came in here the other day, he said that I should be thinking about the Hereafter. I told him I was doing that all the time! When I go up to the bar, when I go into the Lounge, when I go into the Dining Hall or even when I go up to the Braille Room on the fourth floor; I think to myself 'What am I in here after?'

# Woody

## Colin Oakes talks to Ray Hazan



Most St Dunstaners have probably been asked at some time whether it is worse to be deaf or blind. The inability to communicate freely with one's fellow human beings must surely be the greater disability?

Whilst the blind miss out on visual communication, talking amongst a group does not pose insuperable difficulties. But a totally deaf person is very much more isolated, especially when several people, at a time, are holding a conversation. The problems became abundantly clear as I tried to talk to Colin about his life.

Colin is totally deaf, but has some useful central vision. With Anna's help, typing on the keyboard, Colin was able to read my questions off the screen of their home compu-

ter, located strategically in the hall of their bungalow in Wells. The rapid clicks of the keyboard were answered in a soft Somerset burr. 'On leaving school, I worked for a year as a woodsman on an estate. It was there that I gained most of my knowledge of timber. There were three of us working in the woods. I thoroughly enjoyed it. But ever since I was seven years old, I decided I wanted to join the Army. I tried the Apprentices' school, but my education was seriously "lacking!";' he said with a smile. 'I eventually got in as a Junior Tradesman, with the Somerset and Cornwall Light Infantry, training as a driver/mechanic - that was in 1963.'

On completion of his apprenticeship, Colin saw service in Norway and Ber-

lin. In 1966, thirty days into his tour of duty in Aden, Colin received shrapnel wounds to his eyes and face in an enemy mortar attack on his patrol's roadblock. The blast caused damage to his hearing.

Colin was discharged the following year and embarked upon a succession of jobs. 'I tried being a woodsman again, but it wasn't very exciting after Army life! I have been a garage mechanic, grave digger, dustman, sewage worker and electrician. I had to give up as a mechanic as my hearing got worse. I couldn't hear if there was anything wrong with the engine.' In 1982, Colin's hearing went completely.

In 1990, Colin's separation from his first wife, combined with eyesight problems led to a bout of depression, which

affected his work. It was decided that he should attend a work assessment course at Manor House, Torquay, the Royal National Institute for the Blind's assessment centre. It was there that Robbie Francis, the woodwork instructor, introduced Colin to the wood-turning lathe. It was also they who advised Colin to contact St Dunstan's.

This contact resulted in Colin becoming a St Dunstaner and a short period of assessment at Ovingdean, followed by re-housing. 'We looked at several bungalows in the Wells area and chose the one nearest to the pub!' It was decided to equip Colin with a workshop and a 16 x 12 ft shed was erected in his garden. A fellow wood-turner, Doug Reed, from Bristol advised with the selection of tools - lathe, band-saw, drill, grinder and dust extractor. One of Colin's own touches is a flashing light triggered by someone entering the shed. This prevents him being surprised when holding sharp tools!

Besides the course at Torquay, Colin and Anna attended a wood-turning workshop together. 'I wanted to see what was involved,' said Anna. Colin asserts that there is no better way to learn than by 'hands on' experience. The smooth, silky feel to the wood when it comes off his lathe bears witness to that. This is further enhanced by the different aromas of the timber and beeswax finish. 'I beg, borrow or steal my timber from anywhere.' In fact, he purchases timber through mail-order and local timber mills. He managed to obtain a lorry load of seasoned planks when the local mental hospital was dismantled. 'I have a tulip tree in the garden - that should be ready for turning in 200 years' time!'

Colin enjoys the challenge of a one-off task, rather than



Above: Selecting wood for some serious turning.

Below: Woody during his army days.



a conveyor belt mentality. He disposes of his items through acquaintances, provides wooden trophies for local skittle matches and works on commissions. On display in his workshop were bowls of all sizes, wooden eggs, an old-fashioned telephone with separate ear-piece, boxes, one in the shape of a battery which he calls his 'never

ready', another in the form of a glass of Guinness with different woods (ebony and hazel) for the beer and froth, together with a variety of money boxes. Anna's cousin makes barongs, a hand-held drum used in Irish folk music. Colin makes the double ended beaters or drum sticks. 'I'll try anything!'

