

# St Dunstan's Review

December 1996

No. 867



**Sir Cyril Arthur Pearson, Bt, GBE  
1866 - 1921**

**OUR FOUNDER REMEMBERED**

12-14 Harcourt Street,  
London W1A 4XB

BI-MONTHLY  
Free to St Dunstaners

DECEMBER 1996

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Cover: Described by  
his own newspaper as  
a 'historical footnote',  
Sir Arthur Pearson,  
the founder of  
St Dunstan's. More  
details on page 25.

## From the Chairman

A number of changes have been made or are imminent in the Welfare Department:-

After nearly 46 years of dedicated service to St Dunstan's, Cynthia Mosley will be retiring in the spring of next year. The new Head of Welfare is John Loughran, a senior manager experienced in caring for the disabled, who lives in London.

Penny Lord has been struck down by ill-health and is unlikely to be able to return to work. Her relief, as Deputy Head of Welfare, has yet to be appointed.

Helen Stewart (Kent & Sussex) sadly died earlier this year after 23 years of dedicated service. She has been succeeded by Vanessa Cahill who lives at Lewes.

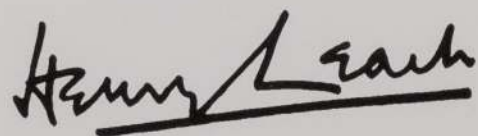
Irene Newbold (Midlands & Wales) has retired after 35 years of outstanding service. She has been relieved by Angela Neath who lives in Derbyshire.

Kathleen Kerr (Scotland) has retired after five years of service. Her relief has not yet been appointed.

Barbara Davis (Greater London) has retired after 27 years of loyal service. She is succeeded by Pamela Wait who lives in Surrey.

I need not tell you that Welfare is at the very heart of St Dunstan's. It is also complicated by a multitude of regulations concerning grants and entitlements. To those who have left I send our deeply grateful thanks for an exacting job well done. To those who have joined our team our best wishes for the future.

A very Happy Christmas to you all.



## NOTICE BOARD



### SEASONS GREETINGS

Members of St Dunstan's staff at HQ, Ovingdean and all round the country wish St Dunstaners, widows, widowers and our many other friends a Happy Christmas and a peaceful 1997.

### DATES TO REMEMBER IN 1997

A list of activities taking place during the forthcoming year:

Archery AGM	to be announced
Bowling Week	April 4th-11th
Amateur Radio	March 14th-16th
Ex-Prisoners of War Reunion	April 11th-13th
Walking Holiday	April 25th-May 1st
Archery	to be announced
Royal Tournament	July 15th-27th
Warminster Camp	to be announced
HMS <i>Sultan</i>	August 1st-9th
Gardening Club	Early September (to be confirmed)
Chatham Camp	to be announced
Physiotherapists	Late September (to be confirmed)
Handless Reunion	October 1st-7th
Ladies' Reunion	to be announced
Computer Club	October 9th-10th
Amateur Radio	October 10th-12th
Remembrance Day	November 9th
St Dunstan's Day	December 9th (Anniversary of Sir Arthur Pearson's death)

### PROPOSED DATES FOR REUNIONS IN 1997

Brighton(I)	Wednesday March 5th
Exeter	Wednesday March 19th
Salisbury	Wednesday March 26th
Norwich	Wednesday April 9th
Brighton (II)	Wednesday April 16th
Liverpool	Wednesday April 23rd
Southampton	Wednesday April 30th
Birmingham	Wednesday May 14th
Cambridge	Wednesday May 21st
London	Saturday May 31st
Newcastle	Tuesday June 3rd
Leeds	Wednesday June 4th
Nottingham	Wednesday June 11th
Cardiff	Wednesday June 18th
Edinburgh	Wednesday September 24th

### HMS SULTAN CAMP 1997

The camp at HMS *Sultan* will take place from Friday, August 1st 1997 until Saturday morning, August 9th 1997. Those who enjoyed the successful camp at *Sultan* this year will, I am sure, want to book again and I hope that you have told your friends how good it was. So all those wishing to go to *Sultan* should book as soon as possible by writing to Elspeth Grant, High Acre, Catmere End, Saffron Walden, Essex CB11 4XG, or telephoning her on 01799 522874. Applications should be made by May 9th 1997.

Elspeth Grant

## THE FURNACE BURNS AGAIN

Now that holiday accommodation is available once more at Ovingdean, it is hoped to reconvene the St Dunstan's Masonic Group Meetings.

Any St Dunstaner who is a Mason and not already a member of St Dunstan's Masonic Group should contact Ron Freer c/o Clare Woods, St Dunstan's, Greenways, Ovingdean, Brighton, East Sussex BN2 7BS. Telephone: 01273 307811 ext 3211.

## DIAL 5 TO KEEP ENGAGED CALLS LIVE

The hassle of redialing an engaged number has been removed by the introduction of British Telecom's new *Ring Back* service. If you get an engaged tone, simply press 5 and *Ring Back* will keep trying the number for 45 minutes. When the line is free, your phone will ring - just pick it up and you will be connected.

*Ring Back*, which costs 10p a time, is available on all single lines served by a digital exchange, but not from public payphones, private payphones or when using a BT Chargecard. Also, it will not operate on some calls such as switchboards and mobile phones. To cancel a *Ring Back* request press #37#.

## EX-PRISONERS OF WAR REUNION

The ex-Prisoners of War Reunion will take place at St Dunstan's Ovingdean over the weekend of April 11th - 13th 1997. All those wishing to attend please contact Tom Hart at 15 Whitefriars Meadow, Sandwich, Kent CT13 9AS. Telephone: 01304 612771.

## BBC GUIDE TAPE

The work of the BBC, both radio and television, is outlined on a new guide *The BBC, at the heart of your home*. Presented by veteran actress June Whitfield and Radio1's Andy Kershaw, the free tape runs through 40 minutes of facts and figures on how the license fee is spent. To obtain a copy, call Sue Pellow on 01435 866102.

## CAMPING HOLIDAYS

Alternative Vision Leisure Activities have announced their schedule for low cost camping holidays in 1997.

### Brighton Tourist Weekend

March 21st-23rd £45

### Welsh Mountains Week

May 17th-25th £100 estimated

### South Downs Weekend

July 4th-6th £35

### Woodlarks Camp Week

August 30th-September 6th  
£70 (Part week campers £10 per night.)

To book, contact Jon and Sue Ridge, Alternative Vision on 01273 683273.

## TIE SUPPLY

The best necks come wrapped in a St Dunstan's tie. French Navy in colour and with a large St Dunstan's badge, they are made of polyester for easy washing. A bargain at £5. Available from Supplies Officer Angela Higson at HQ, ext 2222.

## MUSIC TAPE

A member of the public has kindly offered to produce a music tape. This would be sent out from HQ on a monthly basis. The selection of music would be varied. Anyone interested should please contact the PR Department at HQ.

## SPOT ON DESCRIPTIONS

The Royal Shakespeare Company has a series of audio described plays scheduled at The Barbican Theatre, London.

*Troilus and Cressida* will be audio described on January 11th and March 22nd, while *Macbeth*, the dark and bloody 'Scottish' play returns on February 22nd and March 15th.

Discounted tickets range from £3.00 to £12.00 and full details can be obtained from the Box Office on 0171 638 8891.

# News from Ovingdean

## HOLIDAY BOOKINGS

by Karen Morane, Care Manager

Holiday and Club bookings are taking off and going very well at Ovingdean. It has been a great pleasure to meet so many St Dunstaners, families and widows since we reintroduced holidays back in May.



I would like to say thank you to everyone who has given us feedback on their stay and have helped to create an increasingly lively atmosphere here.

However, I am aware that there still seems to be confusion in some quarters regarding being a holidaymaker at Ovingdean.

So, with a little help from my friends, the most frequently posed questions from around the country are listed below with what I hope are satisfactory answers. The questions are by no means exhaustive, so please, if you have any other queries, telephone Clare Woods or myself directly:-

1) **Do we need to take our own towels?**

No.

2) **Are there tea and hot drink facilities in the rooms?**

Yes.

3) **Which rooms have en suite facilities?**

Four twin-bedded and six single-bedded en suite rooms on Wing 5. Plus two guest suites on the Second and Third Floor Fuselage.

4) **Are there any rooms available with Apollo baths?**

There is an Apollo bath in one of the twin-bedded en suite rooms on Wing 5.

The First Floor Fuselage has nine twin-bedded rooms with sinks but not en suite facilities. There is one Apollo bath situated in this corridor.

5) **Are there laundry facilities?**

Yes. We have just produced an updated room information book which explains how the system works.

6) **Are there late evening drinks and snacks?**

Sandwiches and hot drinks are available in the main dining room 8.30-9.30 pm.

7) **Can holidaymakers join in the programme of activities arranged for permanent residents and are holidaymakers expected to pay for organised outings?**

The social activities are available for both permanent residents and guests. Although permanent residents have first option on the outings, we would only turn down guests in extreme circumstances. The cost of outings is dependent on what the outing is.

8) **What are the present rules relating to the use of the swimming pool?**

The swimming pool is open seven days per week and details of timings are listed in the new room information books. Given the development of this area, we hope to increase the opening hours. The swimming pool is available to all St Dunstaners, their families and

widows, be they permanent residents, visitors or living locally.

**9) What are the present rules relating to the use of the bowling green and are woods available?**

Please contact Grant Cooper at Ovingdean if you wish to use the bowling green during your holiday. The correct footwear must be worn. Some woods are available for use. The bowling green is for the use of all St Dunstaners, their families and widows, be they permanent residents, visitors or living locally.

**10) Are handicrafts, picture framing, wood turning interests catered for; must a place be reserved at the time the holiday is booked?**

Handicrafts and picture framing are available to holidaymakers. It is not necessary to book in advance. Wood turning is also available to holidaymakers but it is necessary to book in advance.

**11) To what extent, if at all, may Care Assistants be asked to take a St Dunstaner for walks; is there a facility for Care Assistants to shop for small items?**

When we reintroduced holidays, Sir Henry Leach made it clear that escorts would not be available and consequently we encourage guests to bring an escort with them. However, we are all working very hard to establish a group of volunteers. These, as they become familiar to St Dunstaners and Ovingdean over the next year will provide some support services.

**12) What arrangements can I make with St Dunstan's about transport from my home; who do I contact?**

The Ovingdean Transport Department will often be able to arrange transport to and from Ovingdean (door-to-door).

You will be charged the cost only, i.e. fuel, drivers wages, etc. If we can arrange either a car share or use of the "empty journey", then we will pass this saving on to you. Resources are, of course, limited and needs of the residents at Ovingdean and the Welfare Department must be taken into consideration first of all.

