

# St Dunstan's Review

August 1996

No. 865

## EYE IN THE SKY!

**Terry Bullingham road tests a revolutionary mobility aid**

Military satellite - part of the Global Positioning System - transmits information on location, accurate to a metre

Headset relays messages via speech synthesiser

Wrist keyboard allows user to input fresh instructions

Rucksack holds MoBIC computer and battery

**Feature on page ten**

Picture: John Robertson

12-14 Harcourt  
Street,  
London W1A 4XB

BI-MONTHLY  
Free to St Dunstaners

AUGUST 1996

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## From the Chairman

I was surprised and disappointed to learn recently from a St Dunstaner who had contemplated having a break at Ovingdean that he had not gone there because of what he had heard about the place. He was under the impression that there were no more Care Assistants, that the Bar was closed and that staying at Ovingdean meant that he would have to sit in his room all day.

This is of course utter nonsense and I deplore the malicious tongue of his informant whom I will not name. The new arrangements for visitors were fully set out in the April *Review* and we have since opened up any available rooms, not booked by St Dunstaners, to widows.

On a happier note, warmest congratulations to Don Planner on reaching the summit of Mont Blanc on June 25th. This is a marvellous example to us all and we are delighted and full of admiration for your bravery and perseverance.

Full details of the expedition in the next *Review*.



### HER MAJESTY THE QUEEN

In recognition of our Patron's Official Birthday, St Dunstan's Chairman, Admiral of the Fleet Sir Henry Leach, sent this message of congratulation:

"On behalf of St Dunstan's Council and our blinded ex-Servicemen and women I would be grateful if you would kindly give Her Majesty the Queen our most loyal greetings on the celebration of her Official Birthday.

"We send Her Majesty all our good wishes".

The reply from the Palace was as follows:

"I am commanded by The Queen to thank you for your kind message of greetings, sent on behalf of St Dunstan's Council and all those at St Dunstan's on the occasion of Her Majesty's Official Birthday.

"As Patron, The Queen received this message with much pleasure and has asked me to send her warm thanks for the sentiments in your message and good wishes to everyone concerned."



## NOTICE BOARD



### ADMINISTRATION OF WILLS AND BENEFICIARY ESTATES

The transfer to Brighton of all the records dealing with the above has now taken place and all future enquiries and correspondence should be addressed to Mrs Eileen Mobsby at St Dunstan's Ovingdean.

### WALKING HOLIDAY 1997

Following our successful visit to Stratford-upon-Avon this year, it was decided to repeat the venue for next year. The holiday will be based at the *Queen's Moat House Hotel*, who have offered us the exclusive rates of £27 per person, per night sharing a twin or double and £37 for a single room. The rate includes breakfast and an evening meal in the carvery, plus access to their health club facilities (splash pool, gym, sauna and steam rooms). The event will take place from Friday, April 25th 1997, departing Thursday, May 1st. Once again, the Stratford Ramblers will be kindly organising the five daily walks of around eight miles, with a lunch time stop at a local pub. The walks are relatively flat and easy going - weather permitting!

Anyone interested should please contact Ray Hazan at Headquarters.

### GREEN FINGERED CATALOGUE

A comprehensive guide to gardening publications and products for blind and partially sighted people has been produced by the Royal National Institute for the Blind. *Gardening - a catalogue of Books and Products* contains details of titles available on cassette and in braille from a variety of organisations. It also introduces a new range of products to make gardening easier such as a ratchet-action pruner, adjustable secateurs and a bulb-planter.

The guide is available free of charge from RNIB Customer Services on 0345 023153.

### LAST IN FIRST OUT PROVES LUCKY

The old saying about being last in and first out has a lucky connotation for Mrs M. Brooke of Wirral, Merseyside. She purchased the last batch of Derby Sweepstake tickets and drew the winning horse, Shaamit. As a result, she won £314.20.

The second prize, £125.68, was claimed by Mr F.D. Davies, BEM of Maesteg, Mid-Glamorgan who drew Dushyantor. He also claimed a share of the Starter's Prize. Mr H.W. Bramley of Cleveleys, Blackpool won the third prize of £62.84 with Shantou. Remaining shares of the Starter's Prize were divided amongst: - Mr F. Baugh, Queensville, Stafford; Mrs M. Bingham, Ovingdean; Mr R. Bingley, Newton Abbot, Devon; Mr S.K. Fletcher, Tooting, London; Mr E. Ford, Middlesbrough, Cleveland; Mrs H.E. Greasley, Coventry; Mr N. J. Killick, Weybridge, Surrey; Mr J. Lilley, Offerton, Stockport; Mr A. J. Mead, Rothwell, Northants; Dr S.S. Pavillard, Ovingdean; Mrs L. Read, Addlestone, Surrey; Mrs E. Reeves, Dresden, Stoke-on-Trent; Mrs L. Sedman, Bury, Lancashire; and Mrs B.A. Tickner, Worthing, West Sussex.

The total prize money subscribed was £628.40.

### FESTIVAL OF REMEMBRANCE

We expect to receive a limited number of tickets for the afternoon and evening presentation of the Festival of Remembrance at the Royal Albert Hall on Saturday, November 9th. St Dunstaners are asked to return their pro forma to Peter Marshall at HQ before August 25th. There is a limit of two tickets per applicant. Please state any preference for afternoon or evening presentation. Priority will be given to those who have not attended previously. Final allocation will be made by ballot.

## MAGAZINES ON DISC

Computer users take note. Like St Dunstan's *Review*, the following magazines are now available on disc.

*Access IT* - access technology for visually impaired computer users, 42p

*Braille Music Magazine* - classical music, 63p

*Broadcast Times - The Braille Radio Times* and regional supplement, *3FM*, and *Braille TV Times* together on one disc, 60p

*Compute IT* - news from the world of computing, 42p

*Good Vibrations* - for Hi-fi enthusiasts, 31p

*New Beacon* - the magazine of the Royal National Institute for the Blind, £1.50

*Progress* - an all round good read, 42p

*Scientific Enquiry* - news from across the sciences, 42p

*Spotlight* - new publications for leisure and daily living, free

*Upbeat* - popular music, 52p

*Welcome to a World of...* - new products and services for visually impaired people, free

To subscribe to any of these magazines, please contact Customer Services at RNIB Peterborough, PO Box 173, Peterborough PE2 6WS. Telephone 0345 023153.

## EURO-GUIDES

A series of tourist guides, *European Cities Within Reach*, has been launched by a consortium led by the RNIB. Cities covered so far are London, Paris and Turin/Venice.

The guides, priced £2.50 each, are available in braille, audio tape and large print. For further details call 0345 023153 (calls charged at local rate).

## ROYAL PARKS BRAILLE

The Royal Parks Agency is to provide braille guide books for each of the eight royal parks in and around London.

The existing guides are being transcribed into braille by Eve Hardiman, a retired MoD computer programmer who is completely blind.

The eight royal parks are: Hyde Park, Kensington Gardens, St James's Park, Green Park, Regent's Park and Primrose Hill, Greenwich Park, Richmond Park and Bushy Park. The braille guides will be available on site, free of charge.

## REUNION ROUND-UP

This year's reunions continued with the usual bonhomie as St Dunstaners and widows met up with staff from Headquarters, Ovingdean and their own areas.

Birmingham on May 14th at the *Forte Crest Hotel*. Presiding was Mr Denis Cadman CBE.

London (1) on May 18th at the *Victory Services Club*. Presiding was Tom Taylor BA, MSc.

Cambridge on May 21st at the *Forte Posthouse*. Lt.-General Sir Maurice Johnston was presiding.

