



St Dunstan's Review

December 1997

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Cover Picture: Sir Henry
chats with Lionel Scott
who was preparing to lay
St Dunstan's wreath at The
Cenotaph. See page 14.

From the Chairman



In response to requests made by some widows, I am pleased to announce that a limited amount of holiday accommodation at Ovingdean will be made available for them as part of a pilot scheme. Widows are invited to apply through their Welfare Visitor for one week's stay either in May or November next year. As the number of beds is limited it will not normally be possible to bring escorts. Charges will be at the Residential Rate and the cost of transport will be the responsibility of those visiting.

We welcome Susan Prior who joined us on November 17th as Welfare Visitor for the North East of England. Susan is a qualified Social Worker and a Rehabilitation Officer for the Visually Impaired (ROVI).

1998 will be my last year as Chairman of St Dunstan's. I shall hit 75 in November, will have held the post for 15 years and it will be time for fresh blood. I shall hand over to Captain Michael Gordon-Lennox, Royal Navy who will have done three years on the Finance & General Purposes Committees and on the Council. I have personally known him for 25 years and cannot commend him too highly to you. He also has a most charming and able wife which sadly I no longer have; if she helps to look after you as well as she helps to look after the Queen Mother, as one of her ladies-in-waiting, you won't go far wrong. I shall try to go to all the Area Reunions so as to say goodbye individually to as many of you as possible.

A very Happy Christmas to you all.

Henry Leach



NOTICE BOARD



SEASONS GREETINGS

On behalf of all members of staff at HQ, Ovingdean and around the country, the *Review* wishes all members of the St Dunstan's family a very Happy Christmas. May 1998 be a healthy, happy and satisfying year for us all.

RAIL CONCESSIONS

St Dunstaners who do not hold a Railcard may still qualify for discounts on full fare tickets when travelling by rail. However, the rail operators require documentary proof that the passenger is a registered visually impaired person.

With this in mind, a St Dunstan's identity card is now available on request. Any St Dunstaner requiring this card should send a passport photograph to the Public Relations department at Headquarters.

This concession extends to escorts, but regular rail travellers may find that the Disabled Railcard still offers a more comprehensive range of discounts.

CAMP AT HMS SULTAN, 1998

The camp at HMS *Sultan* will take place next year from Friday, July 31st 1998 until the morning of Saturday, August 8th 1998.

I am sure that those who so enjoyed the camp this year will want to book again and others who may not yet have enjoyed the camp before will think of coming next year. So all those wishing to book please contact Elspeth Grant, High Acre, Catmere End, Saffron Walden, Essex CB11 4XG or by telephone on 01799 522874 as soon as possible and certainly not later than May 9th 1998.

EX-PRISONERS OF WAR REUNION

The ex-PoW Reunion will take place over the weekend of April 17th-19th 1998. Could all those who will be attending, please notify Tom Hart, by telephone on 01304 612771 or by post at 15 Whitefriars Meadow, Sandwich, Kent CT13 9AS.

Accommodation must be booked through Mrs Clare Woods at St Dunstan's Ovingdean.

DATES FOR 1998

MARCH

Amateur Radio Weekend 14th-15th
Bowling Club 23rd-30th

APRIL

Golf Weekend 4th-5th
Ex-Prisoners of War Reunion 17th-19th
Masonic Weekend 25th-26th

MAY

Golf Weekend 9th-10th

JUNE

Golf Weekend 20th-21st

JULY

Golf Weekend 18th-19th
HMS *Sultan* Camp 31st-August 8th

AUGUST

Golf Tournament 22nd-23rd

SEPTEMBER

Ladies Reunion 10th-14th
Physio Get Together 25th-27th
Golf Weekend 26th-27th
Handleless Reunion 30th-October 6th

OCTOBER

Computer Get Together 8th-9th
Amateur Radio Weekend 10th-11th

NOVEMBER

Remembrance Sunday 8th

SILVER JUBILEE FOR WAR WIDOWS

The War Widows Association of Great Britain recently celebrated 25 years of campaigning for the rights of War Widows. The organisation seeks to make Britain's authorities aware of the needs of War Widows with the hope of improving conditions.

Life membership is £5.50 and further details can be obtained by writing to the Membership Secretary, Mrs I. Bloor, Bryn Hyfryd, 1 Coach Lane, Stanton in Peak, Matlock DE4 2NA.