Please contact David Vinall at Ovingdean for a quote giving as much notice as possible.

**13) If a St Dunstaner or his wife/escort requires medical attention, to what extent may this be offered by the Nursing Staff. If a Doctor or ambulance needs to be called, will the staff make the initial telephone contact?**

Given that coming to Ovingdean as a guest is a holiday, we would ask you to bring any medication and special medical appliances with you for your stay. Nurses may not, by law, dispense any medication without a doctor's prescription. However, all the rooms have a nurse call bell for emergency use. The Nursing Staff will respond and take whatever action is necessary. We also have a team of trained first aiders who are on duty 24 hours a day.

**THANK YOU ALL**

Bill and Stella Lyth would like to thank all St Dunstaners, staff and visitors for their cards, gifts and good wishes on the birth of their son on September 23rd. He weighed in at 8lb 11oz and is to be known as Daniel James Lyth.

**MR JOHN BROWN**

Sadly, Mr John Brown passed away on October 20th. He joined the staff at St Dunstan's Ovingdean in 1969 and was Workshop Manager when he retired 20 years later. His widow, Mrs E.B. (Betty) Brown was the Housekeeper at Ovingdean for 12½ years.

**Terry Walker rounds up the latest in-house developments**

**TEA FOR TWO?**

There is a new kitchenette within the lounge of Wing 8 - the Trainees' Wing. Kendrick Morris, Head of Training and Rehabilitation told me his philosophy on the project. During the evening a partially sighted student will probably be watching the giant screen television in the lounge, but a blind person will most likely go into his room to do homework. When he makes tea, it would have been done in the little cubby-hole just inside the wing. This room, having a toilet within, is not suitable. By coming into the lounge, the tea-maker is able to say 'Hello' and social intercourse will be in progress.

Jim Faithfull's team has installed the kitchenette just inside the lounge, on the right. There is a sink unit and draining board. It creates an 'L' Shaped working area containing a microwave cooker, toaster and electric kettle etc. A refrigerator stands on the floor below the working surface. Construction has been mindful of partially sighted people and the presence of wheelchairs. All worktops are suitably accessible. The lounge with it's new kitchenette will, I am sure, become a focal point for all our trainees.

**TERRY'S TREADMILL TEST**

The gymnasium continues to grow. So I went along to see Grant Cooper, who told me of the new running machine. It is already in great demand and Grant impressed me with his enthusiasm for its uses. "We have one or two younger men with walking difficulties. This machine will assist with gait and posture and older people with chronic arthritis." The floor moves away from you, like being on a moving escalator, all the time. Therefore, you have to move with it and walk properly.

I felt I had to try the new machine. David Bishop took me into the gymnasium where he explained the control buttons on the machine. Stop, Go, next it was Faster,

Slower. Finally two buttons controlled gradient, Up, Down. It seems that one is able to go for a walk or even a run, without ever leaving the building. In use, the hands are placed on a bar running across the front of the body. The moving belt is about two steps long and quite capable of supporting a running person. David switched on and I started to walk slowly, moving my body forward to keep a constant distance from the bar. As I became used to the movement, the speed was increased slightly and I walked at a fast pace quite easily, retaining a light contact with the bar. After a minute or two, when the machine was switched off he was able to tell me time, distance, speed and even a calorific value of the energy used. Quite remarkable!

I later spoke to a senior nurse who expressed her opinion that this machine is the best thing we have in Ovingdean for the men and women who are in her charge.

**OPEN ALL HOURS**

So what else is Grant up to? "The gymnasium classes are going well. Each day we have a regular attendance of eight people." I asked Grant what provision he was making for visitors. "Since David Goldsmith, David Bishop and Wendy Longworth have joined the team, the gymnasium and swimming pool will be open on Saturdays.

"You know Terry, we already hold a Quiz on every other Thursday evening, everyone is invited to attend. The Sports Department is to introduce a Games Evening. It will follow closely the *It's a Knockout* formula - there will be skittles, and other games. We have also got a series of inflatable balls." They are about a metre in diameter and vary in shape. Sitting astride a ball of a special shape, it is possible to exercise hips, lower back, stomach muscles and, it seemed to me, every other set of muscles we have.

Grant explained, "These items are of particular interest and benefit to the people who are paralysed." Next came the Games equipment, they now have a mat for short mat bowls, foam rubber frisbees, plastic

dice, bats, mats and hats for all kinds of games and activities. The largest ball had a series of raised dots over it all, some 10cm apart. "This one is in braille Terry, can you read it for us?" It is in fact a surface for ensuring a firm contact against the body.

## CHRISTMAS AT OIVINGDEAN

There is one kind of activity which never changes. People all over the building are already becoming excited and organised for the Christmas activities. This year it seems the Nurses are getting involved and so the following list is just a taste of what there is to be eaten, encountered and enjoyed over the next few weeks.

### December 4th:

Residents will be making their own Christmas puddings. These are not the usual ones to take home, but the actual puddings to be eaten on Christmas Day at Ovingdean. The Primary Nurse, Sue, who gave me this information expressed the hope "there will be more brandy in the puds, than puds in the brandy!"

### December 16th:

Start to put up decorations. This year it will be a little different, in that each department will adopt a theme.

### December 18th:

The Care Assistants are arranging a party for all residents and guests.

### December 19th:

Open Day for residents, their families, and our guests. Sir Henry has accepted the challenge of judging the decorations. Prizes will be awarded for quality, originality etc.

### December 20th:

Residents and guests are invited to spend the afternoon with the Drivers and Security Staff in the Lounge. This is an entirely new venture, so perhaps we may expect anything to happen!

### December 23rd:

Fancy Dress Party. This also is open to everyone:- Residents, guests and staff. Prizes will be awarded for the best judged

outfit. There will be a variety show, later that day. Staff and residents are being encouraged to come and air their talent. If the show this year maintains it's usual high quality, I expect the lounge to be full to overflowing again!

### December 24th - Christmas Eve:

Pre-lunch drinks on offer for today. They told me it will be "with our favourite Hot Lips Hoolahan!"

Exactly who this is I would not even hazard a guess, though a cryptic crossword addict may like to consider the popular tv show *M\*A\*S\*H*. The event is open to everyone in the house.

Also on Christmas Eve, the Care Assistants are going to run 'A Different Kind Of Bingo!' This item is for residents and house guests. Naturally, sherry and mince pies will be served.

### December 25th - Christmas Day:

Church Service at Rottingdean.

Christmas fare with house guests and all residents in the main lounge with Karen and Paul.

### December 26th - Boxing Day:

Jonathan Ridge's Mystery Tour. Please sign up with Jonathan if you wish to attend. They also told me that you will require a suitable escort.

### December 31st - New Year's Eve:

From 22.30hrs onwards, for those stalwarts still capable, drinks will be served in the Nursing Care dining areas for those wishing to see in the New Year with the Night Staff.

These fixtures are being written in October and so may not be complete, but they offer a flavour of potential delights.

## HAPPY BIRTHDAY, LES

Congratulations to Les Copeland who celebrated his 80th birthday at Ovingdean on October 11th.

# To Jump through the Window?

By Ray Hazan

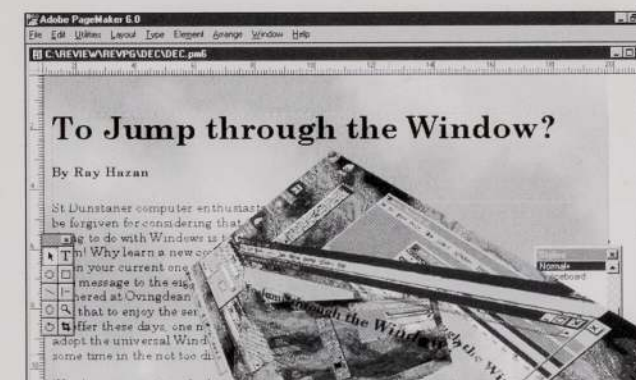
St Dunstaner computer enthusiasts might be forgiven for considering that the best thing to do with Windows is to jump out of them! Why learn a new computer system when your current one does all you need? The message to the eight of us who gathered at Ovingdean on October 10-11th was that to enjoy the services and software on offer these days, one may be forced to adopt the universal Windows system at some time in the not too distant future.

Windows is a system which displays pictorial menus on the screen. The user 'points' at the appropriate picture to perform a task, which St Dunstaners currently achieve with a few key strokes. The speech systems, which we are currently using, cannot read these pictures to us. There are programmes which do give blind people access to the Windows system, but at an additional cost which a sighted person would not have to pay.

The challenge that lies ahead was most amply demonstrated by Janis Sharpe, our computer instructor at Ovingdean. Janis showed us JAWS, one of those speech programmes to go with Windows. In the new year, Janis will be running courses on Windows, JAWS and accessing the Internet for those interested.

On the Thursday evening in the Winter Garden, the group accompanied by their wives enjoyed a most pleasant dinner thanks to Paul and Billy of PBK. To indulge one's interest to the accompaniment of good food and wine is surely what life is about. The men talked 'shop' and the women talked of 'shopping'!

On Friday Keith Gladstone of the RNIB's Information Technology Services gave an excellent talk about the Internet. This is available on cassette for those who were unable to be with us. He sketched out the history of how this World-Wide Web grew



*A Window on the world?*

from a group of universities linking their computers together to exchange information. He mapped out the overall structure of the Web, a system which links your computer via the telephone line to millions of others throughout the world. This involves the cost of a local telephone call to your nearest entry point onto the system, in addition to an initial registration fee and a small monthly charge. For example, an electronic letter can be sent anywhere around the globe for the price of a local phone call (1p a minute at weekends). If you want the solution to a problem, post a question to the Internet, and someone will give you an answer. Type 'blind' and you could be confronted with thousands of references to screens of information held throughout the world on the subject, including venetian blinds!

Most importantly, we were able to exchange ideas and experiences. Doug Field told us about his activities on the Internet. Mark Brook, visiting from his home base in Norway was most helpful in passing on both practical and material help on Windows.

It was a really enjoyable two days at Ovingdean. Our grateful thanks to all members of staff who made us welcome and helped in every way. Courses will be advertised in the *Review* and are highly recommended, if only to give your jump through the 'Window' a soft landing! The next Computer Club gathering will take place on October 9-10th 1997.

**Margaret Bingham takes some choice cuttings from the activities of this year's Gardening Week**

## Shrubbery with violets!

The southern contingent of St Dunstan's Gardening Club gathered at Ovingdean on Thursday September 5th. We left after one o'clock on a small mini bus in bright sunshine which stayed with us throughout our holiday.