Leeds on June 4th at the *Forte Crest*. St Dunstan's President, Mr Colin Beaumont-Edmonds, MC, was presiding.

Newcastle on June 5th at the *Forte Crest*. Presiding was Sir Richard Pease. An eloquent vote of thanks was proposed by St Dunstaner Stephen Nixon.

Nottingham on June 18th. St Dunstan's President, Mr Colin Beaumont-Edmonds, MC, was presiding.

London (2) on June 22nd at the *Victory Services Club*. Presiding was our Chairman, Admiral of the Fleet Sir Henry Leach.

# VAT ON COMPUTER EQUIPMENT

I am pleased to advise you that Dolphin has finally resolved its differences with the VAT office with regard to VAT on computer equipment for blind and partially sighted individuals.

Customs & Excise has agreed the following:

Liability to VAT in the future will be as follows:

■ *Specialist goods* - Specialist goods, for use by people with disabilities, such as Apollo or HAL, will continue to be exempt from VAT.

■ *Standard goods* - Standard goods such as computers and printers, bought without attendant specialist goods, will be standard rated.

■ *Systems* - Systems comprising both standard and specialist goods will be taxed at quite a favourable composite

rate of 3.25 per cent. This method was chosen in preference to the alternative of taxing each component at either the standard or zero rate.

This scheme will be effective for deliveries made on or after July 1st 1996.

There will be no retrospective liability to VAT.

Customs and Excise believe this proposal can now be applied across the industry.

I am very pleased with the final outcome and I should like to extend a grateful thank you to all our customers who supported us during the campaign, and to especially thank the several hundred who took the time to write to their MPs. These letters were the most potent aspect of the campaign.

**Noel Duffy**  
**For Dolphin Systems,**  
**Worcester**

## A TRIBUTE TO HELEN STEWART

It is with great regret that we report the sudden and unexpected death of Miss Helen Stewart, our Welfare Visitor for East Sussex and Kent, on May 15th. She joined St Dunstan's on November 1st, 1973.

After nearly 23 years with our organisation, Helen will be very much missed by the staff at Headquarters and Ovingdean, as well as the St Dunstaners, their families and our widows in her area. She always travelled with her faithful companion, a border collie called Shep, who is now being looked after by a kind neighbour. Helen worked tirelessly for the Charity, and showed particular concern and sympathy for the elderly and those suffering from distressing illnesses. She also spent a considerable amount of time getting extra care for our beneficiaries in their homes. Whatever the

request, whether it was for a wheelchair, bath aids or even arranging for a widow's tapestry to be framed, she was only too willing to help.

Helen was a good listener with a nice sense of humour. She was not only dedicated to her work, but a personal friend to a number of people she visited over the years. Our sympathy goes to all members of her family.

**From: William Stewart, Stockport, Cheshire**

Please convey our thanks to all of Helen Stewart's many friends spread around Kent and East Sussex and in Headquarters. We too, in turn, convey our condolences to each of them for they too have suffered shock and grief upon the sudden death of our sister and their friend.

# News from Ovingdean

compiled by Terry Walker

I have been asked to put together a regular series of articles based upon Ovingdean. We have finally been given the information many of us have been waiting for - holidays and visits are back! Perhaps not as before, but nothing lasts for ever. This is my opportunity to bring you news, views and information from Ovingdean. Taking up this challenge with great enthusiasm, articles will be written by all those people who work, live or visit St Dunstan's at Ovingdean.

Karen Morane, Care Manager, told me she attended a couple of reunions in the North where she gleaned adverse comment on Ovingdean; no atmosphere. Well, when a place has sustained the type of change undertaken here in Sussex, it is little wonder. This is not now Ian Fraser House, nor is it Pearson House. No, we have moved forward a whole spectrum. A new air of independence is abroad. Everyone is encouraged to be their own person. No longer is everything done for us. If one were to put the flavour of Ovingdean in a nutshell; "This is now a hotel, not an institution"! The high standard of cleanliness and care is still here. Catering is better, in that there is a greater variety of foods available.

"Oh yes!" you may quite rightly say. "But it is an old folks home". It is, here today at Ovingdean, men and women are at home. They are here to be cared for. Their needs are serviced, and let me tell you, it is just like anyone's home. We laugh, we argue, we live together. It is warm, clean and homely. We are able to come and go, to undertake activities and join in outings.

I can move about in the house and hear the most disruptive and damaging statements made. But when have we not had similar statements by people anywhere in England. It is the good balance of views and input which allows us to steer the middle course

and provide a satisfactory result. A monthly residents meeting provides everyone with the chance to air their views. Out of this change a new Ovingdean is gradually emerging.

You can make it exactly what you want it to be. An empty shell with only memories. A warm friendly restful place where there is the chance once again to meet old friends and spend a few days together. Already people are grouping together and bookings are starting to arrive. What about you? We have it, let's use it!

## Keyboard forsaken for pedals

Congratulations to Janis Sharp, our computer instructor at Ovingdean, who completed in the London to Brighton Cycle Ride on Sunday, June 16th. Janis completed the 56 miles from Clapham Common to Madeira Drive in eight hours. The gauntlet is down for some St Dunstaners to beat that next year!



## SEASIDE STROLL

One of the advantages of living on the coast has to be the occasional stroll on a glorious sunny afternoon. St Dunstaner John Trent, seen here with Care Assistant Marilyn Baker, joined George Cole, Mabel "Simmie" Simpson, Jock Alexander, Lyn Edwards, Tom Barton and Ernie Barnes out by the beach.

# VIP day on HMS Belfast

by Bill Shea G4AUJ, member of the Royal Naval Amateur Radio Society/ London HMS Belfast Group

**H**MS *Belfast*, a famous WWII Royal Navy cruiser, now a museum ship moored opposite the Tower of London was first commissioned in 1938.

In January 1975, a group of radio amateur enthusiasts, all members of the Royal Naval Amateur Radio Society, formed the London HMS *Belfast* Group. The objectives of this group were to try to restore the Bridge Wireless Office with similar radio equipment installed when the cruiser was first commissioned and to establish an amateur radio station.

Today, a lot of the old radio equipment has been found and is on show in the Bridge Wireless Office, with a very well equipped amateur radio station. This station holds the call sign of G4HMS and the special call sign, GB2RN and is heard regularly all over the world on the amateur bands.

Each year, over the Easter weekend and the following week, the HMS *Belfast* Group, which now has members all over the world, stay on board operating the station round the clock. This year, staying on board were members from Austria, Australia, Canada, Belgium, Denmark and Holland. The Thursday after Easter is always known as VIP Day. This is the day when the Commodore of HMS *Collingwood*, who is the President of the Royal Naval Amateur Radio Society, visits the ship.

GB3RN, the headquarters station of the Royal Naval Amateur Radio Society is located in HMS *Collingwood*.

On April 11th, members of the *Belfast* Group, with leaders of other radio amateur interests, including those from the other service organisations, the Royal Signals and Royal Air Force Amateur Radio Societies, assembled on the quarterdeck.

I have visited HMS *Belfast* on many occasions in my own right as a full life member of both the RNARS and the London HMS *Belfast* Group. This year I was welcomed on board as the representative of the St Dunstan's Amateur Radio Society by Bob, G0FEK, Chairman of the *Belfast* Group. The St Dunstan's Amateur Radio Society are also full life members of the group, number 062.

A guard of honour of Royal Marine Cadets paraded on the quarterdeck. Their turn out and arms drill would have done credit to a Royal Marines King's Squad. One could almost hear the murmurs of approval from the ghosts of former Royal Marines who had paraded on that very same quarterdeck when the *Belfast* was in active service. The weather on the Thames was excellent, a warm, sunny spring day.