NOW THE WINE CAN BE HEARD

Comedy favourites *Last of the Summer Wine* (AVO45) and *Only Fools and Horses* (AVO46) have been added to the RNIB's list of audio described videos. Each tape, priced at £10.99 and certified PG, carries three episodes respectively.

New film additions include the seasonal Disney offering, *The Santa Clause* (AVO44, U, £13.99), action thriller *The Rock* (AVO43, 15, £14.99), which has Sean Connery and Nicolas Cage trying to break into Alcatraz, costume drama with *Jane Austen's Emma*, and *The Rescuers*, an animated feature from Disney's doldrum years.

Videos can be rented for up to two weeks for £2.50, by calling RNIB Customer Services on 0345 023153. For purchases, call 0345 456457.

Audio described videos have been slow to catch on at Blockbuster, the video rental chain, casting doubt on the possibility of extending the scheme nationwide.

A spokesman said: "We are extremely keen to make audio described videos available on a nationwide level, but at the moment not enough people seem to be taking advantage of the facility, which we hope is simply due to a lack of awareness."

Blockbuster are offering four movies for four nights for just £4. (Normally £2 per video per night).

So far, audio described videos are available at Blockbuster stores in Birmingham (Cape Hill), Croydon (George Street), Edinburgh (Corstorphine), Glasgow (Patrick Shopping Centre), Leeds (Anchor Street), London (Edgware and Clapham Junction), Manchester (Fallowfield), Sunderland (Retail Park), and Taunton (Country Walk).

YOUR TELEPHONE BILL ON DISK

This is available by dialling 150 and asking to be put through to the Age and Disability Group. You should have the following information ready to dictate:

- Home telephone number
- Account number
- Blind registration number, if you have one
- Your 195 pin number, if you have one

Your bill, itemised if requested, comes on a 3.5" disk. The TNAUK bulletin board has a program available to make reading easier, though the author has no experience of this piece of software.

KEEP WARM, KEEP WELL

The audio version of *Keep Warm, Keep Well 1997/98* has been recorded by Talking Newspaper Enterprises. This joint venture has been produced by the Department of Health, Help the Aged, Age Concern, Neighbourhood Energy Action and the Benefits Agency.

Keeping warm is a vital part of keeping well in winter. This is especially true for those who may be particularly vulnerable, such as older people, those with chronic illness or young children. This 60 minute tape has been produced to help you help yourself and tells where to get the advice you need. Amongst other things, the food you eat, the clothes you wear and the way you heat your home are very important. There are methods of paying your fuel bills which make it easier to manage your budget. You may be able to get grants for draught-proofing and insulation. Also there are various organisations which can provide you with sound practical advice locally.

To order, write to: Department of Health Distribution, The Hangar, Southfield Lane, Tockwith, North Yorkshire, YO5 8QP.

DEAFBLIND HELPLINE

People with sight and hearing loss, or their carers, can now talk to someone who will listen, whatever the time of day. Deafblind UK operates a unique free 24 hour helpline accessible to people who are deafblind and their carers via voice phones, minicomms and VersaBrailles (or other braille-based units). Operators have been trained in the field of deafblindness and are skilled listeners equipped to help with any problems.

The helpline number is 0800 132320.

AUDIO DESCRIBED PANTOS

A number of seasonal theatre productions around the country are being staged with audio description. For full details call the relevant box office.

- Aladdin* December 18th
The Coliseum, Oldham 0161 624 2829
- Jack and the Giant* December 30th
Palace Theatre, Southend-on-Sea 01702 342564
- Jack and the Beanstalk* January 15th
Northcott Theatre, Exeter 01392 493493
- Aladdin* January 30th & 31st
New Theatre, Cardiff 01222 878889

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Letters to the Editor are always welcome.

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

From: Colin Beaumont-Edmonds, Sidmouth, Devon.

Wishing to replace an old cordless telephone, I was recommended by a BT engineer, and the staff in the BT Shop in Exeter, to buy their most recent digital model, a Diverse 1010. It is excellent for the ordinary person, but has one great disadvantage for the visually impaired and deaf.

When I wish to take a message while on the phone, I pick up my little Phillips tape recorder or use a mains one which is on my desk. On playing my message back, the digital phone creates such a strong buzzing sound that it is impossible to hear one's recorded voice.