We arrived at the Cresta Hotel in Ilfracombe at about six o'clock after a reasonable journey. We met the rest of the gardening club at the hotel. They had travelled from the north and Midlands on the large coach which stayed with us for the rest of the week.

Throughout our stay we had plenty of good food. The staff were cheerful and very helpful, though not used to blind/disabled people in large numbers. It was a family run hotel conveniently placed for shops. Entertainment was laid on during weekdays, including an organist and a slide show quiz. Bar prices were good!

After breakfast on Friday morning the club members had their AGM. Details are at the end of this feature.

In the afternoon we went to a private garden, Marwood Hill Gardens, on the west side of Barnstaple. This garden was built on the side of a steep hill with planting in tiers leading down to a lake at the bottom. The pathways were very steep and unsuitable for wheelchairs. The garden was full of colour and mature shrubs and a variety of trees in the valley. Those who were able to walk enjoyed the garden.

On Saturday we went on an all day trip to the Royal Horticultural Society Rosemoor. The coach pulled up outside the main entrance and the group split up into parties who made their own way around the gardens. The roses were lovely and we

wandered through the central aisle and then down to the bridge over the stream towards Lady Anne's garden. We saw a well-planned vegetable garden which could be transcribed into use in smaller gardens.

We saw lots of butterflies and David Habgood was lucky enough to take a photo of a sedum with six different types of butterfly drinking nectar. The weather was very still and hot down in the valley and we were rejuvenated by the copious pots of tea served outside on the terrace which overlooked the garden. The vista was perfect, the trees in the background framed the garden and above, in the pale blue sky three buzzards were lazily riding the rising thermals.

Sunday was a free day. We spent the morning shopping in Ilfracombe. The wheelchair party went up round the cliff. We sat in the wheelchairs enjoying the sea views described to us by our panting and perspiring escorts whose muttered comments like "where's the Pub" went totally unheeded!

The afternoon found us sitting on the quayside near the lifeboat station eating sandwiches and real hot Cornish pasties. Yum yum! The evening get-together after the meal in the hotel bar was full of laughter, leg-pulling and general good humour. This was the order for the evenings and the sessions never broke before 11.30pm.

Monday, we had an all-day trip to Knightshayes National Trust property near Tiverton. The house is a very imposing Victorian building with climbing shrubs growing up the walls. The house stands on the east side of the Exe valley and there are panoramic views over the garden and

countryside. This garden is well known for its specimen trees. The walkers were able to ramble all over the gardens but there is limited wheelchair access to the upper tier only round the house area. We felt the gift shop was expensive as was the tea.

Tuesday saw us at Arlington Court near Barnstaple. The house was built in 1822 and is famous for the collection of model ships made of bone by Napoleonic prisoners of war. Wheelchair access was ideal and we were able to see most of the grounds. We went to the estates church and up to the horsedrawn vehicle display which made Sid Doy feel very much at home. Earlier in the day we had seen the carriage horses in their stables and their shining harness hanging up on the wall. We had real Devon ice-cream to allay our thirst and as a revive from the heat.

On Wednesday afternoon, following a wind up meeting, we visited the Barnstaple garden centre which was excellent. Unknown to Sid, friends whom he had not seen for a while, had arranged to be at the garden centre to greet him off the coach. Bob the driver, Frieda Slade, Elaine and David Habgood found it hard to keep the secret until the two parties met. What a lovely surprise for Sid! Back to the hotel for packing ready to leave Thursday morning

We had a very easy and comfortable return trip and arrived at St Dunstan's to unload our luggage, parcels and plants. We now start making plans for our get-together next year, as friends often do. My grateful thanks to David, for without his help this report could not have been completed.

What follows is a resumé of the AGM:

We were sorry to announce the deaths of Joe Huk, Dorothy Martin and Albert Steer. John Harris was unable to attend for medical reasons. Matters arising: Peter Price paid tribute to the committee for providing a good programme for their first year in office. Chairman's report: Bob Alty welcomed everyone and thanked the members for their support and Clare Woods at Ovingdean for all her help. Apologies



*Take it or leaf it! Winnie, Syd and Margaret on floral exploration.*

were expressed over the problems with the change of dates. In conclusion, the main recommendations were that the members should try to do more of the organising themselves. For example, the hotel and transport details.

Treasurer's report: The club's position remains healthy, therefore, subscriptions will remain at £10.00 per year. Election of Officers: No change, Bob Alty is Chairman, John and Irene McDermott, Treasurer/Secretary, and Margaret Bingham, Ladies' representative. Any Other Business: Gratuities were presented to Bob, our driver, and to the hotel manager for his staff. It was decided to look into the possibilities of suitable accommodation and transport in the Chester area which emerged as the strongest contender for a Gardening Week in early September 1997.

## BARBARA DAVIS RETIRES

Barbara Davis retired on October 31st after nearly 27 years with St Dunstan's having joined our organisation as Welfare Visitor for London and the Home Counties on December 1st 1969.

She came to us from Westminster City Council for whom she had worked as a Social Worker for the blind and physically handicapped. Prior to this she had served 12 years in the Women's Royal Naval Service as a Chief Wren and Welfare Worker with service families.

On a more personal level her leisure interests include travel, cookery, gardening and more recently, art. She has a great knowledge and abiding love of dogs. Barbara may also further her literary aspirations by writing a book.

We hope that she will now find more time to enjoy pursuing these activities and we wish her health and happiness in her retirement.

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## OBITUARY: James Allan

James Forbes Allan of Aberdeen died on October 10th in Singapore en route to visit family in Australia. Having served in the Royal Engineers, he was a member of The Scottish National Institution for the War Blinded. He trained as a physiotherapist with St Dunstan's and obtained a post at the Great Yarmouth and Gorleston General Hospital. He also had a private practice in Great Yarmouth, where he lived before retiring to Aberdeen. Mr Allan was a frequent visitor to Ovingdean for the annual Physiotherapist Conference and for hobby training. Our sympathy goes to his wife, Agnes, his children and all other members of the family.



## GOLDEN ARCHER

St Dunstan's Archery Club Chairman John Lilley took the gold medal in the Senior National Visually Handicapped Archery Championships at Rugby on August 4th. He is pictured with the medal and trophy. He also had great success in the Welsh Visually Handicapped Championships where he won the gold medal.

## RETURN TO WEST PIER

On November 1st, Ken Revis took his first steps on Brighton's famous West Pier in over 50 years. Last time he was there, his mission to defuse an unexploded mine ended with his entry to St Dunstan's.

This time, decked out in hard hat and lifesaver, he was finding out just what is required of the engineers who will be restoring the pier over the next five years. For many years, Ken has been involved in plans to restore the pier, now the work has been jump started by a donation from the National Lottery. As a former engineer, both Royal and civil, Ken expresses an admiration for the man who built the long neglected pier. "Eugenius Birch built it between 1863 and 1866. He really was the greatest pier designer at that time and this is the last example of his work."

# Closed conference!

## Mike Tetley paves the way for future meetings of St Dunstan's Physios

Eleven St Dunstan's Physiotherapists met at Ovingdean for a very successful and happy occasion - their final annual conference. It was great to be back in the old building. The conference started with an open forum, asking questions of Karen Morane, Mike Hordell and Kendrick Morris. This was very useful as it cleared up many points and I was surprised to learn that there were up to 30 beds available for holidaymakers if there was no over demand for respite care. There will always be a compromise between the beds needed for holidays and those needing respite.

Dr Stanley Pavillard talked to us on how he treated musculo-skeletal problems during his time as a Japanese PoW. Jim Muirhead, a civilian blind Physio talked on muscle balance techniques - which is a glorified name for what a good Physio did anyway. Many lecturers these days rehash old ideas claiming them to be new.

Twenty-two St Dunstaners and wives sat down with Keith Martin and Sir Henry to a happy evening and the final toast was to St Dunstan's and the old St Dunstan's Physios who had enabled us and shown us how to make a successful and fulfilling life as a physiotherapist.

As the number of St Dunstan's Physiotherapists has decreased to a mere handful, it was decided that we will no longer organise an annual conference. We have, however, asked for the last week in September to become known as the week when any Physios could go down to Ovingdean for a holiday and would be very likely to meet up with their colleagues. Hopefully, it will become known as the

'Physios Weekend' and everyone will meet up in the bar on a Friday night as usual. We could also gather in the Winter Garden on Saturday morning for an informal meeting to discuss anything and everything that might arise.

Full details of dates will appear in the *Review* in due course.

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## Turkish Delight?

by Ray Hazan

The St Dunstan's Amateur Radio Society was pleased to welcome their President, Sir Henry Leach to its meeting at Ovingdean on Saturday, October 12th. The smaller number of members present was more than offset by the usual level of chatter, banter, laughter and fellowship. The Society welcomed a new member, Dennis Landin GW0VFG of Rhyl accompanied by his wife, Olwen. Honorary Life membership was awarded to Brian Freeman, G3ITF, our QSL Manager.

Following a luncheon for our President and all participants, the business of talking over the air got underway. One of our operators, not a million miles from this keyboard, heard the callsign 'TA' in response to a call. Thinking this was the callsign for French-speaking Algeria, the foreign station was greeted in voluble French. This resulted in a very baffled Turk in Istanbul! The moral is 'learn your country codes'.

It was most enjoyable to be back at Ovingdean with its familiar surroundings, comfortable facilities and above all, some excellent company. The 1997 meetings will be held from March 14-16th and October 10th-12th. Please book in good time.

# Leap for the future



## Ray Sheriff marks the 52nd Anniversary of the Battle of Arnhem in typical daredevil style

stone travelling at 120 mph. The final landing was not exactly a light one but, at least, there were no breaks, strains or permanent damage.

This was my 10th jump and I fully intended it to be my last. But since these ten added to my war-time solo's of 19, make an uneven number, I have to go for 30. The invitation to do this arrived last week.

Each year the A.V.P.T. Committee select a charity to sponsor. The choice on this fourth occasion was the Cancer Relief Macmillan Fund. It was hoped that the sum of £500 could be raised by each of the twenty-two jumpers. However, having done so many previous sponsored jumps over the past six years, I doubted very much if I could reach this target. I am glad to report that my personal total amounted to £1,600. I feel sure that the Cancer Relief Macmillan Nurses will be most satisfied with the efforts of the Arnhem Veterans Parachute Team.

May I take the opportunity of thanking those members of St Dunstan's who so generously supported my very humble efforts. I send a special thanks to Tom and Audrey Gaygan, for not only their personal contribution but for taking the trouble of filling in a form with donations from family, friends and neighbours. Thank you again Tom and Audrey.