Unfortunately, the Commodore of the HMS *Collingwood* was unable to attend as the date clashed with a change of command, his place was taken by the Chairman of the RNARS. After the parade it was "splice the main brace" with a buffet lunch and drinks in the wardroom. It was a very great pleasure to meet many old friends, many having been guests of our radio society at Ovingdean. Many enquiries were made about our society and many 73 and 88s were sent. Hopefully some new friends were made. One of those was a former Lieutenant Commander who served in HMS *Belfast* as a boy telegraphist when she was first commissioned.

After lunch, a visit was made to the Bridge Wireless Office where a number of amateur radio stations were in full swing on HF phone and CW, packet and VHF. Later that evening, I was able to talk to members of the HMS *Belfast* from my home station, thanking them for an excellent day.

# LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

*Letters to the Editor are always welcome.*

*Drop us a line, tape or disc at 12-14 Harcourt Street, London W1A 4XB.*

## **From: Mary Frith**

I would like to say how much I am overwhelmed by your kindness and generosity.

I think back to the day when I joined St Dunstan's as a very raw recruit, so green that I walked bang into a St Dunstaner at the wicket gate. I can remember I was always in trouble then, Ovingdean was run very strictly by the old 'Com', dancing twice with the same man was not allowed and dancing too close was a crime.

In the 20 years I have been at Ovingdean, 19 of those were living in and I have known some marvellous St Dunstaners. People like Wally Thomas, Dicky Brett, Micky Robinson, Blodwyn Simon, Thelma Meredith and a host of others. You are all fantastic.

We have had our sad times and consoled each other in the bad times. I have enjoyed my life with you. It has never been work to me but a privilege.

I shall look back at all the photographs and have a chuckle to myself at all the jokes and good times we have shared.

I want to thank you for the beautiful gifts, cards and good wishes for my future. I have been given a £400 travel voucher to buy a SAGA holiday, £200 of holiday spending money, a camera, champagne and flowers. I am very, very grateful.

It has been a pleasure working for and with you all these years. Thank you.

## **From: Richard Bingley, Newton Abbot**

In the *June Review*, I did enquire whether some 50 St Dunstaners or widows would join me in the worthy task of fund raising by organising coffee mornings, raffles or bring

and buys. Several of our members have inquired how successful was my coffee morning, which was planned for May 18th.

The answer, I am pleased to say, is most encouraging. Four days prior to the coffee morning, I set up a chair and table in Market Walk, Newton Abbot. I wore my Regimental blazer, beret, tie and medals. The collecting tins were prominently displayed along with the skeleton kit provided by Neil Swan, i.e. two posters, leaflets, etc.

There was a merry tinkle as pound coins were thrust into the tins over a period of seven hours. Now this effort, which proved to be well worthwhile, as at the coffee morning, provided a steady stream of visitors, who proved to be most generous. There was an abundance of raffle prizes, mostly St Dunstan's soft toys. A bring and buy stall was well laden.

The grand sum of £505.97 was raised. There were no expenses. So it can be done, fellow St Dunstaners. Please have a try. You will require several sighted friends. The best of luck!

## **Who is fooling who?**

The following was recounted at a reunion recently by a St Dunstaner, who used to commute regularly to work in central London by public transport. In order not to appear to be 'staring' at the passenger opposite, he would place a print magazine on his lap and pretend to be reading it. This was fine until a fellow commuter commented on his ability to read upside down! Have you any similar experiences or incidents which you can relate? Letters to the Editor, please.

Colin "Woody" Oakes recounts a "miraculous" walk in the Welsh countryside

# O'er hill and vale...

I journeyed to Llanwrtyd Wells, Powys in Mid-Wales to take part in The Drover's Walk on June 22nd. This walk consists of 10, 15 or 25 miles of arduous hill country and moorland. I registered for 15 miles. I really didn't know what I was letting myself in for!

I was up at 07.00hrs and enjoyed a full English breakfast before starting the walk at 09.00hrs. For the first mile I was puffin' and blowing like an old steam engine but then got my wind back and started to enjoy the walk. Once off the road, we went through Forestry Commission land that had been covered by trunks and branches and almost totally blocked in places.

The next part was climbing open hillside and quite pleasant. Then there was no path to follow at all for a time. Down into a wooded valley and back up the other side. The path now was like walking in a deep rut left by a single wheeled tractor, very steep and not easy walking.

At the top, the wind was moderately strong and cold, which was quickly chilling during the climb up out of the valley. The going was much easier now, walking along just below the crest of the hill (some would call it a mountain, about 2,800ft I think).

Still on the crest, following the edge of a fir forest, the ground turned to marsh, quite rough and wet in places. A short way into the forest, we crossed a wide fire-brake and found the first control point. The control told us that the next C.P. was only three miles away at the *Grouse Inn*.

What they did not say was that the next three miles would be the hardest part! A short walk through more forest, then across very rough and wet marshland, then down a very steep hillside. Going down was sheer

murder with every step. My legs ached and put a lot of strain on the knees. One slip and I would have got to the bottom very quickly.

Once off the hill, we got back on a reasonably good track that led to a river ford. There were some stepping stones halfway across, but the ones in the middle were underwater or missing. My escort, George went first and slipped off into the water. I knew that given my poor sense of balance I had no chance of getting over dry. Other walkers were coming up from behind and I had to move, so I took aim at the far side and "walked on water". The water came over my boots but, as I was not hanging about, very little actually got in. George was not so lucky! When he slipped off the stone, he somehow managed to twist his back.

Just across the ford, not visible to us was a film crew getting everything on record just like vultures waiting for the kill. There was a small hamlet there and the *Grouse Inn* C.P. Really, it was only some beer barrels set up in a garage for the day, but I tell you the pint I had was one of the finest I have ever partaken of.

Ten miles done and the remaining five were nearly all road walking. I was still fit and refreshed after the pint but George was in a bad way. His back was making life difficult for him but he still plodded on. It is fair to say that he was giving a good impression of the way Herman Munster walks - bent forward slightly from the waist, arms held away from his sides and walking flat-footed.

Three and three-quarters of a mile down the road and my knees were seizing up on me. If I had stopped, it is debatable I would have finished, so I didn't stop until I reached the finish. George came in as I was getting a pint at the bar.

# MoBIC - THE WAY

by Terry Bullingham

**T**his somewhat contrived acronym (Mobility of Blind and Elderly People Interacting with computers) is the title given to a three year research project to assess the feasibility of personal-computer systems as a navigational aid for visually-impaired and elderly people in unfamiliar, complex environments.

The project, sponsored by the Committee of the European Union - under the TIDE programme (Technology Initiative for Disabled and Elderly People) - is being carried out by a consortium of universities and technological concerns in Germany, Sweden and the United Kingdom. Birmingham University's Research Centre for the Education of the Visually Handicapped has been commissioned to carry out a six month field trial subsequent to the initial trial last autumn in Berlin. I have been fortunate to have been selected as one of the subjects and the potential benefits for visually-impaired travellers are so exciting that I am sure St Dunstaners will find the following notes of interest.

The prototype system, I am currently working with, consists of a compact PC (486 processor) and peripherals, including: standard QWERTY keyboard, small round wrist-worn keypad, satellite receiving equipment, portable telephone system, rechargeable batteries, loudspeaker and bone-conducting lightweight headphones.