On putting this problem to a BT engineer, he contacted the manufacturers of the Diverse 1010, which I was using, and was told that all digital phones would create this interference to digital Voice Organisers. He concluded by telling me that I will have to swap my new digital phone for an ordinary analogue cordless phone, which I will find much better than the nine year old one that I have just discarded. So much for modern technology!

From Bill Shea, King's Badgeman, 339 King's Squad, Royal Marines.

It was with great interest I started to read the report, in the October *Review*, by our President on the visit by St Dunstaners to The Royal Marines, CTC at Lymstone. All went well until I came to the part of the report when the members of The King's Squad were exchanging their berets.

After reading this section over and over again, I was getting more convinced that my braille finger was dyslexic when I kept coming to the words, "Black Berets." My daughter checked the report in the print *Review*, and there it is in black and white. I hate to think that my fellow St Dunstaners who served in the Royal Armoured Corp think about Royal Marines wearing "Black" berets. Although The Royal Marines did have some armour, in WW2, their berets were not black. While those Royal Marines who served with the Commando wore the Green Beret, the bulk of those who served in many other units wore the

Navy Blue Beret. Maybe our President owes one to all those St Dunstaners who wore the Black, Navy Blue or Green Beret, when he is next caught at the bar at Ovingdean.

From: Mrs Doreen Inman, Co. Durham.

I had an unexpected envelope in the post. It contained a cheque to mark my leaving St Dunstan's. I don't know who has contributed to my gift so cannot write to you individually, but I will remember you all and your generosity which showed itself in so many ways over so many years. Thank you.

I hope to use the money to take a journey I have wanted to make since I was a small child, on the railways of India, which will give me a lasting memory of your kindness.



St Dunstaner Ken Revis on parade with his Bomb Disposal comrades.

From: Ken Revis, Oxford.

This year for the first time, the Bomb Disposal Branch of the Royal Engineers Association marched as a separate group on Remembrance Sunday. Not unnaturally, I was proud to march with them although our number was small - just 18.

A report on St Dunstan's Remembrance Day contingent is on page 14.

RETIREMENTS

VIVIEN JACKSON

Vivien Jackson retires on December 31st after 16 years with St Dunstan's, having joined our organisation in November 1981. It was in her role as Welfare Visitor for Central Southern England that she featured in our film *Partnership for Life* and she also chronicled her first ten years with us in a charming piece she wrote for the *Review*, entitled 'How was it for you?' This was in the form of an open letter to the St Dunstaners. Wives and Widows in her area and clearly revealed her warm, sensitive and amusing personality. Viv (short for Vivacious!), originally joined the Queen Alexandra Royal Army Nursing Corps, a career which appealed to her as it combined nursing with the prospect of travel, but she then married, having met her fiancé in Singapore, and raised a family. Before coming to us, she was a Market Researcher for the BBC and also worked as a factory nurse. She and her husband, Michael, still share a love of travel which, no doubt, they will continue to indulge. Some of their more recent trips have been to Egypt, China and Kenya. Her other leisure time interests include gardening, entertaining and she has acquired quite a reputation for making exceedingly good marmalade. We all wish her a lovely, long, well-earned retirement.

LAURINE JONES

Chief Executive Officer

St Dunstan's Association for South African War Blinded Veterans

Lauraine Jones will be taking early retirement at the end of December this year after 18 years of service. She is looking forward to spending more time with her grandchildren and together with her husband, Malcolm they intend to travel around the country to places as yet unvisited. She will continue to maintain an interest by representing St Dunstan's on a Special (National) Military Disability Pensions Committee. We wish Lauraine and Malcolm a long and happy retirement together - bon voyage.

LINDA HOVER

Many visitors and telephone callers to HQ will have been met with a cheery, cockney greeting. Linda was our telephonist/receptionist and clerical assistant for 14 years. She was also a very enthusiastic helper on St Dunstan's stand at the Royal Tournament. Sadly, severe rheumatoid arthritis has forced her to retire early. We extend our warmest wishes to her for the future.

DISABILITY LIVING ALLOWANCE

by Terry Bullingham

A chance discussion during the Remembrance Day weekend has prompted me to draw the above DSS non means-tested benefit to the attention of St Dunstaners under 65 years of age.