Betty and I will always recall receiving a telegram from 'Tommy' on our wedding-day, which read - "All the very best of luck and happiness.... If you ever need a 'hand' just let me know." This may not mean very much to new St Dunstaners and staff unless I point out that Tommy Gaygan is a totally blind and handless St Dunstaner. He still has a sense of humour, and can still put his hand in his pocket!

Once again Betty and I travelled to Dover for the ferry crossing to Calais and onward to Arnhem, Holland. We went specifically to attend the anniversary ceremony at the Airborne Cemetery at Oosterbeek. The 90 minute service was unfortunately marred by bad weather and heavy rain. One felt very sorry for the Dutch schoolchildren who laid flowers on the 1,700 graves of the fallen Airborne soldiers. I also took part in the silent march to the Arnhem Bridge, which in September 1944 proved the Bridge too Far. This has now been renamed *The Bridge to the Future*.

For the third consecutive year 22 members of the A.V.P.T. (Arnhem Veterans Parachute Team) including myself, parachuted onto the war-time dropping zone. Fortunately, I was familiar with the type of aircraft used - i.e. Sky-liner with rear-gate exit, or, more simply, a plane with a hole in the back-end. As I am totally blind, the jumpmaster allows me the privilege of jumping first, thus ensuring that I don't have to be manoeuvred around too much to line up with the exit.

We jumped from 13,000ft, with a free-fall of 7,000ft and the remaining six under canopy. The weather conditions were good with clear visibility, cold and a strongish gusty wind. Our joint weight was about 27

# LEST WE FORGET!

## Norman Hopkins reports on this year's Remembrance Sunday



*St Dunstan's President, Colin Beaumont-Edmonds, our Chairman, Admiral of the Fleet Sir Henry Leach, and Gwen Obern prepare for the march to the Cenotaph.*



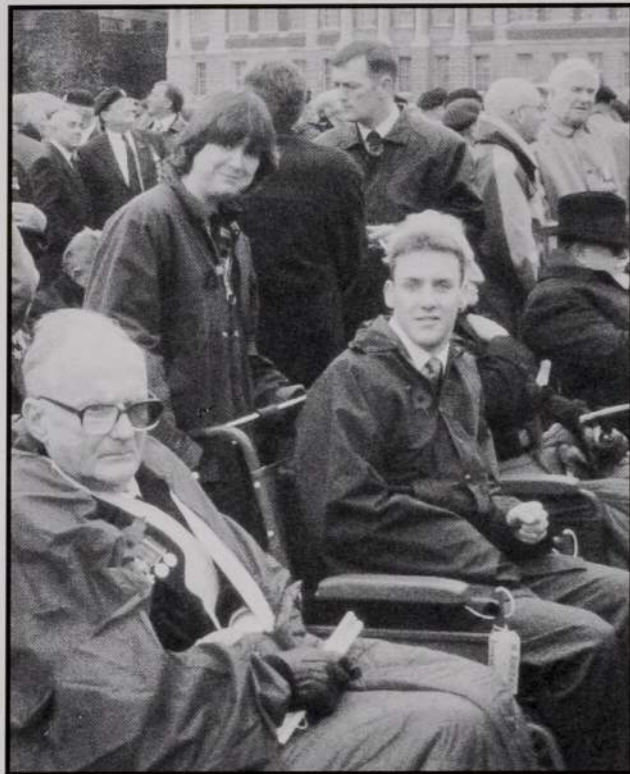
*'Reg' Perrin and Mike Tetley with their escorts at Horse Guards Parade*

**T**he morning of Sunday November 10th, Remembrance Day, started in foul mood, with the rain pouring down. We could hardly believe it as in all previous years the weather has been very kind to us.

The police security was tighter than ever this year and it meant us boarding the coaches at the *Hotel Russell* before nine o'clock and eventually being mustered about 10.15 in Horse Guards Parade. The rain was easing a little as we marched off to take up our position in the Parade which was about 100 yards from the Cenotaph.

The Royal British Legion have their 75th anniversary this year and marked this by





Currently training at Ovingdean, Matthew Rhodes of the Devon and Dorset Regiment.

RAF St Dunstaner David Corscadden joins his peers the night before Remembrance Day.



allowing war widows into the parade and as a result, 13 St Dunstan's widows marched with our column. Sir Henry, flanked by Gwen Obern and Colin Beaumont-Edmonds led the St Dunstan's unit which I believe was the largest for many years. There was a total of 170 marching, including 81 St Dunstaners. An innovation this year, which was a very nice touch, permitted a St Dunstaner to lay the wreath at the Cenotaph as the column marched past. This was admirably performed by Steve Nixon, one of our young St Dunstaners.

The crowd, despite the weather gave us their usual warm reception and with this and being on the move, the blood began to tingle once again in our cold limbs. Prince Philip took the final salute at Horse Guards Parade and after this we boarded our coaches and returned to the Russell.

The Chairman welcomed 230 of us at lunch and congratulated everyone on a first class record turnout. He mentioned that of the St Dunstaners present, about a third were post-World War II casualties, and three of the widows were from the same period.

He passed on our grateful thanks to the 'Dogs', other escorts and helpers for without their support, the show could not go on. Sir Henry went on to quote from a piece of doggerel which he had come across, called *Don't Quit* and applied it to the indomitable character of St Dunstaners and their widows. He concluded by referring to our proud demonstration of remembrance on this very special occasion.

Gwen Obern made a delightful speech in response and expressed her own sentiments whilst standing near the Cenotaph, principally those of sadness and pride. She also wondered what things would have been like if our injuries had not been sustained in a war service situation, as in this event we would have been without a pension and without the help and support of this great organisation!

Gwen thanked Peter Marshall on behalf of us all for his effort in organising such a splendid weekend.



Rifleman meets Guardsman. St Dunstaner Steve Pendleton greets Colour Sergeant Barton on Remembrance Sunday.



Terry Bullingham was 'on hand' to chat with Michael Ryan.



Above: Norman Hopkins, John Gilbert, Trevor Tatchell, their wives, and Reg Page.

Below left: St Dunstan's Chairman, Sir Henry Leach with Steve Nixon before the march.

There were four lady St Dunstaners present and "Three of us", Gwen said "were part of the ones who helped to make the guns for you boys and therefore were very important". This brought much applause from the audience.

Gwen hoped to see everyone next year and I reckon she's looking younger each year. Her final remarks were delivered in verse from a very moving prayer.

This weekend is a very special and poignant occasion in the St Dunstan's calendar and when you consider the nations great style in presenting pageantry of this sort, everyone present felt very privileged to be part of it.



**Ex-Royal Canadian Air Force St Dunstaner Leslie O. Shvemar takes us with his family on a very special pilgrimage**

# Seekers of the third millennium!

**B**ertha and I had been dreaming of this visit to Israel since 1982 when our first grandchild David was born. As it happened, David had his Bar Mitzvah in January of this year and we celebrated our fiftieth wedding anniversary last June.

Furthermore, it transpired, Jerusalem was commemorating the 3,000th anniversary of its founding this year, 5756 on the Jewish calendar. What a wonderful time to make an alyah, Hebrew for going up, keeping in mind that Israel's capital is some 1,800 feet above sea level. So we went to Israel with our children and their children, ten of us in all, on this memorable pilgrimage.

Touring began when our bus took us down to the Dead Sea and Massada, the towering 500 metre high mound where Herod had constructed a fortress complete with two palaces. It took the Roman battalions of Titus three years to capture it from the Jewish rebels about AD70.

There are two means of accessing Massada, the so-called Snake path which the resisters had used to get in and out without being spotted from the Roman encampments and the cable car which rose to a spot from where a flight of 94 steps reached the summit.

Daughter Suzanne made it up the Snake path in 30 minutes with the temperature already registering 34°C at 9:30am. Much work is going on within the fortress restoring the various structures. The rubble is lying about like pieces of a jigsaw puzzle waiting to be fitted into place. Get your hands on the wealth of material available about Massada for its own fascinating story.

After the climb we drove to Ain Geddi, a popular spa on the shore of the Dead Sea where we had lunch and swam in the extremely salty waters. On our way back to Jerusalem we paused at the caves of Qumran where the Dead Sea scrolls were discovered. That is a story in itself!

The following morning dawned sunny and warm and our little group set out to explore some of the religious sites in Jerusalem; the El Axa Mosque and the Dome of the Rock high on the Temple Mount; Mt. Moriah, sacred to the world of Islam; the Western Wall, also known as the Wailing Wall of Herod's Temple the holiest spot on Earth to the Jewish people. There we slipped messages to our Creator into crevices among its stones. Finally the Church of the Sepulchre, erected over the cave where the body of Jesus was reputedly laid to rest before his Resurrection.

I didn't enter El Axa because its internal beauty would have been wasted on me. Instead I sat in a shady spot chatting with an Arab girl who was with a group of Jewish, Christian and Moslem young men and women attempting to build bridges of friendship among our religions.

The Israel museum provided us with a view of many ancient artefacts discovered in the ever-ongoing archaeological digging within the old city. Sunday brought our guide back and once more we were exploring the old city including the barred Golden Gate through which religious Jews believe the Messiah will enter Jerusalem. At 4:00 am, Monday morning, the children stood on the observation deck at the hotel to view a

magnificent meteor shower and then await sunrise over Jerusalem. Truly a magnificent sight as one by one the multitude of domes and minarets are illuminated until the entire city is flooded in brilliant light.

We stopped at Jericho to view a dig which revealed a wall some 4,000 years old. One wonders if this is the wall Joshua destroyed with his trumpets as he conquered this, the oldest city in the world. Driving northward, the bus paused at a number of digs such as Bet Alpha where the remains of an ancient synagogue with a gorgeous mosaic floor were uncovered and Magedo (the inspiration for Mitchener's novel, *The Source*). Here one could view some 15 levels of civilisation built one upon the other. It is a strategic point on the caravan route to the coast where Kings David, Solomon and Ahab, along with his perfidious wife, Jezebel, all erected palaces.

About ten years ago the level of Kaineret dropped some five metres revealing a sunken fishing boat which had sailed those waters 2,000 years ago. Now called the Jesus Boat, the vessel was removed from its position and installed in a shed specially designed to control temperature and humidity. The wood has been treated with oils and resins in order to preserve the vessel for posterity. We were permitted to examine the craft which is pointed at both bow and stern and were told it had been constructed with mortise and tenon joints held in place with wooden pins.

It was a short drive further north to the heights of Golan with their abandoned Syrian bunkers and gun positions commanding a view of the valleys far below. It is no wonder that Israel is reluctant to return this land to Syria after the battles of the Six Day War in 1967 and the high price paid in blood for the victory. With Damascus a mere 25 kilometres to the north, the entire border is kept under close electronic surveillance by the Israel Defence Force.