## THE PRE-JOURNEY SYSTEM

This configuration is used when planning routes, either at home or office. The standard keyboard is used to interface with the computer in this mode and an electronic map is loaded into memory. I am currently using a map of two adjacent West Midlands suburbs (Harborne and Smethwick) and the typical "booting-up" time is two to three minutes. Keying instructions are

reasonably intuitive (unlike "WordPerfect"! ) and I am informed of proceedings by the Keynote Gold speech system through the loudspeaker. The maps can be explored sequentially by means of cursor keys on the numerical keypad and I can move through this "virtual" environment in increments ranging from one metre to hundreds.

Personally, I find 20-metre steps the most suitable at this stage. Progress is monitored in terms of direction of travel (north, north-east, etc.) and side of road (left or right).

Detail - house numbers, shops, telephone kiosks, pedestrian crossings, bus stops (including route numbers) - can be programmed into the maps as desired. At present, difficulties exist with anomalous features such as large roundabouts, however, it is anticipated that a useable convention will be determined to deal with these situations. The software has the capacity to work out routes (currently the shortest) and provide a "read-out" of "en-route" features in addition to overall distance in metres.

The maps can be customised to incorporate specific features of particular areas, such as dangerous crossings and other individual requirements.

The German project leader estimates that suitable software to interact with the maps might be available by the end of the year at an approximate cost of £200. Electronic maps exist for most of Europe and the United States, however, they are prohibitively expensive at present and a means of overcoming this is required.

## THE OUTDOOR SYSTEM

It is this system, with its ability to communicate with global positioning satellites (GPS), that is currently exciting much interest. This configuration (weight

# AHEAD?

6kg) consists of: the computer, wrist-worn keypad (seven keys), satellite receiver plus aerial, mobile 'phone, lightweight bone-conducting headphones, and battery pack. At present, this hardware is fitted into either a surcoat or a haversack. Route planning information, identified whilst at home/office, has been stored for subsequent retrieval.

At the start of the journey, the software is booted up, further interaction with the computer being by means of the small keypad. Progress is monitored through the headphones and within approximately five minutes one is advised that satellite communication (at least three necessary) has been established and that the GPS is working.

It is at this stage that the situation becomes somewhat eerie as you step into the realms of science fiction. Assuming that a specific route, has been identified, the system will provide positional information in terms of: street name and side in addition to any significant features (building details, pavement surfaces and hazards, etc).

Deviation from the route is detected and instructions are provided on the best way to get back on course. Information about road junctions is provided and positional information is accurate to within one metre!

This level of accuracy is achieved through the satellites being augmented by a differential signal obtained via the mobile telephone. There is a potential cost implication here and BT are involved in these trials.

Communication may be lost from time to time (proximity to buildings, subways, etc.), however, the system advises when the 'fix' is unreliable. A dead-reckoning system is being developed to deal with such situations.

## COMMENTS

My initial apprehension about the weight of the outdoor system has diminished - both with the surcoat and haversack - as the weight is evenly distributed. This weight will be significantly reduced when the production system appears in approximately two years.

I thought I would have difficulty with the headphones, however, I have been pleasantly surprised by their lightness and the fact that they are adjacent to the ear, therefore not interfering with ambient information essential for primary mobility. As many people are wedded to the ubiquitous "Walkman" nowadays the headphones are relatively unobtrusive.

The haversack is better in terms of appearance than the surcoat. Further improvements will doubtless be forthcoming in this area. Total cost of an outdoor system might typically be in the order of £5,000.

Cynics may say "I can ask someone the way", and of course this is still the case - the system does not prevent this. What the system can do is provide increased independence if desired. It might be argued that, in our current social climate, the less interactions with the public, the less the inherent risks. While no system can ever provide a complete solution, MoBIC has the potential to be a very useful "tool" in the mobility kit of future visually-impaired travellers. Consider the developmental progress of the filing-cabinet size and five-figure price tags of the reading machines of a decade ago.

I will be only too pleased to provide further information on request.

\*\*\*\*\*

On June 14th, Terry gave a demonstration of the MoBIC system on *Tomorrow's World*. He was given a destination, which to him was just a street number, and this turned out to be a pub where the presenter stood him a well earned pint.

# HIPPOCRATES BETRAYED

Gershon Adler talks to Ray Hazan

For most people in uniform at the time, the end of the Second World War meant demob and a return to "normal" life as soon as possible. For some, there was the aftermath of war to deal with, including the punishing of those found guilty of crimes against humanity. One such, who recently became a St Dunstaner, is Abraham Gershon Adler of Brackley, who served with the Control Commission in Germany after the war.

Gershon was born in Aberystwyth in January 1914. His father was a hairdresser, which in those days, included making wigs, a lucrative part of the profession. At the age of twelve, Gershon spent a year in Germany with relatives and friends. Several other visits followed, which culminated in his taking an honours degree in German at Aberystwyth University. Whilst there, Gershon had been able to pursue his interest in PE and gymnastics. The Carnegie Physical Training College had recently opened in Leeds. He was immediately accepted with his degree and left a year later with teaching qualifications in German and PE.

Gershon's first teaching post was at Bridgend Grammar School. Mavis, his wife to be, also taught in Bridgend. He moved to Brockenhurst, Hampshire just before the outbreak of war in 1939 and they were married the following year. Gershon was called up, but returned home that day as PE teaching was a reserved profession. However, in 1944, Gershon was called up to do his recruit training. He was recognised by someone who knew his language abilities, and so Gershon was posted to the Intelligence Corps. He soon found himself based at their Headquarters, some three blocks away from Monty's HQ in Brussels, Belgium. It was here, whilst talking to a colleague one afternoon, that a V2 landed nearby. Gershon lost his left eye, and his companion his life. "I was very lucky".



Mr and Mrs Adler at home.

Gershon did not want to return to teaching after being invalided out of the Army. He joined the Control Commission as an interpreter - "I could better use my knowledge of German and it paid a better salary than teaching!"

We reproduce parts of his joining instructions:

13 August 46.

To:- Mr A.G.A. Adler

From:- O. i/c. DET INTERPRETERS GROUP,  
H.Q. MIL. GOV WESTFALEN REGION.

(a) You will proceed to ESSEN and report to the P.S.O. 130. Mil. Gov. Det. during the afternoon of the 13th inst.

(b) You will be responsible for the duties of the interpreters at the War Crimes Trials, Pforzheim case, commencing at 10.00 hours on the 14th inst.

(c) The President of the Court and the Court Orderly Officer will be contacted before the trial begins and the method to be adopted, i.e. two way, etc., decided beforehand.

The trial concerned the murder of five members of the RAF on March 17th and 18th, 1945. On March 14th of that year, a Flying Fortress, proceeding on a bombing mission to Leipzig, was hit by enemy anti-aircraft fire. Seven members of the crew succeeded in baling out and were later captured. They were taken to Huchenfeld, some four miles south of Pforzheim, and locked up in the boiler room of a school.

The subsequent details do not make pleasant reading. The local population, including members of the Hitler Youth, 'disguised' in civilian clothes in order to hide their identities, were encouraged to vent their fury on the airmen, which resulted in five being shot in cold blood, two others having escaped. Four of the youths admitted to the murders.

One other incident concerning a most extraordinary find is described in a letter from Gershon to the *Sunday Times* in March, 1956: "Reading Cyril Connelly's review of Edward Crankshaw's book *Gestapo, Instrument of Tyranny* and, in particular, extracts from the diary of a German doctor, brought a flood of memories of incidents, which occurred to me in the course of some four years as a conference interpreter with the Control Commission. But none are more vivid than the circumstances

surrounding the discovery of this German doctor's diary, which I was the first allied official to read.