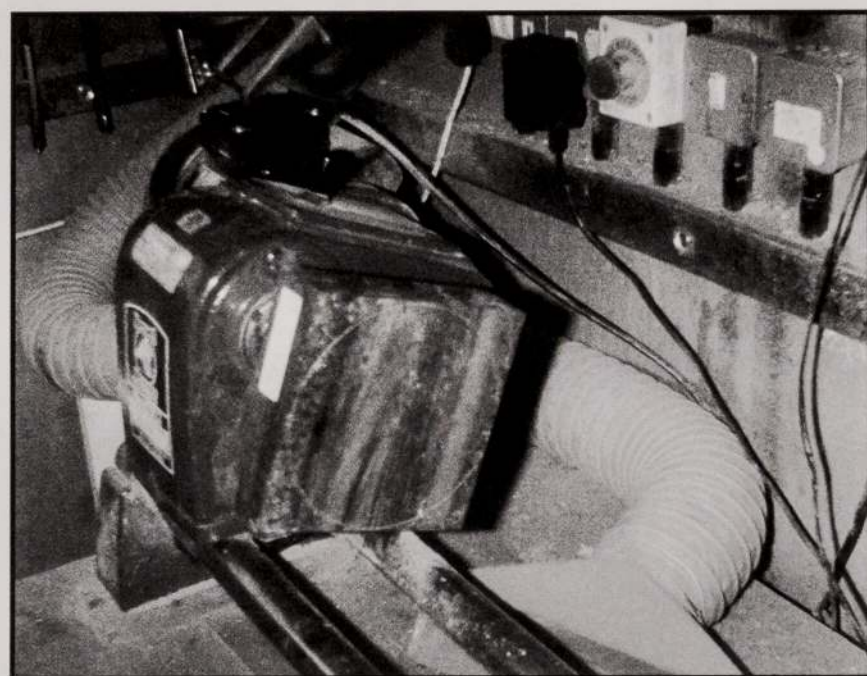
As he is totally deaf, watch-

ing television or listening to the radio or talking book is not an option for Colin. His evenings centre largely around his local, playing cribbage and pool. He is a member of the darts team. 'You have heard of residual vision or residual hearing. Well I play residual darts - I remember what the board looks like and where the numbers are! But they don't ask me to mark - I can't see the numbers.'

'People find it hard to believe I am deaf because my speech is quite normal. But, I do find it hard to talk because I cannot hear myself speak. When Anna and I got married, I told my best man that he would have to sign back to me what I had said. This raised a laugh when he repeated this to the guests on the day.'

Many people assume that as all the blind can read braille, so the deaf can lip-read. This is not so. 'Children are much easier to talk to. When they discover I can't hear, they carry on talking quite normally. Adults tend to shout at me or talk too slowly.' One day whilst walking in Wells, Colin and a colleague were

On the telephone.



Snakewood at the ready.

asked for directions by some foreign looking pedestrians. Though not able to hear their question or accent, Colin directed them to the Cathedral.

'I didn't know you understood French,' said his companion. Colin replied, 'I don't, but most people who ask for directions want to visit the Cathedral.'

'I used to read a lot of science fiction, but can't now. Much of that fiction has become fact today. What I would like now is a portable voice recognition device, which people could speak into and then I can read on the screen what they are saying.' Such a system exists, but not in a portable version. In the meantime, Anna, whom Colin married in 1993, must continue to type away. 'Just as some husbands only hear what they want to, so Colin will sometimes read only what he wants to!'

'I don't think that being deaf is any worse than being blind. But add the two together... I do miss hearing music, especially as Anna sings and plays the guitar and accordion.' To an outsider, it might

seem inevitable that, deprived of two major senses, one would become withdrawn and introverted, shying away from the difficulties of conversation. Colin appears to be just the opposite, tackling the problem of communication head on, by getting out and meeting people. Like a true Englishman, Colin fights at his best when his back is to the wall!

**The following letter was received from Colin shortly after the interview.**

Just thought I would drop you a line to tell you about my latest commission from George, you met him in the pub on your visit to Wells. Last week the blade on my bandsaw broke. Nothing new in that, I have to get a new one once a month on average. The problem was 'How do I get a new one?' That night I was talking to George in the *Britannia* (nothing new in that either) and I asked him if he fancied a trip to the timber

centre some time in the week. George said he would like that very much, so it was arranged for George to pick me up the following Thursday at 0900hrs.

George arrived an hour late at 1000hrs, but a day early on the Wednesday, nothing new in that, usually he doesn't turn up at all.

The timber centre is half way to Bath on the Wells road, Bath is 20 miles away so that makes the centre about ten miles away. George's car is quite old and he is no Damon Hill, so it took us half an hour to get there. Once in the centre I pointed George in the direction of the display area while I went to look for a blade in the machine section. I wanted one with a 14 T.P.I. As they didn't have one, I settled for one with 10 T.P.I., paid for it, and went looking for George. He was enjoying himself playing with all the bits of wood on display. He pointed out some turned apples and said that the ones I made were far superior and half the price! I said I would have to put my prices up and he agreed.

We then went to look in the exotic wood section as George wanted a box made from Ebony. They didn't have a size large enough for the project but we found some 'Snakewood'. The label was faded and could not be read, that suggested to me that it had been on the shelf for a long time. We went to the sales counter and asked about the Snakewood. I am quite well known there and they are quite helpful. So they should be since they supplied all the equipment in the workshop.

The man, I forget his name, came back to the exotic wood section with us and he could not read the label either. Back at the desk, he called it up on the computer and found that the Snakewood was £46 + VAT for a blank 6"x 6"x 2". I

could see that George wanted the Snakewood, so we haggled over the price. They were asking £55 for it. Snakewood is very hard to come by and is just about the most expensive wood there is. We pointed out that it was old stock and he re-programmed the computer and came up with a price of £46 and some pence. That was acceptable to George and he bought it.