In Tel Aviv, (Miami on the Med) we booked into the Hilton for our last three nights in

the country. Tel Aviv is a brand new city, having been started on a sand dune in 1906 by Jews from Jaffa who had had enough of the problems with the Palestinian Arab majority among whom they had lived.

The city is home to the National Theatre and the Israel Philharmonic Orchestra. It also possesses a beautiful opera house whose productions have gained world acclaim. Its many wide boulevards and parks are typical of the secular life style of its citizenry along with its multitude of cafes and music halls. We discovered that people from all over Europe fly in for a weekend of fun or relaxation on the powder-fine beach which extends as far as the eye can see north and south. The beach is several hundred metres wide and the warm waters of the Mediterranean are most inviting.

The museum of the Diaspora, on the beautiful campus of the University of Tel Aviv, located at Ramat Aviv, a lovely suburb, exposed us to pictorial and artefact samples of Jewish life since our dispersal by the Romans two thousand years ago. A computer is accessible to provide print-outs with information about the shtetels, towns and villages throughout Europe or North Africa from where our ancestors came. It was a traumatic revelation for me to learn what had become of my own family from Bedzin, Poland, at the hands of the Nazis half a century ago. I bless my great-grandparents for leaving the old country for Canada at the end of the 19th century to escape the pogroms.

The computer also allows one to search out one's family tree with information provided by previous visitors to the museum. Our last day in Israel was spent in Jaffa, Israel's principle harbour before the Port of Haifa had been built 60 years ago. Jaffa has many of its mediaeval buildings still in use although there has been a great deal of modernisation done since the modern State of Israel came into being in 1948.

If you were to spend a lifetime in this little country which extends about 800 kilometres from Ramat Golan in the north to Eilat on

the Red Sea and is a mere 10 kilometres wide at one point, you could never see it all. The malarial swamps in the north of the pre-Israel years have been drained and are now lush valleys of citrus and banana groves, orchards of apples, pears and avocado. Cattle graze in pastures which formerly had been rocky, inhospitable,

empty desert. The creation of the new State of Israel has wrought a miracle in this land. I have but one word to describe the feeling I have for this land of my ancestors, a land sacred to Jews, Christians and Moslems alike and that word is awesome!! I urge you, if you ever have the opportunity, to make your own alyah. You will never regret it.

## MESSAGE FROM THE HEAD OF FUND RAISING

As mentioned in the August *Review*, we have undertaken a distribution of over half-a-million fund raising packs to members of the public during the last three months. Over fifty percent were distributed in late October and because of this it is still early days to give final figures. At the time of writing (Armistice Day) we have already received over 4,000 donations, with a value to St Dunstan's, including covenants, of £85,000. Hopefully we should be able to give a final figure in the next *Review*. We continue to receive letters in support of St Dunstaners, some of which were featured in the last *Review*.

During the last two weeks we have finally been able to prepare extracts from the Book of Remembrance. If you have requested an extract from the Book of Remembrance and have not yet received your copy, please do drop a short note to Margaret Orr Deas at Headquarters. Extracts of the Book of Remembrance are available on request in writing for all St Dunstaners, St Dunstaner Widows and Widowers. There is no charge for an extract; however, we have been asked if we would accept donations. We are happy to do so if it is the recipient's wish. The extracts are bound, A4 in size, with the St Dunstan's badge on the cover. Inside is a copy of the Foreword, together with the required page. It is not possible to send a complete copy of the Book of Remembrance which has 5,396 entries and runs to over 600 pages.

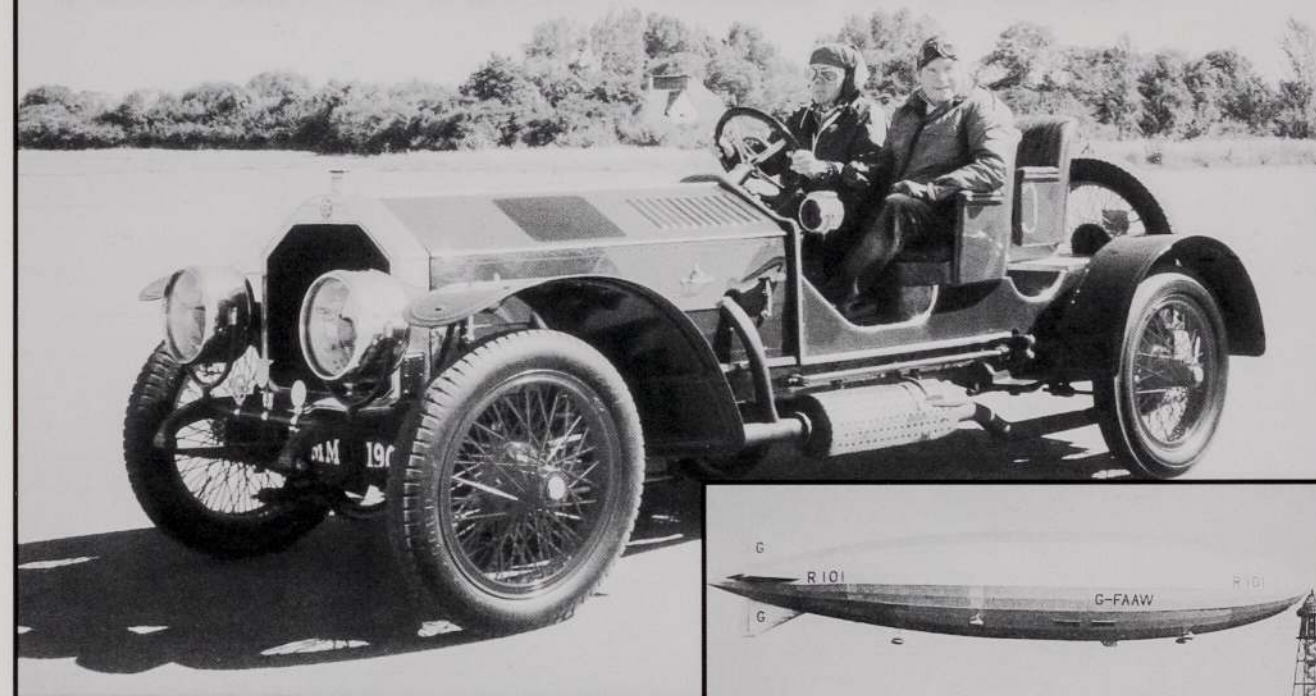
Yesterday saw the largest turnout of St Dunstaners and St Dunstaner Widows at the Cenotaph for some years. The primary purpose, of course, is that of remembrance. This year the size of the contingent ensured that St Dunstan's received an extended amount of commentary about the work of St Dunstan's, together with stories about individual St Dunstaners. Remembrance Sunday is the one day of the year when we can draw the attention of millions of members of the public to St Dunstaners, St Dunstaner Widows and Widowers. Whether you were able to attend this year or not, please do make the effort to join in next year. The longer the column of St Dunstan's contingent, the longer the television commentator will talk about St Dunstan's and the greater the effect on fund raising.

Neil Swan

### TORNADO DOWN

It's not unknown for members of HM Forces to drop in on St Dunstaners, but they don't usually make the trip in a Tornado aircraft. The jet fighter that made recent headlines when it ditched on the Blackpool sea front, came down a mere hundred yards from the home of Bill and Alice Griffiths. "We called for the police and an ambulance," said Alice. "The pilot waited until the last moment before ejecting and it was a big relief to see him parachute down soon after."

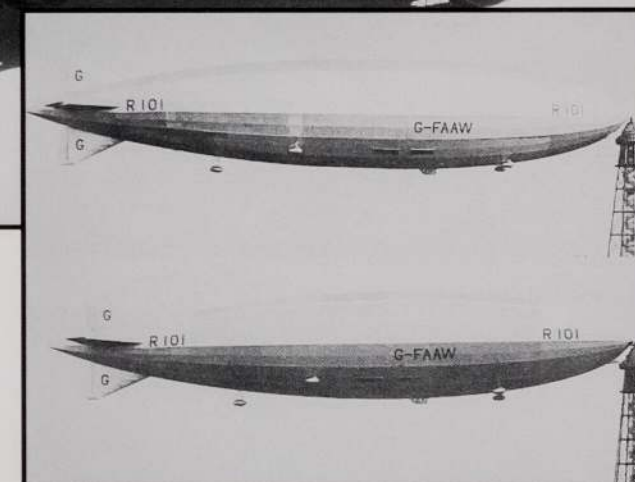
## KEN REVS UP A LEAD-FREE ZEPPELIN



On a hot day in July, Ken Revis of Oxford indulged one of his great passions in the historic car movement. He was behind the wheel, driving a 1907 Metalurgique with a 21 litre Zepplin engine on the airfield training area of 33 Engineer Regiment near Saffron Walden, Essex.

The owner of the car, sitting beside Ken bellowing directions above the roar of the six cylinder overhead valve engine, claimed that at 1250 revs per minute it was propelling the historic Belgian car along at over 90 mph.

This truly thrilling episode took Ken's thoughts right back 66 years to the time he was taken aboard the British Airship R.101 and stood right under the German airship Graf Zeppelin, even giving a hand on one of the tie ropes when the 777ft long airship was on a courtesy visit to Cardington near his home. Later that year, 1930, Ken remembers the news of the awful crash and explosion of the R.101 in France with the loss of 48 out of 54 members of its crew.



**Above left:** Ken speeds along.  
**Above:** Before and after shots of the doomed R.101. The top picture shows the extended vessel.

Originally 732ft in length, the R.101 was extended by 45ft. This addition was thought to have contributed to the fatal crash.

Welhelm Maybach, the brilliant German designer of Zeppelin engines, formed a company with Ferdinand, Graf von Zeppelin, builder of the first Zeppelin in 1900, to install engines in Metalurgique cars - hence the drive in the 89 year old beauty. "Larger than a Bullnose engine," mused Ken, President of the Bullnose Morris Club.

# AGOG WITH MAGOG

On Wednesday October 2nd, our little group arrived at Ovingdean for our annual reunion - which was, incidentally, our 35th. We were sad to learn that Tommy and Audrey Gaygan, and John and May Proctor would not be with us owing to their ill-health. We missed seeing them. It was good though to meet Gwennie Obern and her escort June, Bill and Alice Griffiths, Joseph Loska and Mary Stenning, Winnie Edwards, and Wally and Pam Lethbridge and members of the staff who made us feel so welcome. On Thursday morning we all got together for a general chat, and in the evening we had a welcome dinner in the Winter Garden with Karen Morane, the Care Manager acting as our host. It was an excellent meal. Thanks to the Catering Staff.