"I call this account 'Hippocrates Betrayed'. In 1944, I was quartered in an Officers' Mess, once a private house in Munster. One day, a colleague came to me and said he had found an exercise book stuffed behind his radiator but, as he could not understand German, I had better read it. This incredible book was the personal diary of SS Arzt Dr Kremer or Professor Dr Kremer, Professor of Anatomy at the University of Munster. The entries almost defy the imagination both in their detail and their subject matter". The writings described Kremer's intimate involvement in the gassing and execution of concentration camp internees and medical research on them.

"I read this diary again and again. My problem was what to do with it. On the face of it, Kremer was perhaps only an onlooker making use of his opportunities for research to benefit mankind. But then I thought of the fates of millions of innocent victims, and in particular, of an aunt and uncle, who were just taken from their flat in Paris. Their only crime was that they were Jews. Their fate can only be guessed. I later handed the diary to a British CID Official.

"Until the discovery of the diary, Kremer was a free man. Nothing was known against him. He was arrested, confronted with his diary and later handed over to the Poles. A month later, I chanced to read in a German newspaper that Kremer had attempted suicide in Crakow.

"Why had the doctor kept a record, which was later to convict him?"

"Firstly, the possibility of defeat had never crossed his mind. Secondly, the noting of his achievements might have stood him in good stead for later advancement. Justice was a more deserving recipient for these writings!!"

After a short period as an Education Control Officer in Germany, Gershon

returned to England in 1949 to teach at Boot's College, Nottingham. The college was attended by 15 to 18 year olds, workers at the Boot's factory.

Gershon finally retired in 1979 and chose to move to London. Driving had become a problem due to his deteriorating sight, and the capital is well covered by public transport systems. Coincidentally, he moved into the flat below St Dunstaner, the late Esmond Knight, actor and artist.

"I used to help him sort out his paints, occasionally". Some two years ago, the

Adlers moved to the quiet country town of Brackley in Northamptonshire. To have been closely involved with the inhumanities of mankind is not a memory on which to dwell. Kremer betrayed his Hippocratic oath.

Several years after the war, Gershon met a former German Medical Officer, while visiting Colditz, who had refused to participate in any atrocity. What Gershon witnessed, needs to be brought to the attention of younger generations, in the hope that they may never embark again upon such a course.

## Masters of McKinley



The Duchess of Kent presented St Dunstaner Alan "Reg" Perrin with a Winston Churchill Memorial Trust Medal. One of only four, it was in recognition of his perseverance during the *Unseen Steps* expedition to Mount McKinley.



Reg's cohort, *Unseen Steps* team co-leader, Edward de la Billière presented St Dunstan's Chairman, Sir Henry Leach, with copies of a print commemorating the expedition which braved the coldest mountain in the world.



## 45 years and a day at St Dunstan's

St Dunstan's Northern and Overseas Welfare Superintendent, Cynthia Mosley, celebrated 45 years and one day of service with the organisation on July 3rd. She had started work on July 2nd, 1951. Sir Henry Leach presented a floral tribute to her continuing dedication.

# GOD SAVE THE QUEEN!

Since 1952, St Dunstan's has had the gracious patronage of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II. This year, our Patron celebrated her 70th birthday and we mark the occasion with a nostalgic look at Royal encounters with St Dunstaners past and present.

In 1953, year of the coronation, all St Dunstaners were issued with a 5/- piece, a silver crown which was the first coin to be minted during Queen Elizabeth's reign.



**Above left:** The late Ted Brown demonstrates his framing skills.

**Above right:** Two lady St Dunstaners and their children meet our Patron.

**Far left:** Our Patron is introduced to a handless St Dunstaner in the Joinery Workshop.

**Middle:** Sir Ian Fraser greets his sovereign.

**Left:** Ralph Paccitti picks up a few royal bridge tips.



## TED COMES TOPS AGAIN

Ted Bunting has held onto his position as St Dunstan's top storyteller by winning the Story Contest for the second year running. His whodunit was deemed the best by our judge, Peter James, author of many books including the supernatural thrillers *Dreamer* (Talking Book catalogue number 7771) and *Possession* (Talking Book catalogue number 7329).

"It was most original with a good surprise twist at the end", he said of Ted's tale. "It was very engaging". Accordingly, Ted wins £60 for *A Nose for Crime* which he wrote under the nom de plume Constable John.

Second prize, £25, went to Doreen Thompson, wife of Les Thompson for *Avarice*, written in philosophical mode as Socrates. Runners up prizes of £5 went to Dr Pavillard, Ted Miller and Wilf Saxby.

Our thanks go to Peter James for acting as judge in this year's contest and to all who took part.

You may recall that we asked St Dunstaners, spouses and widows to craft a tale of mystery and suspense from a number of elements involving theft, murder, odd items and a motley crew of suspects. This is how Ted Bunting brought it all together...

# A NOSE FOR CRIME

by Constable John  
(Ted Bunting)

I'll never forget the May of 1928, not ever; not on account of Blackburn winning the FA Cup or Dixie Dean scoring 60 goals for Everton, or anything like that. No, I'll remember it because that's when I went on a case with the great "Sniffer" Harris, when he was still an Inspector at our nick.

"Follow me", he said that morning when he burst from his office. I did so, and on our way to Ovingdean Hall, he outlined the bare bones of the case. Lord Dunstan, apparently, had been reported killed, and in addition to that, the "Raymond chandelier", the fabulous diamond necklace which had once belonged to the Archduke Raymond of Hazan, had been stolen.

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The door at the Hall was opened to us by Anna Coluthon, the "administrator" as she called herself, though this amounted to no more than a housekeeper doubling as his lordship's secretary. She led us upstairs and briskly along a corridor; or she would have done if the Inspector hadn't stopped at a table supporting a "V" shaped block of polished teak, and a silver tea-strainer lying alongside it. True to his nickname, "Sniffer" bowed forward and had a good old smell at them before rejoining us. Lord Dunstan was dead all right, he lay face forward in his study before an open safe door. Blood had trickled down both his nostrils and a leather garrotte still bit deeply into his bloated neck.

"Who found him?", asked the Inspector, sniffing around the body. "Smithers", answered Anna Coluthon. "Smithers the



butler: he came banging on my bathroom door to tell me, just as I was taking a bath."

"And what time was this?" asked the Inspector who was now sniffing at an ornamental dagger which lay near the door. "Oh, about half past eight", she said.

"Thank you", said Sniffer. "I'll talk to Smithers later, but just for the moment I'd like you to tell me who else is in the house".

Well Miss Coluthon was very obliging at this point, she not only told us there were four others in the house beside herself and Smithers, but she also gave her opinion on them too. Major Timothy Carrington M.C. was a "real gent" she said, he was also called "Tipperary Tim" by Mr Christopher, "After the horse that won the Grand National last March", she explained, and then realising that "Mr Christopher" was now the new Lord Dunstan, she stopped for a while and had a little weep. She thought Miss Christine would be very upset too; Christine was the new lord's twin sister, we learned, but Anna doubted if "that awful Margo Janson" would care about the tragedy at all, she had supposedly come down to thank his lordship for his help on the Franchise Bill which would, that week, give all women the vote, but Miss Coluthon believed she'd really come to borrow money.

Whilst she talked, the Inspector said nothing, just sniffing from time to time, but the moment she'd finished he asked her to assemble everyone in the drawing room at 1 o'clock prompt. This was at mid-day, and in the next hour we searched Ovingdean Hall, kitchen, bedrooms, everywhere.

In one bedroom, which proved to be that of Miss Margo Janson, a red-headed debutante, I made an unusual discovery. "What's this Sir?" I asked. "It's a pipe", he said, "An opium pipe, what we used to call 'a smoking gun' on account of the fact that you might as well shoot yourself as use it". He lifted it to his nose and declared, "It's been used recently too, and this", he now held up a pepperpot he'd found, "is what it's been burning". "Pepper, Sir?" I asked incredulously, for I was very green in those days, but "Sniffer" said "No, no, Constable, it's opium, raw opium, and people do awful things under its influence".