When we got back, we went to the 'office' (the pub to anyone else) and talked about how it would be turned. I pointed out that although it was 6"x 6", the best George could hope for was a five and a half inch diameter bowl, also that I had never worked Snakewood before so I didn't know how it would work.

Then using the formula of cost times four, I worked out how much the turned bowl would cost in a shop. With a third mark up and the dreaded VAT it came to £200. I started to get worried very worried. But George said he wanted me to do the work so I had another pint and that was that settled. After 40 winks, to sleep off the lunch, I walked

into town and bought a film for the camera to make a photographic record of the project, also if it didn't work out there would be something to show for it other than a bag full of very expensive sawdust and shavings. I was still worried if not more so than before. At 1900hrs that night I went into the workshop and locked the door behind me. After saying a prayer to the 'Master Craftsman' I started. First marking out the centre and fitting the faceplate then the collect chuck to the blank. I then did a quick service on the lathe, checked for play in the bearing and that everything was centred correctly bolted down tight. I then went to the bandsaw and removed the corners, taking off the corner on the lathe is time consuming and wasteful. Also it can cause the wood to splinter. Before turning down to the 'Round', I sharpened all my tools. Nothing will ruin a blank like a blunt gouge, also I think I was putting off, till the last minute, making the first cut.

With all perforations made there was nothing for it but to

Voila! A £200 bowl.



start. With the lathe running, gouge in hand and butterflies in my stomach I put gouge to wood and the chips started coming off.

Once I started I forgot the butterflies in my stomach and started to enjoy the wood. The outside shape finished, I moved to make the recess in the base to take the expanding collect. With the operation complete I sanded and polished the base, once the blank is reversed there is no way to re-work it, it has to be finished there and then.

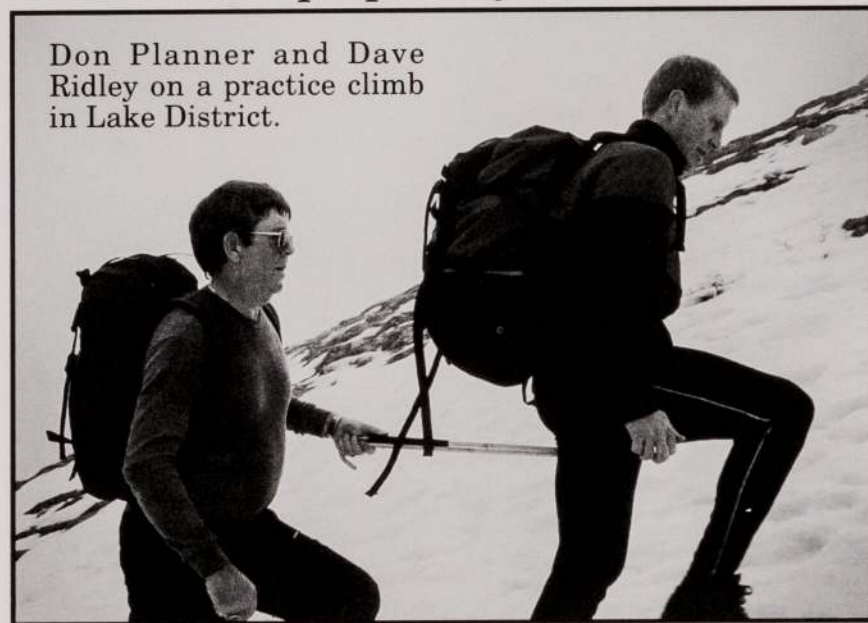
Satisfied that I could do no more I removed the blank from the lathe, took off the faceplate and refitted the chuck directly onto the blank using the recess I had just made. Then putting the chuck and blank back on the lathe I was ready to form the inside. Using the bowl gouge and scraper, I soon had the depth and shape to my satisfaction. A few light passes with a home-made scraper made from an old file and all that remained for me to do was sand, seal and polish, but it was getting late and I could just make it over the road for last orders and a takeaway.

While I was cutting the dust from my throat with a couple of pints and winding down from the evenings labours, George came in. We don't usually see George at that time of night and hardly ever on Wednesday. When I told him that I had been working on his Snakewood bowl he thought I was winding him up. I assured him I was not and when we left at closing time plus an after-hours pint with the landlord, I took him into the workshop and let him see for himself.

In the morning, I went into the workshop and finished the bowl by sealing the wood with Cekkuisse sealer and polishing with beeswax. That evening I met George in the 'office' and gave him the bowl. He was very pleased with it.

## Getting ready for Mont Blanc

### St Dunstaner prepares for his adventure



Don Planner and Dave Ridley on a practice climb in Lake District.

## President of the German War Blind

We have been notified of the death of Dr Franz Sonntag in Germany on the April 21st. He was blinded and lost a hand during the Second World War. He was a lawyer by profession and for many years was President of both the Federation of the German War Blind (BKD) and the International War Blind Congress (IKK).

The following letter was sent to the Vice-President of the BKD, Heinrich Johanning by Ray Hazan on behalf of St Dunstan's:

I write on behalf of St Dunstan's, Roberta and myself to express our very deep sorrow to Frau Sonntag and all Members of the BKD on their tragic loss. Dr Sonntag will be mourned throughout the world, for such was his stature, that not only did he represent and fight for his fellow war blind in Germany, but for those of many other countries in terms of training, moral and material support.