On Friday we were up early as we had to be on the coach at 8.30 am sharp for our trip to London for a guided tour and luncheon at the Guildhall. We were invited there by Mrs Ivy Sharp who is a member of the Corporation of London - all the members are called Commoners. Ivy is a good friend of Bill and Alice and she met us when we arrived and made us feel most welcome before introducing us to the Chief Commoner, Mr Philip Willoughby. He told us he was known as the 'Commonest Commoner'. They were to tell us some of the history of the lovely building, and of the work carried out by the Corporation of London. The Guildhall has witnessed traitors trials, heroes welcomes, freedom ceremonies and glittering state occasions, and it has been the seat of municipal government since the 12th Century.

It has twice survived catastrophic fires. In 1666 it was caught up in the conflagration of the Great Fire of London, and in 1940 many monuments, windows and galleries were damaged, and the famous statues of Gog and Magog destroyed in a single night

of the blitz. The Guildhall is the Headquarters of the City of London and the Court of Common Council. The Corporation's decision-making body meet in the Great Hall for magnificent ceremonies including State banquets, the annual installation of The Lord Mayor of London and key speeches by public figures, etc. In June this year, the City's highest honour was bestowed on Nelson Mandela, President of South Africa. To write of all the history of the Guildhall and of all its treasures would fill a book, but I would like to tell you a little about it.

The Great Hall's walls measure 152ft by 49ft 6 inches. The main cornice, below the battlements at the level of the clerestory, is enriched by a frieze showing the Arms of England, the City, and the 12 Great Livery Companies of the City of London. The Arms are emblazoned and the mottoes picked out in Gilt Gothic Letters. The banners of the twelve Companies hang over them. The 12 Great Livery Companies, in order, are:

- |                     |                  |
|---------------------|------------------|
| 1) The Mercers      | 2) Grocers       |
| 3) Drapers          | 4) Fishmongers   |
| 5) Goldsmiths       | 6) Skinners      |
| 7) Merchant Taylors | 8) Haberdashers  |
| 9) Salters          | 10) Ironmongers  |
| 11) Vintners        | 12) Clothworkers |

A tablet on the north wall records some of the State trials which have taken place within the Guildhall including those of Lady Jane Grey and Archbishop Cranmer. The West Gallery is guarded at both corners by statues of Gog and Magog - the giants who represent the legendary pre-Christian conflict between the ancient Britons and the Trojan invaders, a struggle which resulted in the founding of Albion's capital city on which the site of London is said to stand. The present figures of Gog and Magog were the gift of Sir George Wilkinson, Lord Mayor 1940-41, replacing

the statues destroyed in 1940. They are carved in limewood and gilded, they stand 9ft 3 inches in height and on Magog's shield is a phoenix which is the symbol of renewal after fire. The same legendary opponents do battle each hour on the clock that gave St Dunstan's its name.

The monuments here include many famous people, William Pitt, Earl of Chatham, William Pitt the Younger, Admiral Viscount Nelson and the Duke of Wellington to name a few, and there is a seated bronze of Winston Churchill installed in 1959. We didn't go into the Crypt but the old library, a masterpiece of Victorian Gothic style, and the printroom are now used as reception rooms. They have a new library in the west wing which is open to the public.

We have to thank Mr Philip Willoughby (Chief Commoner), Mrs Ivy Sharp, Barbara Newman (Chair of the Planning Committee) and Mr Barry Mortimer (Librarian) who showed us round with help from Ivy. It is really a beautiful place, with such a lot of history. We really did enjoy it all. We were joined on our tour round by Sir Henry Leach, Sir John and Lady Gingell, Miss Cynthia Mosley and Karen Morane. After the tour we all made our way to the members room for lunch. After an excellent meal, Bill rose to give the vote of thanks on our behalf, and Mrs Sharp (Ivy to us) gave us another little talk before we made our way back to the coach for the journey home.

Once again, our thanks to our guides, especially to Ivy for making our visit possible.

On Saturday morning we were sorry to hear that Alice was confined to her bed and she was unable to join us for the rest of the reunion. Bill has since rung and he let us know that they arrived home safely on Thursday. We wish her a speedy recovery.

There was nothing down on the programme that day, so Wally and Pam invited us to their home in Saltdean for some light refreshments and entertainment in the afternoon, which we all enjoyed (thanks to Pam and Wally for making us so welcome).

At six o'clock, the bus picked us up to take us back to Ovingdean as Gwennie had arranged for us to have a meal in the Winter Garden if we did the catering and waited on ourselves. It turned out a lovely evening and after a sing song we went up to the bar for a few drinks.

On Sunday morning after breakfast, Pam drove Wally, Iris and myself to the Princess Royal Hospital in Haywards Heath to visit Sybil Bell who suffered a stroke some weeks ago. She appeared to be making slow progress and was pleased to see us all. She sends her love to all her friends in St D's.

We were to be the guests of Lord and Lady Lloyd at their farmhouse home in Ludlay near Berwick, not far from Lewes, in the evening. On our arrival we were met by our host and we were most cordially welcomed, a beautiful log fire was ablaze in the room where we were to spend our evening. After a delicious meal which Lord and Lady Lloyd had prepared for us, we again went back to the lounge for an evening of entertainment. Bill and Lord Lloyd recited Kipling's *If* before His Lordship sat down at the piano and played all the old songs we wanted to sing. As the evening came to an end, Gwennie asked me to give the vote of thanks and I'm sure everyone really enjoyed themselves, including our hosts.

I think William and Jack, their two lovely terrier dogs were enjoying it too, the way they were wagging their tails. Thank you so much Lord and Lady Lloyd for your warm welcome.

On Monday morning we had a group meeting among ourselves and after lunch we met staff from Headquarters up in the Conference Room. Mr Gerard Frost, Miss Cynthia Mosley and Miss Marion Lurot came from London, and Sir John Gingell also attended. We discussed any problems we had, and the meeting ended with a cup of tea and biscuits. At seven o'clock, we all met up again in the Winter Garden for our farewell dinner. Our guests included Sir Henry Leach, Sir John and Lady Gingell, Mr and Mrs Gerard Frost, Cynthia, Marion and members of the staff including Karen Morane and Mary Ruane-Morris. The Vicar

from Rottingdean said grace before we sat down to an excellent meal and after the loyal toast, Sir John gave us a witty but not too long a speech and then Gwennie rose to give her usual excellent vote of thanks - she always seems to find the right words for any occasion. Well done, Gwennie. A gift was then presented to Cynthia with all our love, for all the help she has given us during the past years. We are going to miss her very much when she retires next year. Bouquets were then presented to Cynthia, Marion, Karen, Lady Gingell and Mrs Frost. Gwennie was then given a little gift from us all, for all the work she puts in to make our reunions such a success. The party ended just after nine o'clock and we then said our goodbyes before making our way to the bar for a farewell drink and a sing song. We were joined in the bar by some of our guests, which was very nice.

I should like to thank all the staff, and I mean all the staff, including our drivers, catering staff and helpers, for making our visit so enjoyable. I must make a special mention here of the lovely way Paul and Billy presented our starter dish in the form of a lobster pot with the shrimps inside and a sweet dish shaped like a swan with outstretched wings - the strawberries and cream tucked underneath - so clever, they looked almost too good to eat. We send our love to Tom and Audrey, and John and May and hope they will soon be feeling better and, of course, to Alice - get well soon. Our love also, to Ivy Sharp and Joan Higgs.

Thank you all for a lovely weekend.

## FIFTY YEARS AGO

Having spent much of her life isolated from the world as a deaf-blind child, Helen Keller was a much welcome visitor to St Dunstan's Ovingdean in 1946. Sir Ian Fraser praised her remarkable vocabulary, particularly since she was speaking a language she had never heard. Miss Keller was introduced to three lady trainees, including Zophia Bregula. Sir Ian also raised the moral question of whether St Dunstan's should help blind people in enemy countries. He asked St Dunstaners for their opinions.



### Passchendaele

Author: Philip Warner

Reader: Crawford Logan

Duration: 10 hours

Catalogue No: 7842

Once in a while in literature, a work appears which stands head and shoulders above its fellows. Such is *Passchendaele*, a war history I believe it would be difficult to praise too highly. Whilst listening, I felt like one who had been grabbed by the scruff of the neck and told "Look, look at this!" This was the dreadful lunacy of war; this was the great shame of the General Staff; this was the impotent stupidity of the politicians. The facts as presented by Philip Warner assumed a special kind of life for me. I could almost feel the drenching remorseless rain, hear the countless shells which turned the whole countryside into a vast filthy swamp and I sensed the utter futility of constructing plank roads across it, and of expending tanks and thousands upon thousands of men and animals to achieve precisely nothing.

"Did we really send men to fight like this?" exclaimed an incredulous General on an almost unheard of visit to the front. Yes they did ... From their headquarters way in the rear they made plans for yet another 'big push' and drew up schedules for creeping barrages which were as likely to slaughter their own loyal cannon fodder as to disturb the enemy. No wonder the keeping of diaries was strictly prohibited, for perhaps one day the term 'war criminal' will be redefined.

I can think of few books which have impressed me so much as this one. Omitting nothing, it brilliantly tells a story which should never be forgotten and I strongly recommend it to everyone.

## REMEMBERING ST DUNSTAN'S FOUNDER 75 YEARS ON

# The forgotten father of Fleet Street

On December 9th, what we have come to call St Dunstan's Day, it will be 75 years since St Dunstan's founder Sir Arthur Pearson died after falling in the bath and drowning while unconscious.

Nicknamed 'Pigeon' by schoolmates, this short-sighted curate's son from Wookey, near Wells entered the publishing world under the wing of George Newnes at *Tit-Bits*. In his day, Sir Arthur was a major force in the British press, launching, amongst other titles, the *Daily Express* and *Pearson's Weekly*. Overshadowed by contemporaries such as Harmsworth and Beaverbrook, his successor at the *Express*, he none the less initiated many practices of modern journalism.

He was turned from these endeavours by the onset of blindness but soon discovered that he was not content to lie back and let the world pass. In his own words:

"Very quickly, I realised that it is the blind man who, above all, needs occupation, and that the more active, the more normal he can make his life, the happier he will be.

"The more I came in contact with the world of the blind the more it seemed to me that the dwellers in it were regarded too often as a people apart. There was too much pity for their blindness and not enough sympathy with their human natures. It seemed to me that blind people had in the past been generally treated entirely in the wrong manner.

"If you tell a man often enough that he is afflicted, he will become afflicted and will adopt the mental and physical attitude befitting that soul-destroying word.



Sir Arthur presenting a rose bowl to E.C. Williamson at a St Dunstan's sports day.