"Yes, they sleep," said a voice from the doorway. It came from Margo Janson. "Yes all right", she admitted, "I had a smoke last night, but don't ask me anything else because I was out like a light".

"A likely story", said the Inspector, as we made our way to Major Carrington's room. There was a syringe in there; a large one, and "Sniffer" set me looking for needles to fit it, whilst he looked for the missing necklace. Neither of us was successful; nor did we find anything incriminating in the slightest and he entered the drawing room with a confident air.

\*\*\*\*\*

Brother and sister were sharing a settee, Major Carrington stood by the window, Anna Coluthon perched primly on a chair by the wall and the butler went back and forth with a tray and glasses. "My lord, ladies and gentleman", boomed "Sniffer" dramatically. "I am Detective Inspector Harris, and I shall shortly make it clear why I have called you all here together, but first, Smithers, am I not right in thinking you have been using 'Silvo' polish to clean a tea-strainer?" The bemused butler nodded dumbly. "As I thought", said the Inspector triumphantly. "And so I can tell you all that you are all under arrest for the murder of the late Lord Dunstan". There were gasps, but he carried on. "It was you Major, who hatched the plot to steal the Raymond chandelier so that you could end all your financial worries, and it was YOU, Miss

Coluthon, who committed the murder, why else would you be taking a bath in the morning if not to wash away the blood? You, my lord, and your sister were being blackmailed by Miss Janson, so you had to go along with the plan. Take them away Constable”.

\*\*\*\*\*

It was all nonsense of course, old “Sniffer” had finally gone right off his trolley. The boys from Scotland Yard quickly tidied up the mess; the Raymond chandelier had

been stolen by a vicious gang from the East End. They had forced the old Lord Dunstan to open the safe. Margo had slept a drugged sleep as she had said, the Major and the twins had dined out and had retired as soon as they returned. Anna slept in a different wing of the hall and had heard nothing. Nor had old Smithers, he was rather deaf poor soul, and nobody could imagine how the dagger had been moved from the table, life’s full of little mysteries isn’t it. Oh, whilst I remember, the Major’s syringe was one he used to wash out his eye socket; very few people knew he’d lost an eye on the Somme.

## To smack or not?

by Jack Fulling

Much of the nation’s media time has been engaged on the political correctness of whether to smack or not. Tony Blair admitted to smacking his children, adding that he did so with a feeling of guilt.

I was smacked as a child, I smacked as a parent. I often wished that it wasn’t necessary, particularly on reaching home at the end of a working day to be invited, in cold blood, to play the role of the avenging angel or Lord High Executioner to misbehaving offspring who had gone too far and disturbed the peace and tranquillity of the household or ruffled matriarchal feathers.

In self defence, I recall a visit to the Lampton Safari Park at Stockton a long time ago.

A lovely sunny Sunday, as I recall, Dad lion had just been given his lunch, an outsize “T-bone” steak. I hasten to add that Dad lion looked a very reasonable sort of chap, for a lion that is, nothing racist or sectarian intended. One of God’s creatures, doubtless well versed in jungle etiquette, lion customs and such, educated in the cultural niceties. Possibly Staff College trained even.

Enter stage right: Young lion cub, positively bouncing with unexpended energy, sprightly, full of mischief and fun, looking for some action. Dad lion, disapproving of the potential disturbance, growled gently to signify his lack of enthusiasm. After all it was Sunday, lunch-time, and there is a time and a place for everything. The young lion cub hesitated momentarily, indicating his acceptance of parental stuffiness, but on he pranced. A second and louder growl accompanied the blow with a well practised right paw, stopping the cub in his tracks and outside the evident bounds of lunch space. Since YLCs don’t give up easily, he rose to stand on all fours, only slightly ruffled and continued his advance.

Cap, gown, scroll, degree and doctorate were all delivered in one final blow which would have done credit to Mike Tyson.

YLC rolled over, staggered to his feet, retreating, his education completed - a sadder, wiser, YLC, having assimilated the knowledge of a thousand ages. Dad lion continued his lunch without guilt, contented, knowing that a blow had been struck for all mankind. I rest my case.

## MESSAGE FROM THE HEAD OF FUND RAISING

Firstly, many congratulations to Don Planner who has succeeded in climbing Mont Blanc - this was an amazing achievement. Also, congratulations to Richard Bingley who raised £505.97 at his coffee morning.

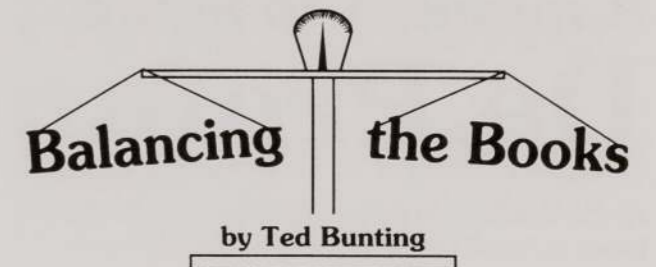
The main news from the Fund Raising Department is that between the end of July and the beginning of November we will be distributing over half-a-million fund raising leaflets to homes around Great Britain. When undertaking a distribution of this size it is inevitable that a leaflet might be delivered to the house of a St Dunstaner or St Dunstaner widow. This is because the leaflets are not individually addressed, but are distributed to all houses in a given postcode area. Please be assured that if you receive a St Dunstan’s fund raising leaflet we are not asking you for a donation!

As well as raising funds for St Dunstan’s, the distribution will, of course, help raise awareness about the work that St Dunstan’s does. Which leads me to Remembrance Sunday. I think it is sad that, because 1996 is a leap year, the Cenotaph ceremony will take place on November 10th, and not at the eleventh hour on the eleventh day of the eleventh month. Nevertheless, if you could be there to help swell the number of St Dunstaners and St Dunstaner widows, then this would be yet another way to bring the name of St Dunstan’s to the forefront of people’s minds. This year there will be medical staff in attendance who will be able to assist with all your needs. If you need any help or advice beforehand, or have any requirements, eg a wheelchair, an escort, etc, please don’t hesitate to contact Peter Marshall’s office. Please would you let him know, at the latest by September 1st, if you can join your fellow St Dunstaners and widows at the Cenotaph ceremony.

Neil Swan

### DONATION IN MEMORY

St Dunstan’s has received a generous donation from Doctor and Mrs S.J. Sosabowski in memory of Mrs James Caiger (née Margaret Leslie) who died on June 6th 1996. Between 1958 and 1975, Mrs Caiger worked for St Dunstan’s in the Estates Department and later in Public Relations.



### Not in Front of the Servants

Author: Frank Victor Dawes

Reader: Jacqueline King

Duration: 7 hours

Catalogue numbers: 7773

At the beginning of this century say, if you did not employ domestic servants, the chances were that you were one. For incredible as it might sound to the modern ear, there were as many as two million people “in service” as late as 1930; from the housekeeper and the butler at the top to the downtrodden maid of all work at the humble bottom. The lot of the servant was not often a happy one! Working from the basement and sleeping in the attic the servant would climb and descend many a stair in a working day; carrying food, hot water and fuel up, and empty dishes and full chamberpots down.

I’ve learned these facts and many others from this splendid book which cleverly uses the reminiscences of former servants and employers to illustrate a picture of a Britain gone forever.

No doubt most St Dunstaners have their own recollections of that bygone age when some gave orders and others tugged their forelocks as a dog might wag its tail. But bereft of discipline and respect, do we really live in a better world today? Is it not possible that the classless society has been bought at too high a price?