I personally shall never forget your national meetings, to which you invited foreign guests. The respectful attentiveness and then applause as he held many hundreds of people's attention when he spoke with confidence, knowledge and fervour. I know that respect carried on into Ministerial circles.

He pursued that interest in the rights of all blind people internationally. The IKK would not be where it is today without the leadership and encouragement that he fostered. He was a founder member of the World Blind Union.

We shall remember him not with tears of sadness at his passing, but with a smile of pleasure and admiration and, yes, a hint of jealousy at his abilities! The latter is more complimentary than the former.

His passing will leave a gap, which I know you will fill more than amply. We all wish you strength and courage for the future. Once again, we send our sincere condolences.

## MESSAGE FROM THE HEAD OF FUND RAISING

You may recall my saying in the February *Review* that the Assistant Head of Fund Raising, Pat Moore-Searson, was approaching Trust Funds on behalf of St Dunstan's. As mentioned before, all these letters were 'topped and tailed' by Sir Henry (a mammoth task) and I am now pleased to report that, to date, 72 Trust Funds have indicated their support for St Dunstan's by sending donations. This is a significant result. You will also be pleased to hear that Council Members of St Dunstan's have 'topped and tailed' letters to potential donors, resulting in a further 14 organisations supporting St Dunstan's. The relevance of these organisations offering to support St Dunstan's is that in many

cases their offer extends beyond a one-off donation.

I also mentioned in the February *Review* that we did a test mailing to 7,000 members of the general public, asking for their support. This has resulted in £11,000 in donations. Amazingly enough, although this mailing was sent out in late December, we are still receiving the odd donation at the time of writing (the beginning of May).

In the April edition of the *Review* we mentioned that several St Dunstaners were participating in various events whilst at the same time helping to raise funds for St Dunstan's by sponsorship. Sadly, Steve Pendleton was injured during the training period and was therefore unable to participate in the London Marathon. We all wish him a full and speedy recovery. I am, however, pleased to say that Reg Perrin has to date raised £230 for St Dunstan's by taking part in the Marathon, with more to come, and that Grant Cooper and the grandson of Dr Sosabowski were successful in completing the Marathon.

Don Planner has reported that funds are continuing to come in for his climb of Mont Blanc in June and we all wish him the very best of luck.

As mentioned elsewhere in this *Review*, at the suggestion of Richard Bingley we now have a suitable pack available to any St Dunstaner or St Dunstan's Widow which can be used to run coffee mornings or any other fund raising activity.

If you would like to help, please do contact Merle Adams who deals with fund raising administration at Headquarters. We require a minimum of two weeks notice.

**Neil Swan**



Terry Bullingham received a cheque for £800 on behalf of St Dunstan's presented by Group Captain Oliver Delaney, RAF Halton.

Photo courtesy of Royal Air Force.

### From Richard Bingley, Newton Abbot

The April *Review* carried a message from Neil Swan, Head of Fund Raising describing the ambitious fund raising projects of three of our younger members, Reg Perrin, Stephen Pendleton and Don Planner.

It would be a good idea if 50 of our older St Dunstaners and war widows followed this excellent example by each organising in their own localities a coffee morning with raffle and bring and buy stall. It means, of course, that the F.R. Department would need to prepare a skeleton kit to be made available on application. Namely a large St Dunstan's poster plus a further poster giving the date time and place of the event, a collecting tin with a bold label and 250 small leaflets for local distribution by sighted friends.

The writer will, three days before his event, set up a small stall in Newton Abbot market, where raffle tickets will be available for sale. A request for bring and buy items and raffle prizes will be made.

I shall use the soft toys made at handicraft as prizes. I sincerely hope our members will accept the opportunity to fill in the many hours available to them.

### Marine donation



On the evening of 8th March at the Annual Mess Dinner of the Belfast Branches of the Royal Marines Association and the Parachute Regiment Association a cheque for £2,000 was presented to Joe Humphrey by Major-General Julian Thompson RM for St Dunstan's. General Thompson referred to the work of St Dunstan's and also outlined Joe's active service in the Royal Marines. He gave details of the many Commando raids in which Joe took part and this was greeted with acclamation. Joe, has been President of the Branch since its foundation.



## Balancing the Books

by Ted Bunting

### The Ten Pound Fare

Author: *Betka Zamoyska*  
Reader: William Abney  
Duration: 4.5 hours  
Catalogue number: 7638

Picture a jolly swagman boiling his billy by a billabong and he could well be someone who took advantage of the Australian assisted passage scheme that operated from 1947. Tens of thousands went during the years it ran... In search of new opportunities and a fresh start in life. But the immigrants the Australians sought were not the weak and useless, or the scrag-ends of another country's rubbish; and they especially abhorred the 'Whinging Pom' or 'Pommy bastard'; that apology for a Briton whose talent is confined to complaining. No, it was useful people they had need of; tradesmen, professionals, men and women with an appetite for work, and these, by and large, found considerable success in Australia.