"I determined that, at least in my own dealings with the blind, the word pity and the word affliction should not be used. I set myself to live as active and as independent a life as possible, and it became my ambition to do whatever I could to help blind people to escape from that passive half-life which seemed so commonly accepted as inevitable."

That philosophy was harnessed to the benefit of others and, with the onset of the Great War, carried many men and women back to personal independence.

## History and horticulture

It came as a great surprise when Cynthia Mosley suggested I ran the Lady St Dunstaners 'get-together' weekend at Ovingdean as I had never done anything like this before. I am grateful to Clare Woods, Jenny Low and Trevor Smithson who helped me with organising a good and varied programme.

We were only a small party, for one reason or another. Twelve of us sat down for supper in the main dining room and there was plenty of chatter which continued on in the bar later in the evening. We joined in the usual Thursday evening bar quiz.

The weather could have been kinder on Friday when we visited Sheffield Park for a picnic lunch. Although it did not rain, there was no sunshine in evidence. After a substantial picnic (finished off with a dish of strawberries and cream) we meandered along the pathways noting the large variety of trees and shrubs. The hydrangeas still retained their vivid blue flower heads, while the pinks were turning a rusty brown colour (flower heads should not be removed as they give warmth to the shrub over the winter). There were a number of lakes with a variety of ducks and swans swimming idly around and glimpses of more water could be discerned through trees.

In the evening, we congregated in the blue room for our own bingo session with many prizes everyone winning one or more. It was very successful. Laurie, who did the calling had a mammoth job! Thank you, Laurie.

On Saturday, we visited Brighton Marina which is a fascinating place with its shops and restaurants, cinemas and very expensive boats. Amongst the noise of children shouting and seagulls crying could be discerned the tinkle of a fountain centred in the middle of a beautiful display of flowers and rocks. In the afternoon we

visited the *Thistle Hotel* in Brighton for afternoon tea. Originally a cream tea had been planned but the idea was scrapped as we felt we would be unable to do justice to the dinner in the Winter Garden in the evening. The *Thistle* is a very large spacious hotel and we enjoyed our visit.

Guest of Honour at the dinner was Cynthia Mosley. Tony Ross played the piano in his own delightful manner. Paul and Billy of PBK hustled around serving the food and topping up the glasses. What a meal it was! We all enjoyed it immensely.

The catering was all done on a shoestring, so to speak. The menu was presented in words to accentuate this:- Frugal Fare: Kitchen Garden Soup: Fruity Bird (especially concocted by our chefs) turkey breasts garnished with pears and poached in red wine, served with vegetables and roast potatoes. Milk chocolate boxes filled with whisky-flavoured mousse. Thank you PBK, an evening to be remembered.

We had a few minutes silence in remembrance for our four Lady St Dunstaners who died during the past year, Alys Briggs, Cynthia Rouse, Dorothy Martin and Emily McClarnan. They will always be remembered with great affection. Barbara Bell had to cancel for health reasons. We hope you will soon be better. Tony continued to play and then the gathering began to break up with either a wander to the bar for a night-cap or toddle off to bed. Eileen Williams presented me with a beautiful bunch of flowers, red carnations and a variety of rose all in bud. The carnations lasted for three weeks.

On the Sunday the coach departed in the late morning for Herstmonceux picking up some of our party in Rottingdean who had been to church. *The Horsehoe Inn*, where we had lunch is a very imposing Tudor

building with its black and white timbers and the oak beam interior. The waitresses were dressed in the Tudor style. Later, we were taken to the castle for a guided tour. Julie, our guide said there was evidence of ancient inhabitants where the castle stands and artefacts of prehistoric man have been found, including two very fine flint arrowheads in the vicinity of the castle.

Herstmonceux is derived from the fusing of two names. A religious lady named Idonea de Herste married a Norman nobleman Ingelrarn de Monceux in the 12th century. The castle had a dungeon, an octagonal room in which is a stone post with a strong chain enabling the chained felon to use a privy in a corner. For its time, a dungeon with a privy was civilised indeed.

The name Dacre crops up continually during the Middle Ages and there are many headstones in the local churchyard inscribed with this name. From about 1730 the building, being virtually uninhabited, fell into disrepair. In the next century, the buildings were ivy-covered and were used by smugglers to hide their booty. Tales of ghosts abound, which gave a romantic appeal to the Victorians.

In 1912 a Colonel Lowther began the restoration of the castle employing a little known architect by the name of Cecil Perkins. The First World War delayed progress but Lowther decorated rooms with antiques from other great houses. Later Sir Paul Latham, Bt, MP became the owner. Eventually he built an extraordinary house, which looked like a medieval castle.

In 1946 Lowther sold the estate to the Admiralty to be the new home of the Royal Observatory. Unfortunately, because of the expansion of nearby towns light pollution became a problem and the new observatory was located in Las Palmas on a mountain top. In 1993 the castle was purchased by Queen's University, Kingston, Ontario. And so another get-together was over. But I must thank Clare, Jenny, Trevor, PBK, and the drivers for their considerable help, also to David and Sue Habgood for their assistance in compiling this report.

## SILVER-FINGERED GARDENER

St Dunstaner Maurice Bull went to Burton-on-Trent Town Hall on October 31st to receive two gardening awards. The first, a silver salver, was for the best new garden created in under two years. The second was a runner-up prize for the best garden in the Burton area. Maurice became a St Dunstaner in 1993 having been a professional gardener and green keeper during his working years. He created his flower garden with the help of his wife, Dorothy, from virgin ground after they moved into a new bungalow.

## 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: Barbara Davis, Northolt**

I wish to thank you all most sincerely for all the cards and letters sent to me on my retirement. Also for the very generous gifts of money which, believe it or not, totalled over £1,000. This I promise you will be well spent on a new greenhouse, so that I can turn my favourite hobby into a full time interest. Needless to say, I will miss you all very much but leave you in good hands and hope our paths will cross again from time to time. Best wishes to you all.

**From: Mike Tetley, St Albans, Herts**

May I point out an alteration at Ovingdean which may disorientate you until you are aware of it. On the second and third floor, when you come out of the lift and turn left (or reach the top of the stairs and turn right) to go into the old wings, you will be confronted by a new set of fire doors running right across the hall with a new nurses' work station immediately alongside them. This threw me until someone explained the new layout.

# CLUB NEWS

## ARCHERY

The Ovingdean front of house lawn pulsated with the preparation for the three-way match between the clubs of Cuckfield, Greenways and St Dunstan's. Sixteen archers finally straddled the line.

A blast from the field captain's whistle and 16 bowstrings sang with triumph, sending their missiles into the targets with deep penetration as did the longbow at Agincourt where many frogs croaked.

Having read thus far you may think I attended the meet - but nay! Operation hernia saw me in hospital.

The weather was good and so was the shooting. By lunch time all was won and lost. After lunch the triumphant winners were announced.

### The 'three-way' shoot

Trophy winners	Greenways A.C.	5709
2nd	Cuckfield A.C.	5671
3rd	St Dunstan's A.C.	5322

The winning team's highest scorer, Liz Andrews, handicapped score 1449, wins a spring holiday in Australia with a ten day stop in Bali - if she can come up with the dosh! Being a bouncy castle queen, it shouldn't be difficult.

### St Dunstan's Club Trophies

<i>The George Allen</i>	Winner	J. Lilley
	2nd	E. Bradshaw
<i>Royal Insurance</i>	Winner	J. Lilley
	2nd	E. Bradshaw
<i>Spurway</i>	Winner	J. Lilley
	2nd	E. Bradshaw

A midweek break sent the whole party on a day trip to Michelham Monastery, Hailsham. Sculptures in the beautiful grounds have been done by our own club President, John Glazier. One in particular interested our retired physio, Norman Perry. He was led to the figure of a young naked maid sitting by the moat. As his expert hands traversed the figure, Gwen

Bradshaw's camera clicked. Everybody enjoyed a wonderful day with only one slight disappointment, Brother Cadfael was out on a case.

Now I shall wish all my friends and fans a safe and happy Christmas.

"God bless you all."

Bert Wood

## 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 Jack Saunders** of Lowestoft, Suffolk became a St Dunstaner on October 17th, aged 89. He volunteered to serve in the Royal Air Force and was called up in 1941, training as a Gunner in the General Duties branch (later to become the RAF Regiment). Posted to the Far East, Mr Saunders was captured immediately on arrival in Java and spent the rest of the war as a prisoner. During this time, his working party were sent to another camp to clear up after the incident that blinded and maimed Billy Griffiths.

Later, Mr Saunders was sent to Sumatra where he was eventually released by British Forces. On discharge from the RAF in 1945, he resumed working for his old firm in the retail shoe business and retired in 1972. His wife died in 1987 and he has one adult son. Mr Saunders enjoys football and cricket and used to like reading and woodwork.

**Mr Craig Neller** of Peacehaven, Brighton, aged 35, became a St Dunstaner on October 17th. He joined the Royal Air Force in 1984 and trained as a clerical assistant. In 1991 it was discovered that he was suffering from a disease which eventually led to his discharge. He started training at Ovingdean whilst still a serving Corporal.

Whilst in the RAF, Mr Neller displayed great ability in most sports, representing them in football at station and command level. He is also interested in music.

**Mr John Sharpley** of Carlisle, Cumbria became a St Dunstaner on October 30th, aged 78. He worked as a farm labourer before enlisting in his local regiment, The Loyal Regiment (North Lancashire). After training, he joined their 1st Battalion which was part of the International Forces guarding Shanghai in 1936.

During this time, he made a name for himself in hockey and running. He was placed 12th in the Malayan cross-country championship in 1939, a competition open not only to members of HM Forces but also to all expatriates in Malaya.

Mr Sharpley was posted to Singapore where he remained until the outbreak of the Far East War in 1941. Moving up into Malaya, he was captured before the fall of Singapore and was then rotated between Changi and Adam Road Gaols.

After his release, it was found that his eyesight had been affected by the lack of nutrition during captivity and he was discharged from the Army in 1946.

As a civilian, Mr Sharpley managed his own public house until 1981 when he retired. He has two sons and a daughter.

## FAMILY NEWS

### BIRTHS

**Congratulations on the birth of:** Lauren Clift on July 23rd. She is the first great granddaughter of *Wally and Betty Rundle* of Paignton, Devon.

Ryan Odlin on September 5th. He is the grandson of *Brian Munday* of Lowestoft, Suffolk.

Beverley Tolley on September 22nd. She is the great-niece of *Archie Luxton* of Black Torrington, Beaworthy.