### WANTED

If anyone has a copy of *Conquest of Disability* by Basil Curtis, with which they are prepared to part, would they please contact Ray Hazan at Headquarters.

A moment to spare...

# De Profundis

...with Sydney Scroggie

As St Dunstaners visiting the islands may have noticed there are three centres of spirituality in Orkney. Each very different from the other - St Magnus' Cathedral, the Italian chapel and the Standing Stones of Stenness. My family is not unconnected with Orkney.

An older cousin, Arnot Valentine, then chairman of Balfour Beatty, designed and built the barriers which nowadays lessen the vulnerability of naval units anchored in Scapa Flow. Churchill decreed these barriers, named after him, following the torpedoing of Royal Oak in these waters by a German U-boat.

Then my brother, a minister of the Kirk, got a call to Orkney, so that the parish of Holm will be forever associated with the name Scroggie.

Myself and my wife, Margaret, have visited the islands and know the eeriness of Maes Howe, a prehistoric tomb, the cries of gulls on Marwick Head, the odd feeling that you get amongst the excavated Neolithic settlement, Skarabrae. St Magnus' Cathedral, in Kirkwall, goes back to the Middle Ages and bears upon its stones the same mason's mark as many a European cathedral. It conjures up a Christianity no longer to be found since Calvin and Luther reformed the ancient Church.

Here you feel the presence of long-dead saints and scholars who knew no other Church than an undivided one.

The Italian chapel, on the other hand, was built during the war, and in fact this apotheosised Nissen hut results from the spare-time labours of Italian prisoners-of-war drafted into these regions to construct the Churchill Barriers.

It's an aesthetic miracle in scrap metal, driftwood and concrete. You get the feeling

here of a piety far beyond the conventional requirements of Roman Catholics attending Mass.

This was recognised on June 27th, when Domenico Chiocchetti, who organised this unique construction, was granted the freedom of his home town, Moéna, northern Italy.

The Standing Stones of Stenness cast their shadow at sunset over the loch of that name. This they have done from time immemorial, ages before the divinity behind St Magnus' Cathedral, the divinity behind the Italian chapel had taken shape in the minds of men. They stand for a world of gods, infinitely mysterious, whose benignity it was safer to court, whose wrath should be averted for fear of consequences too appalling to be contemplated with anything other than terror. Here there seeps into your bones some hint of primordial things, a world so different from ours as to be beyond the power to imagine it. The waters of Stenness Loch lap on its stones, the sun goes down, and these mighty megaliths of stone withdraw into the darkness of night taking their unsearchable secrets with them.

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## Fifty years ago

Reunions were resumed in 1946 - the first since 1939 was held in Bedford, followed closely by Birmingham, Wolverhampton, Oxford and Norwich.

Ovingdean trainees were all granted honorary membership of the Shoreham Rowing Club and free admission to the Greyhound Track.

St Dunstan's very own band started alternating dance nights with Miss Bowers' Band from Boots cafe.

## Welcome to St Dunstan's

We welcome the following new St Dunstaners and hope they will settle down happily as members of our family.

**Mr Horace Foster** of Aveley, South Ockenden joined St Dunstan's on May 23rd. Called up in the early days of the war, he served with the Royal Signals, reaching the rank of Warrant Officer before his discharge in May 1946. Most of his service was spent in the Middle East, where he played football for his Regiment. In later years, he would become Secretary to the Aveley Football Club. Before the war, he had worked as a transport clerk and, on returning to civilian life, he obtained work as a credit collector. Mr Foster and his wife, Florence have lived in Aveley for many years. They have four sons, all of whom now live and work in the London area.

On June 19th, we welcomed **Mr Dennis Landin** of Rhyl, Clwyd. He joined the Royal Artillery from Cambridge University in 1941. After basic training, he specialised in anti-aircraft gunnery and was commissioned with the rank of Lieutenant in 1943. Whilst on a battle training course in 1944, Mr Landin received severe injuries from a premature grenade explosion. These included the loss of his left eye, penetrating injuries to his right eye and bilateral deafness. He spent some time at Church Stretton but was not admitted as he retained some useful vision in his right eye. He was discharged from the Army on medical grounds in March 1945. Although Mr Landin had been urged by Lord Fraser to return to his undergraduate studies at Cambridge, he did not do so as he was then married with a small son. Instead, he became a market gardener but experienced considerable problems with his right eye and in the 1950's, he and his wife opened their own private hotel. He retired early due to diminishing sight. Mr Landin and his wife, Olwen, have three adult children and he has a great interest in amateur radio.

## FAMILY NEWS

### BIRTHS

**Congratulations on the birth of:** Rebecca Witherspoon on March 14th. She is the great-granddaughter of Mrs Yvonne Caudle of Woodlands, Hampshire.

Samuel James Hopkins on April 22nd. He is the grandson of *Norman and Mary Hopkins* of Cardiff.

Nicholas Jarvis on April 24th. He is the great-grandson of Mrs Sylvia Charlton of Brighton, widow of *William Charlton*.

Samuel Khabbazi on June 14th. He is the son of *Sobhi and Samira Khabbazi* of Upper Tooting, London.

Marlon Wise on May 12th. He is the great-great-grandson of *Fred and Gwen Mills* of Tavistock, Devon.

### WEDDINGS

**Congratulations to:** Linda and Clinton Taylor on February 10th. The couple married in Jamaica. Linda is the daughter of *Clifford and Phyllis Fisher* of Ower, nr Romsey, Hampshire.

Hazel and Paul Gard on July 6th. Hazel is the daughter of *Leslie and Jenny Davy* of Harold Hill, Romford, Essex.

Barbara and Martin Clark on July 13th. Barbara is the daughter of *Frank and Dot Madgwick* of Crawley, West Sussex.

Claire and Trevor Prior last autumn. Claire is the granddaughter of Mrs Alice Turner of Chelmsford, Essex, widow of *Ernest Turner*.

### SILVER ANNIVERSARY

**Congratulations to:** *Theo and Mary Giles* of Saltdean on July 9th.

### GOLDEN ANNIVERSARIES

**Congratulations to:** *Cliff and Tessa Hoyle* of Chadderton, Oldham on May 25th.

Arthur and Kit Lowe of Hayling Island on May 25th.

Percy and Dilys Saywell of Leamington Spa, Warwicks on May 25th.

### DIAMOND ANNIVERSARY

#### Congratulations to:

Sam and Grace Keating of Milnrow, Rochdale on June 6th.

### SPECIAL ANNIVERSARY

#### Congratulations to:

Joe and Hannah Dalton of Consett, Co. Durham who celebrated 62 years of marriage of July 14th.

### ACHIEVEMENTS

#### Congratulations to:

S/Sgt Paul Fisher on being awarded the MBE. In a letter from the Commandant-General of the Royal Marines, Major General David Pennefather, it was stated that "the Award recognised his sterling effort to reorganise and reutilize his area of the Workshop Squadron". Paul, the son of Clifford and Phyllis Fisher of Ower, nr Romsey, Hampshire, is the Communications Expert with the Workshop Squadron at the North Devon based Regiment and has also received a letter of commendation from the Duke of Edinburgh.

Simon Robertson, aged 14, who won two national golfing events in 1995, the National English Open and the Under 14 Golf Foundation Age Group Championship. A member of Seaton Carew Golf Club, he also won the Rising Star Award from Hartlepool and District UDC and is getting ready to play for England against Spain. Simon is the great grandson of Mrs Jane Hodgson of Ferryhill, Co. Durham, widow of David Hodgson.