But Britain, unfortunately, was unable to supply the required quality in numbers, and the consequences of this are spelled out in this instructive little book. There are details in addition, of most aspects of the 'ten pound fare' scheme; often too many details for MY liking, but the individual stories of those who agreed to go are certainly

very interesting and I have no qualms whatever about saying, 'Give it a go Cobber'.

### Lost Children of the Empire

Authors: *Philip Bean and Melville Joy*  
Reader: Di Longford  
Duration: 8.75 hours  
Catalogue number: 7923

It hardly matters who thought of it first but the idea of clearing Britain's waif and strays off the streets by sending them overseas was enthusiastically adopted way back in history.

It seems particularly to have appealed to the Victorian mind; maybe it seemed so logical... 'Here we are in Britain with a plethora of street-arabs, guttersnipes and ragamuffins, and far out there is an empire just crying out to be populated.'

The philanthropists more over were able to make further claims: the homeless orphans collected from the city streets of Britain could never thrive so well in the country of their birth as they would under the boundless skies of Canada say, or South Africa, Australia or New Zealand. But the boys and girls who were regularly shipped out of our British ports, (and incredibly there were tens and hundreds of thousands of them), were never asked if they wished to go. And nor had they the slightest notion

of what awaited them at their journey's end. Neither in many cases did the charitable agencies who were responsible for their transportation. I certainly hope they didn't anyway for if they DID it was truly evil work they were involved in, because as this remarkable book divulges, when the children left the care of their escorts, they were virtually sold into slavery. And often worse; there were many cases listed where the homes, farms and so called schools also added physical and sexual abuse to the 'usual' regime of unremitting manual toil.

Personally I found many of the book's revelations quite shocking, but undoubtedly the most staggering item of all was that unfortunate children who had committed no crime were still being sent out, (kidnapped might be a better term) as late as the 1960s.

So why have these things not been spoken of before? Perhaps there is some merit in the British tendency to mind one's own business, but there is no merit or virtue in pretending that the scandal of the lost children of the empire did not take place. It was a monstrous crime no less, and when you have heard this book, as I would strongly urge you to do, you will agree I'm sure, that we are deeply indebted to the co-authors for exposing it.

## ST DUNSTANERS REUNITED

The following reunions have taken place during which St Dunstaners and widows have met up with headquarters and area staff. Much chatter and laughter was heard and the topic of conversation was mainly the opening up of Ovingdean, announced by those presiding.

Brighton (1) on 5th March at St Dunstan's, Ovingdean. Presiding was Captain Michael Gordon-Lennox.

Liverpool on 12th March at the *St George Hotel*. Presiding was Lieutenant-General Sir Maurice Johnston.

Sherborne on 19th March at the *Sherborne Posthouse Hotel*. Presiding was Air Chief Marshal Sir John Gingell.

Exeter on 28th March at the *Forte Crest Hotel*. Presiding was Major-General Andrew Keeling.

Cardiff on 2nd April at the *Crest Hotel*. Presiding was Norman Hopkins.

Norwich on 16th April at the *Forte Posthouse*. Presiding was Gerard Frost.

Brighton (2) on 23rd April at St Dunstan's Ovingdean. Presiding was Michael Delmar-Morgan, Vice-Chairman of St Dunstan's.

Southampton on 30th April at the *Forte Posthouse*. Presiding was our Chairman, Admiral of the Fleet Sir Henry Leach.

## Barbara Bell - Guide Dog Owner For 50 Years

Barbara Bell was presented with a crystal rose bowl, framed photograph collage of all her guide dogs and a flower arrangement, by Dave Duncan the Regional Controller, in honour of her being a guide dog owner for 50 years. The presentation and buffet lunch took place at the guide dog centre in Middlesbrough on April 12th.

Four of her instructors, who had previously trained Barbara with her guide dogs, were present together with staff from Middlesbrough.

A moment to spare...

...with Sydney Scroggie

## Did He or Didn't He?

The film *Braveheart*, however inaccurately has made a wider world aware of William Wallace, the Scottish patriot whose ambitions for his country foundered eventually on the disastrous field of Falkirk. Dundee is just over the hill from us here in Strathmartine.

It was in the old grammar school in that town that Wallace got his education, in one of its thoroughfares, the Seagate, that his career as a freedom fighter got off to a good start. Wallace, in a fair fight, slew the son of Dundee's English governor.

In due course, at the head of the army, Wallace first besieged Dundee then drove out its English garrison. It was at this juncture that Strath-

martine comes into things, comes into them or not as the case may be.

There's a local tradition that Wallace's force first established itself here before attacking Dundee. Evidence of this can be pointed out to this day. They appear as rough fortifications on a low hill just south of what is now the farmhouse of North Auchray. These are called Wallace's Trenches. They are a series of diggings centred on the hill. Proof that Wallace was here is adduced the fact, confirmed by documents, that the corn for his army was ground at Fallaws mill.

Fallaws, the farm of that name, is little more than half a mile away from the so-called Wallace's Trenches. Now the

appropriate department of Dundee museum is prepared to believe there could have been a Bronze Age fort in this area, perhaps a Roman marching camp. But there is some doubt!