Ellise (aged 22 months), Dylan (aged 20 months) and Georgia (aged five months) are all the great grandchildren of Mrs Joyce Belcher of Preston, Lancashire, widow of *Ronald Belcher*.

### SILVER ANNIVERSARY

**Congratulations to:** *John and Daphne Gilbert* of Wimborne, Dorset on October 9th.

### RUBY ANNIVERSARY

**Congratulations to:** *James and Shirley Whymark* of Ipswich, Suffolk on October 10th.

### GOLDEN ANNIVERSARIES

**Congratulations to:** *Des (Steve) and Doris Bissenden* of Putney on September 21st.

*Jack and Annie Mawson* of Sheffield on October 5th.

*Joe and Marjorie Humphrey* of Belfast, Northern Ireland on October 19th.

*Arthur and Rene Carter* of Bolton, Lancashire on October 26th.

### DIAMOND ANNIVERSARY

**Congratulations to:** *Joseph and Ellen Whitley* of Totton, Southampton on October 17th.

### SPECIAL ANNIVERSARIES

**Congratulations to:** *Jack and Doris Price* of Hathern, Loughborough on 63 years of marriage celebrated on September 23rd.

*Leslie and Rose Tanner* of Morden, Surrey on 64 years of marriage celebrated on October 15th. They have 11 grandchildren and 12 great grandchildren. Leslie celebrated his 85th birthday on October 20th.

### ACHIEVEMENT

**Congratulations to:** *Simon Robertson*, who continues to do well in golf. Having represented England in the

Under-15 golfing championship, he has become the Under-16 and Under-18 County Champion for Durham and Cleveland. His next target is the Weetabix tournament in January. Simon is the great grandson of Mrs Jane Hodgson of Ferryhill, Co. Durham, widow of *David Hodgson*.

## DEATHS

**We regret to announce the death of:** Mrs Jean Stickland of Rock, Weybridge, Cornwall on September 4th. She was the widow of *William Stickland*.

Mrs Louisa Hale of Southmead, Bristol on September 9th. She was the widow of *Charles Hale*.

Enid, daughter of Alice Faulkner and the late *Leonard Faulkner* of Northwich, Cheshire, on September 10th.

Mrs Alice James of Walton-on-Thames on September 12th. She was the widow of *Arthur James*.

Sandra, daughter of *George and Gladys Powell* of Leighton Buzzard.

Mrs Edith McKinlay of Heston, London on October 9th, aged 100 years and eight months. She was the widow of *James McKinlay*.

Miss Norah Cheal of Saltford, nr Bristol on October 10th. She was the daughter of the late *Henry Cheal*, a St Dunstaner from the First World War.

Mrs Ivy Kelk of Rottingdean on October 16th. She was the widow of *Charles Kelk*.

**Our sympathy goes to their families and friends.**

## ERRATA

Our apologies go to Mrs Ethel Whiting. We inadvertently renamed her Marie in the last issue.

In the HMS *Sultan* Camp sports results, the winner of the Denny Deacon Veteran's Cup should have been named as St Dunstaner Arthur Carter.

# 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.**

**Robert Reid,**  
*Royal Artillery*

Robert Reid of Bournemouth, Dorset died on September 3rd, aged 84. He had been a St Dunstaner since 1992. Born in Calcutta, Mr Reid was educated in Scotland where he qualified as a chartered accountant. Following this, he returned to India and began work with McKinnon & McKenzie as a junior accountant. In 1937 he joined the local volunteer force and, in 1939, was embodied into the regular army and commissioned into The Royal Regiment of Artillery. He was then posted to the 5th Regiment Royal Artillery who were sent to Burma and then to the Malayan Peninsula. Mr Reid was ultimately taken prisoner by the Japanese at the fall of Singapore and put in Changi Goal before being moved up country to work on the Burma Railway. On the completion of the railway, he was returned to Changi Goal from where he was released at the end of the war.

After repatriation, he went back to McKinnon & McKenzie, eventually becoming Chairman of the company which was, by then, part of the P&O group. Following his retirement, Mr Reid and his wife returned to this country.

Our sympathy goes to his wife, Jean, daughter, Margaret, and all of the family.

**William Kirsop,**  
*2nd Battalion,*

*The Cambridgeshire Regiment*  
William Kirsop of Bideford, Devon died on September 13th, aged 92. He had been a St Dunstaner since 1992. Having completed an apprenticeship in the confectionery trade, he was called up in March 1940 and posted into the 2nd Battalion, The Cambridgeshire Regiment. He married his

wife, Rose, later that year, before being shipped out to Singapore. Moving on to Malaya, he was captured during the Japanese invasion in 1941. Put to work on the infamous Burma Railway, Mr Kirsop was later separated from other members of his battalion and sent to Kanyu Camp in Siam. It was in this camp that his sight began to fail.

At the end of the war, Mr Kirsop was discharged after hospital treatment for malnutrition. Because of his poor vision, he was unable to return to the confectionery trade and instead became a cook.

Our sympathy goes to his daughter, Ann, son, Michael, and all members of the family.

**John (Jock) Alexander,**  
*Royal Corps of Signals*

John Rennie (Jock) Alexander of Kempsey, nr Dymock, Gloucestershire died on September 15th, aged 81. He had been a St Dunstaner since 1991. Upon leaving school, Captain Alexander started work on the administrative side of GEC and qualified as a Chartered Secretary. He then enlisted in the Royal Corps of Signals (Territorials) in August 1938 and was embodied for full-time service in August 1939. He was in France with the British Expeditionary Force and was evacuated from the beaches of Dunkirk.

Upon returning to England, he went to OCTU and was commissioned into his regiment in 1941. He then went on to Commando training and eventually became Signals Officer to the Brigadier 1st Brigade Commando. It was in this capacity that he landed at Normandy on D-Day. His unit came under heavy fire and having crossed the beach, Captain Alexander turned to find most of his men had been slaughtered. However, he rallied the diminished forces and re-established communications. A few days later, he received wounds to his left eye and face, as well as ear damage, through a land mine explosion.

He was not discharged from the Territorial Army until 1959. Meanwhile, he returned

to his old firm in March 1946, eventually rising to the position of European Sales Manager. He retired at the age of 65 and was actively interested in gardening, modern languages and European history.

Our sympathy goes to his wife, Sheila, children, Robert, Bridget and Keith, and all members of the family.

**Arthur Lay,**  
*Royal Regiment of Artillery*

Arthur Leslie Lay of Stamford, Lincolnshire died on September 22nd, aged 79. Mr Lay enlisted as a regular soldier in the Royal Regiment of Artillery in 1935. Three years later, he was posted to Singapore and was taken prisoner of war in 1942.

Finally discharged from the Army on medical grounds in 1947 and worked in the building industry until the age of 62. At this point, the privations he had suffered in captivity began taking a further toll.

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

**Ken Leslie,**  
*Royal Artillery*

Ken Leslie of Slough died on September 22nd, aged 76. Born in Mandalay, of Anglo-Burmese parents, he was apprenticed as an electrician. At the same time, he joined the Burmese Auxiliary Forces. When Japan entered the Second World War, he was transferred into the Royal Artillery where he held the rank of Gunner. After training, he was posted into 5 Mountain battery, which provided artillery support for the 1st Battalion King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry. Together, these formed the British element of 46 Indian Infantry Brigade which, in February 1942, had retreated to the Bilin River in face of strong Japanese opposition. Continuing their retreat to Sittang, a railway bridge was blown up prematurely and the whole of 46 Brigade fell to the Japanese. Leslie remained in captivity until the end of the war. After release, he came to the UK and was discharged in November 1946.



He decided to stay in Britain and obtained employment as a warehouseman. Despite failing sight, he remained in this occupation until retiring at the age of 65.

Our sympathy goes to his wife, Barbara, son, Wayne, and all the family.

**John Turnbull,**

*Royal Navy*

John Lawson Kergan Turnbull of Coventry died on October 7th, aged 73. He served in the Royal Navy as a Stoker from August 1941. Most of his service was spent on mine sweepers, mainly in the Mediterranean where his ship covered the 8th Army as they progressed through North Africa. He was also involved in the Sicily and Italian landings. Unfortunately he developed problems with his sight and hearing and was discharged from the Navy in June 1946. On returning to civilian life, he was able to return to his old employers, Massey-Ferguson in Coventry and worked for them until his retirement.

Our sympathy goes to his wife, Irene, their four sons, and all members of the family.

**Roy Brook,**

*Royal Marines*

Roy Brook of Wilmington, Dartford, Kent died on October 19th, aged 75. Joining the Royal Marines in 1941, he trained as an Assault Engineer before being posted to the 7th Battalion of the Royal Marines, stationed in South Africa. He was moved up to North Africa in time for the Sicily landings and then transferred to the 1st Royal Marine Engineering Commando. During the Italian Campaign, Mr Brook transferred back to the UK, to join 48 Commando for the Normandy landings. He remained with this unit as a Sergeant, fighting through North West Europe.

In January 1945, whilst clearing a passage through a minefield in Holland, Mr Brook received severe injuries. These included penetrating wounds to his eyes, loss of his left hand and two fingers on his right hand.

He was moved to the St Dunstan's wing at Stoke Mandeville where he remained until Christmas 1945. Surgeons saved sufficient sight to stop him becoming a St Dunstaner at that time. He returned to work as a Planning Engineer but was made redundant in 1981 as the sight in his right eye deteriorated severely. His interests included sailing, walking, gardening, rugby and music.

Our sympathy goes to his wife, Doris, daughter, Pauline, and all the family.

**William Freeman,**

*Royal Artillery*

William Freeman of Finchampstead, Berkshire died on October 19th. He was aged 85 and had been a St Dunstaner since 1944. A regular soldier, he served as a Gunner in the Royal Artillery between 1927 and 1945. He was seriously wounded in Normandy on June 10th 1944 and came to St Dunstan's for surgery, rehabilitation and training. Having completed his training, Mr Freeman became a market gardener and followed this career very successfully for many years. Mr Freeman and his wife, Edith, who predeceased him in December last year, were married in 1934.

Our sympathy goes to his daughters, Maureen and Patricia, and all the family.

**Augustus 'Charlie' Clarke,**

*Royal Artillery*

Augustus Frank Charles Clarke of Ovingdean died on October 28th, aged 76. He had been a St Dunstaner since 1960. Known as 'Charlie', Mr Clarke enlisted into the Royal Artillery in December 1940. He had attained the rank of Sergeant when he was discharged in 1944 after his sight had begun to fail whilst serving in France. Following further deterioration of his sight, he was admitted to St Dunstan's and trained as a capstan lathe operator. He worked in this trade until retiring in 1978.

Our sympathy to his wife, Alice, his brother, George, and all the family.