Jan Gutowski on earning a 1st Class Honours degree and University Prize. He came first at Keble and 2nd at Oxford and is moving on to Cambridge to study part three of a Mathematics Tripos in preparation for a Phd. He is the son of Mrs Mary Gutowski of Formby, Merseyside, and the late Bolestow Gutowski.

Louisa Perfect, only granddaughter of John and Audrey Perfect of Yealmpton, Devon, has successfully completed her four year course at Sheffield University leading to a BA (Hons) degree in French and Music.

Jonathan, elder son of Ray Hazan, on obtaining a B.Com (Hons) in Business Studies from Edinburgh University. Jonathan goes on to the RMA Sandhurst in September.

### DEATHS

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

Mrs Mary Maruniak of Malaga, Spain. She was the widow of Stanislaw Maruniak of Leeds.

Mrs Sonja Roston on May 16th. She was the wife of Jack Roston of Weybridge, Surrey.

Mrs Emily Farrer of Hull on May 20th. She was the widow of Edward Farrer.

Mrs Catherine Webster of Liverpool on May 21st. She was the widow of Harry Webster.

Mrs Freda Smith of Coalville, Leicester on May 24th. She was the widow of James Smith.

Mrs Dorothy Stephenson of Earley, nr Reading, Berkshire on May 27th. She was the widow of William Stephenson.

Mrs Mary Frearson on June 13th. She was the wife of John Frearson of Hove.

Mrs Mabel Ashmore on June 21st. She was the wife of Bob Ashmore of Bromsgrove, Worcestershire.

Mrs Doris (Dolly) Millard of Worcester on June 22nd. She was the widow of Leonard O. Millard.

Mrs Rosita Russell of Leeds on July 2nd. She was the widow of Ernest Russell.

Mrs Elizabeth (Betty) Nash of Cardiff on July 8th. She was the widow of Thomas (Tony) Nash.

**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.**

#### Josef Huk,

*3rd Polish Carpathian Division*

Josef Huk of Ovingdean died on May 2nd, aged 76. A St Dunstaner since 1957, he was on holiday in his native Poland with some army friends.

In 1939, as the Germans invaded from the west and the Russians moved in from the east, Mr Huk went out to buy some cigarettes. He was snatched from the streets of his village and placed in a communist controlled prison. He had no further contact with his family. A prisoner of war before his war had started, his release from prison, along with many thousands of other Poles came in 1940. This was possible because of a pact drawn up between Churchill and Stalin, but a return home was impossible and with freedom came exile.

Josef was sent, via the Middle East, to England where he joined the 3rd Polish Carpathian Division. He served with the regiment as a Lance Corporal until discharge in 1948.

Mr Huk was wounded in a mine explosion in 1944, as a result of which his left eye was removed and his left leg amputated. He also suffered other severe injuries.

In 1959, he became a naturalised British subject. In 1991, together with seven ex-Sappers, Mr Huk was proud to be part of a band of Royal Engineers among St Dunstan's contingent in the Remembrance Day parade. Among his many interests were joinery and handicrafts in general. In 1992, he spent many hours making toys for children in Romania.

Mr Huk was buried in the small Polish town of Nysa, close to the Czech border. Following a Requiem Mass, the funeral was

held with full military honours. This included a military band and the sounding of the *Last Post*. There were many people attending, including 100 children from a local school. Mr Huk has been laid to rest in a regimental tomb, to be looked after by the school children, regiment and Mayor of Nysa.

Our sympathy goes to all members of his family and to his many friends both in the UK and Poland.

#### John Loach,

*Royal Engineers*

John Loach of Dudley, Worcester died on May 4th, aged 72. He had been a St Dunstaner since 1948.

Mr Loach served in the Royal Engineers and was wounded by an explosion in a tunnel in Gibraltar in December 1947. After training, he joined Messrs Hill & Smith in Brierley Hill, Staffordshire as a telephonist in June 1950. He retired after 30 years service. His hobbies included pigeon breeding, racing, football, gardening and toy-making.

Our sympathy goes to his wife, Doris, son, Robert, and all members of the family.

#### John Millward,

*47th Royal Tank Regiment*

John Millward of Uppermill, Oldham, Lancashire died on May 6th, aged 81. At the age of 19 in 1933, Mr Millward joined the Royal Wiltshire Yeomanry which on mobilisation became the 47th Royal Tank Regiment. He served with them in the Lebanon, Egypt, and at El Alamein, finally taking part in the landings in Italy. In June 1944, just outside Florence, he received wounds which were to lead to his loss of sight.

Mr Millward was discharged in 1946 and trained as a television engineer, his trade until reaching retirement.

Our sympathy goes to his daughters, Elaine and Yvonne, and all members of the family.

**Joseph Ormond,**

*King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry*

Joseph Ormond of Burgess Hill, West Sussex died on May 16th, aged 76. He had been a St Dunstaner since 1948. A Yorkshireman from a large family, he worked in the pits before enlisting in 1939. He then served as a Private with the King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry and was captured by the Germans and became a PoW in Northern Europe. Mr Ormond was discharged in 1946, following the onset of Eales Disease which eventually caused his loss of sight.

After his discharge, he worked as a hospital cook, finally retiring in December 1978. Mr Ormond continued to cook as a hobby and was also a keen gardener, especially fond of growing roses and dahlias.

Our sympathy goes to his daughter, Julie, sons, Renny, David and Gerald, and all members of the family.

**Walter (Dickie) Richardson,**

*Royal Air Force*

Walter (Dickie) Richardson of Kempsey, Worcester died on May 17th, aged 73. He joined the Royal Air Force in September 1941 and was severely injured when he had to bale out from a burning aircraft over France on May 3rd, 1944. He suffered not only the loss of sight but extensive burns to his face, shoulders and arms. This necessitated the amputation of his right forearm and caused his left hand to be grossly damaged. He spent over four months as a PoW in Germany before being transferred to East Grinstead where he underwent prolonged plastic surgery and became a member of the Guinea Pig Club.

Mr Richardson came to St Dunstan's in September 1945, was married to Eileen in April 1946 and on August 22nd, 1950 embarked upon a career as a shopkeeper in Worcester. The opening ceremony of his shop was performed by Wilfred Pickles and the Mayor of Worcester. This was also the date that Mr Richardson took his final discharge from the RAF.

In 1957, he gave up his business and retrained for telephony. In 1960, he became the switchboard operator at St Dunstan's Ovingdean. He retired in 1978. His interests included gardening and C.B. radio.

Our sympathy goes to his children, Heather and Keith, and all members of the family.

**Joseph Willans,**

*Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers*

Joseph Willans of Ossett, West Yorkshire died on May 25th, aged 66. He had been a St Dunstaner since 1988.

Mr Willans enlisted in September 1947. As a Sergeant in the Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers, he saw service in Korea and Hong Kong where he was found to have contracted diabetes which led to his loss of sight. Discharged in 1954, he worked for 28 years as an Engineering Inspector but had to retire because of failing eyesight.

His mobility was further impaired by a number of strokes, but he and his wife enjoyed holidays in their camping trailer and he was able to join in social activities with a local club for the blind organised by Mrs Willans.

Our sympathy goes to his wife, Eileen, daughter, June, and all members of the family.

**Albert Steer,**

*Royal Air Force*

Albert Steer of Billingham, Cleveland died on June 15th, aged 81. He had been a St Dunstaner since 1975. He served in the Royal Air Force from May 1940 to May 1946. Prior to this, he was employed in a steelworks and returned to this until contracting poliomyelitis.

In spite of this, he was able to follow other forms of employment until retiring in 1972. Our sympathy goes to his wife, Margaret, their five children and all other members of the family.