When I raised the matter with them, however, they very nicely supplied me with an aerial photograph of the site which clearly shows the trenches in question. They're not easy to distinguish in summer when rose bay willow herb covers the hill, but I have myself walked them in winter when the growth is down. Whether the Scottish Knight encamped here will probably never be known. One way or the other 'Wallace's Trenches' clings on as the local name for this feature.

## LETTER TO THE EDITOR

From: Mr A.H. Martin, Emsworth, Hampshire

I write to express my sincere thanks to all those connected with St Dunstan's, who sent messages of sympathy and condolence to me following the death of my dearly loved wife, Dorothy, on April 10th.

My special thanks to the Welfare Department at headquarters for their concern and help during her two months period of illness in hospital.

Also many thanks for the lovely poppy wreath from St Dunstan's and the beautiful floral tributes from the lady St Dunstaners.

After a very distressing time for both of us she is now at rest, freed from the shackles of mortality and entered into the joy of immortality.

### Miss Susan Sweeting

Miss Susan Sweeting, the former Trust and Legacy Officer, left St Dunstan's on 9th May, 1996, after nearly twenty years' service. Susan will, of course, be known to many for her sterling work not only in the Trust and Legacy Department but also for her willingness to help anyone in need. Finally, it should not be forgotten that Susan and her team spent many hours researching and compiling the *Book of Remembrance*. We wish Susan every good fortune for the future.

### FIFTY YEARS AGO

Ex-Sergeant Major Lowings, a St Dunstaner, was told that he would not receive the Defence Medal for two years service in the Home Guard. He had been discharged after regulations were tightened.

## We're only here for the beer!

### Jenny Low helps roll out the barrel



CAMRA (Campaign for Real Ale) very kindly gave us 16 free tickets to their beer festival at Hove on February 23rd. We all had a good time with packed lunches to soak up the beer. The drinkers in the party were Sid Doy, Gilbert Stanley, Les Copeland,

Josh Callum, Dave Taylor, Dr Pavillard, Alan Mitchell and Jim Conroy.

Pictured sitting: Sid Doy, Joyce Horrex, Les Copeland, Dr Pavillard and Alan Mitchell. Standing: Jenny Low, Susie Ridge, and Gill Evans.

## Welcome to St Dunstan's

We welcome the following new St Dunstaner and hope he will settle down happily as a member of our family.

Mr Arthur Tucker of Roffey, Horsham, West Sussex joined St Dunstan's on April 29th. On leaving school, he worked as a shop assistant in Dyfed and played rugby for his local club. He joined the Royal Air Force in March 1940 and was employed in the trade of driver. On completion of his training, he was posted to the Far East and was captured by the Japanese in Java. Whilst a Prisoner of War, Mr Tucker was invited to take part in one notable game of rugby and was encouraged by the Japanese guards to play an international match, England versus Wales. This was probably to impress visitors to the camp. A proper ball was provided by the Japanese, the Welsh team was provided with plimsolls and the English team with army boots. The game ended in a draw, but unfortunately Mr Tucker was injured in this game and received fifteen stitches in his face. No local anaesthetic was provided!

At the end of the war, Mr Tucker returned to the UK and was eventually discharged from the RAF in August 1946. On his return to civilian life, he started working for the post office, but later on joined the Ministry of Defence Police. After 18 years service, he took on a job as a club steward until he reached retirement age.

Before his posting to the Far East, Mr Tucker had married his fiancée, Eileen who came from Roffey and they have been settled there for many years. They have one son who now lives in East Grinstead.

## CLUB NEWS

### ARCHERY

#### Annual General Meeting 1996

President of the club John Glazier, sculptor and decent chap to boot, opened the proceedings of the AGM ably assisted by Secretary-Treasurer-Coach Ernie Elliot. Tributes were made to John Ince and Joe Prendergast former members of the club. After the minutes ran their long course, Tom Hart tendered his resignation as chairman. This much sought after position began some brutal infighting, from the melee the battered figure of John Lilley was marched struggling to the chair. The gap beneath the nose of his ashened face mumbled a few words of acceptance, this was greeted with warm applause, or was it a huge sigh of relief? All other officials were returned to their seats of office unopposed.

Committee: Eric Bradshaw, Norman Perry & Tom Hart  
Records Officer: Phil Vardon  
Assistant Equipment Officer: Alan Holden BBM  
Hon Secretary - Treasurer - Coach: Ernie Elliot

Once again Longhill school was our venue for indoor archery. Six days of practice and competition with good companions takes some beating.

#### Results

The Laurie Austin Rose Trophy

1st John Lilley  
2nd Bert Wood  
3rd Norman Perry

#### FITA 18 Metric

1st John Lilley  
2nd Bert Wood  
3rd Norman Perry

Our final days saw us in a three-cornered match with Cuckfield and Greenways Archery Clubs. This good-humoured contest resulted in a win for Greenways, their top scorer being Enid Andrews. I taught her all she knows.

Here is a message from Chairman Lilley, will any young fellows between 18 and 80, wishing to become an archer please contact Ernie Elliot. So come on lads, start pulling bows instead of birds, be fit, increase your life expectancy, join now, only a few places left.

Bert Wood

### BOWLING

Glyn Shoesmith of Llanelli has been selected as a representative for Wales in the Blind Bowling Championships in New Zealand next February/March. He has only been bowling for about a year.

### BRIDGE

#### February Results

##### Pairs

1st Nora Tebitt & Audrey Clements  
2nd Julian & Margaret Stevens  
3rd Maurice & Jean Douse

#### March Results

##### Pairs

1st Audrey Clements & Pauline Abott  
2nd Julian & Margaret Stevens  
3rd Maurice & Jean Douse

#### Horsham April 14th.

St Dunstan's bridge players had an enjoyable afternoon and were treated to a very good tea by Horsham. The home team won first half and while St Dunstan's rallied in the second, the final result was an overall win for Horsham.

We are booked for a match against the Sussex County Masters on June 22nd to be held at Ovingdean, three teams of four.

Any St Dunstaners or widows (bridge players) down in Brighton on the last Sunday of the month are welcome to participate. For details of the game, call Reg Goding on 01273 308467.

## FAMILY NEWS

### BIRTHS

#### Congratulations on the birth of:

Lucy-Ann Phillips on November 1st. She is the granddaughter of Mrs Ruby Franklin of Hoddesdon, Hertfordshire, widow of Alfred Franklin.

Carianne Holt on February 1st. She is the great-granddaughter of Mrs Sybil Parker of Stamford, Lincolnshire widow of Bernard Parker. Having recently left the RAF, Carianne's father, Andrew, has joined the police force.

Elizabeth Dungey on March 11th. She is the great-granddaughter of Mrs Olive Simmon of Harrogate, widow of Tom Simmon.

Luke Tickner on March 14th. He is the grandson of Mrs Beatrice Tickner of Worthing, widow of Dennis Tickner.

Harriet Geyer on March 21st. Grandparents Alan and Joan Wortley of Lincoln, Lincolnshire have dubbed their first grandchild 'Euro-Cherub' since the father, Markus, is German and mother, Rachel, is English. The Geyer family are returning to Wuxi, China where Markus works for Bosh-Siemens.

### WEDDINGS

#### Congratulations to:

Richard and Susan Bryant on March 9th. Susan is the daughter of Ted and Barbara Pepper of Coggeshall, nr Colchester.

### GOLDEN ANNIVERSARIES

#### Congratulations to:

Robert and Emilie Fullard of South Benfleet on April 11th.

Jack and Monica Mason of Bodmin, Cornwall on April 13th.

Bob and Grace Forshaw of Bognor Regis on April 17th.

Stephen and Evelyn Blake of Chertsey on April 27th.

John and May Proctor of Rottingdean on April 27th.

Norman and Helen Kershaw of Blackburn, Lancashire on May 6th.

### SPECIAL ANNIVERSARIES

#### Congratulations to:

Charles and Olive Cummings of Verwood who celebrated 64 years of marriage on March 26th.

Sam and Mary Worthington of Longton, Preston on 63 years of marriage celebrated on May 13th.

### DEATHS

#### We regret to announce the death of:

The mother-in-law of Michael Kelbie of Portsoy during the last week of February.

Mrs May Parry of Blurton, Stoke-on-Trent at the end of March. She was the sister of the late Nellie Robinson (nee Lowndes).

Mrs Iris Glazebrook on March 12th. She was the sister-in-law of the late Edward Glazebrook of Burnham-on-Sea, Somerset.

Mrs Amy Donohoe on March 16th. She was the wife of James Donohoe of Litherland, Liverpool. (See In Memory.)

Frances Flack on March 21st. She was the wife of Edwin Flack of Watchet.

Mrs Iris Mortimore of Bournemouth on March 30th. She was the widow of Sydney Mortimore.

Mrs Fanny Moorley of Sinfin, Derby on April 5th. She was the widow of Thomas Moorley.

Mrs Janet James of Banstead on April 7th. She was the widow of *William James*.

Mrs Hilda Ward of Portchester, Hampshire on April 15th. She was the widow of *William Ward*.

**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.

### **Joseph Roberts,** *Royal Artillery*

Joseph Lever Roberts of Romiley, Cheshire died on March 8th, aged 86. Mr Roberts served as a Gunner in the Royal Artillery from November 1940 to December 1945. Although his loss of sight was caused by his war service and he lost it completely in 1952, it was not until March 1981 that he became a St Dunstaner. In the intervening years he was employed at the Bredbury Steel Works and by the time he retired in December 1974 he had been in their service for 35 years. After coming to St Dunstan's, Mr Roberts had instruction in toy-making which gave him a most enjoyable hobby occupation. Our sympathy goes to his son, Brian, and all the family.

### **Albert Ascott,** *Royal Berkshire Regiment*

Albert Ascott of Ovingdean died on March 10th, aged 81. He had been a St Dunstaner since 1987. Serving as a Private with the Royal Berkshire Regiment from June 1940, he was discharged in May 1945. Wounded in 1943 whilst serving in Italy, Mr Ascott worked as a clerical officer until December 1987 when he suffered further injuries following an accident whilst alighting from a train. Our sympathy goes to his daughters, Joan and Brenda, and all the family.

### **Henry Perrett,** *6th Wiltshire Regiment*

Henry Perrett of Devizes, Wiltshire died on March 11th, aged 98. He had been a St Dunstaner since 1917. Known to many friends as Harry, he served as a Private with the 6th Wiltshire Regiment. He enlisted in 1915, at the age of 17 and was discharged in 1917 after being wounded at Ypres. After training at Regent's Park, he became a boot repairer. Subsequently, he spent some time during the Second World War making camouflage nets at Church Stretton. Later, at

Ovingdean, he learnt rug making and this became his career. He did this work privately and continued to make rugs, selling them locally (and to St Dunstan's) until he was 73. A keen gardener, Mr Perrett enjoyed working in his greenhouse and 'a couple of hours of cribbage' at his local blind club once a week. In summer he liked to go on outings with the same club. Mr Perrett and his wife celebrated their Diamond Wedding in 1981. Sadly, Mrs Perrett predeceased him in 1986, aged 90, they had been married for almost 65 years. Our sympathy goes to his daughter, Joyce, son, John, and all of the family.

### **George Fone,** *Royal Artillery*

George Fone of Enfield, Middlesex died on March 23rd, aged 77. He had been a St Dunstaner since 1944. Serving as a Gunner with the Royal Artillery between September 1939 and July 1945. He was wounded in Holland in 1944. After being discharged, he became a shopkeeper and sold the business in 1971. Our sympathy goes to his wife, Ethel, daughter, Veronica, and all the family.

**Lt. Cdr. Dennis Morris,**  
*Royal Naval Volunteer Reserve*  
Lieutenant Commander Dennis Morris of Ashtead, Surrey died on March 29th, aged 73. He had been a St Dunstaner since 1984. Commander Morris was commissioned in the Royal Naval Volunteer Reserve in 1942 and served in the Special Branch until 1946 and with the Sea Cadet Corps before relinquishing his commission in 1966. He was a Supplies Officer at Imperial College until loss of vision caused his early retirement in 1979. Our sympathy goes to his wife, Julie, daughter, Alison, and son, Roger, and all members of the family.

### **Mrs Dorothy Martin,** *Queen Alexandra's Imperial Nursing Service*

Mrs Dorothy Martin of Emsworth, Hampshire died on April 10th, aged 93. She had been a St Dunstaner since 1979. Mrs Martin worked as a clerk at Ingersol until she was 21 when she commenced SRN training at Westminster Hospital. After qualifying she joined a nursing community (Anglican) as a novice nun and stayed for eight years taking her yearly vows. She then did her midwifery at Queen Charlotte's Hospital (the site of the former St Dunstan's headquarters building). She went on to nurse victims of the London bombings at Windsor Hospital. In 1942, Mrs Martin joined Queen Alexandra's Imperial Nursing Service (QAINS). However,

in 1946 she was discharged, her eyesight having become a problem, and was invalided out of the Service with the rank of First Lieutenant. After this, she did industrial nursing in Nottingham at Stanton Ironworks and then at Players until retiring. Her first husband died in 1969 and she met Martin (as he is affectionately known) in 1970. After three days he asked her to spend the rest of her life with him and they married the following year. Our sympathy goes to Martin.

### **James Donohoe,** *Royal Engineers*

James Bernard Donohoe of Litherland, Liverpool died on April 18th, aged 81. He had been a St Dunstaner since 1980. Serving in the Royal Engineers from July 1940 to December 1945, he suffered damage to his sight and an injury to his right hand. Nevertheless, he was able to work as a foreman with the Mersey Docks and Harbour Company until 1961. All went well in his quiet retirement, but in 1990, he and Mrs Donohoe suffered the loss of their only daughter, Patricia. Mrs Donohoe passed away on March 16th. Our sympathy goes to his grandson, Ellis Williams, and all the family.

### **Reginald Leach,** *Royal Engineer*

Reginald Leach of Hastings died on April 20th, aged 83. He had been a St Dunstaner since 1981. Mr Leach enlisted with the Royal Engineers pre-war and served from 1927 until being discharged in 1959. He obtained the rank WO1 and was a Far East Prisoner of War from 1941 until 1945, having been captured at the fall of Singapore. His wife, Laura, died in 1985. They had been married for 46 years. Our sympathy goes to his son, James, and all members of the family.

### **Harry Pierrepont,** *Lincolnshire Regiment*

Harry Pierrepont of Boston, Lincolnshire died on April 20th, just a few days before his 83rd birthday. He had been a St Dunstaner since 1945. Whilst serving in Holland with the Lincolnshire Regiment, he developed an illness which led to the loss of his sight in February 1945. After training in telephony, he took a post with the London and North-Eastern Railways in Boston in July 1947. It was his career for the next 28 years. His first wife, Ellen died in 1973, but he continued to work until his planned retirement after which he spent his time working in his garden and greenhouse. He remarried in 1977, but Phyllis sadly passed away in 1994. Our sympathy goes to his daughter, Evelyn Naylor, and all members of the family.