Disability Living Allowance (in place since 1992) consists of two parts; a care component and a mobility component. The care component has three levels, however, the Constant Attendance Allowance element of a War Pension removes the eligibility for any of these. The mobility component has an upper and a lower level. St Dunstaners, under 65, who have no additional difficulties other than a visual impairment (this can include partial sight) are eligible for the lower rate of the mobility component, currently £52.35 per lunar month.

Payments are backdated to the date of a claim, which is made, in the first instance, to the Benefits Agency, Benefit Enquiry Line for Disabled People on 0800 882200. A lengthy, multi-page form is issued for completion, the criterion of the document being self-assessment. It is advantageous to enlist the assistance of a professional to complete the form, however, those individuals with less than guiding vision should not experience significant difficulty in answering the questions.

I would stress that the award of the lower-rate mobility component of 'DLA' has absolutely no effect on a War Pension. The allowance is paid until death, hopefully over age 65!

Several pressure groups (notably the National Federation of the Blind) are currently campaigning for all registered blind individuals to be 'passported' to the higher rate of the mobility component, therefore, already being in receipt of the lower rate would be desirable if success is achieved in this area.

Claims are backdated to the date of that initial 'phone call. Readers should be aware of the current debate about benefits.

MASIE STREET

Miss Masie Street died on September 6th. A former VAD, she was one of Avis Spurway's original helpers at *Daedalus* Camp. She became a Member of St Dunstan's in 1968.

A GLORIOUS PHYSIO WEEKEND

by Mike Tetley

Six St Dunstan's Physios met at Ovingdean during the last weekend in September. Alan Wortley, Joe Humphrey, Fred Ripley, John Harris, Barbara Bell and myself, our wives and the widows of Jimmy Legge and Bernard Purcell sat down to an excellent dinner. It was arranged by PBK's Paul James who had taken a great deal of trouble to facilitate a cheerful meal. During the day the weather was glorious, so Alan and Joan Wortley donned their hiking gear, revealing their brown legs, and went for a long walk over the Downs. Alan worked up such a thirst that he decided to pay for all the wine at dinner, for which we thank him.

Joe Humphrey showed us a set of headphones, made in China, which he had just bought from the Tandy shop in West Street, Brighton for around £20. The radio, battery and aerial were most compact and fitted into small ear pieces, producing a magnificently clear sound in either mono or stereo. I was so impressed that the following morning I harnessed up my guide dog and took myself down to West Street and bought myself a set. When I looked back to my mobility 40 years ago, I would have been terrified to have gone down to the middle of Brighton by myself to complete such a mission with my two new plastic eyes. I feel it is up to old fellows to mix with the

newcomers and show them some of the dodges that can be used to get round a problem and how to get round someone in authority who is proving difficult. Lord Fraser told me to find their Achilles heel so when you come across authority it is always worth memorising any weakness in case you have to use it in the future.

Believe it or not, 40 years ago, I shared the back of a taxi with a St Dunstaner called William Shakespeare. As we crossed London, he instructed me to take one new experience at a time and try to maintain my independence so that you are beholden to as few people as possible. With a guide dog and a tongue in your head to ask for help, a blind man can get to most places with patience and forethought.

It was a new St Dunstaner who first introduced me to Barclay Call and Halifax Direct which can make the looking after your money and paying bills so easy just by using a telephone and keeping your sort codes on a Braille 'n' Speak for quick access.

All physios are invited down to Ovingdean next year for the Physio Get Together on Friday, September 25th-27th. Come and swap your experiences with the new St Dunstaners and meet old friends.

Handicraft triumph

by Lenie Hinton

On Wednesday October 1st, St Dunstan's entered an exhibition of art and handicrafts organised by the visually impaired people of Sussex. The event took place at the Sussex Vision Centre, William Moon Lodge, Hollingdean, Brighton. In the afternoon a group of St Dunstaners and escorts visited the centre. St Dunstan's took away several prizes:

Three firsts:

Margaret Bingham Dundee Cake

Frank Tinsley Woodwork - Mirror and Drawer set

Syd Doy Papier-mâché money box

Two second prizes were awarded to:

Reg Goding Woodwork - stool

Syd Doy Papier-mâché mirror

A third prize went to:

Bert Wallage Small wooden chest of drawers

Special Merit went to:

Ron Tingay Woven child's chair

Competition was close. Well done to all who took part.

Life and Times of Ovingdean

by Margaret Bingham



Ovingdean residents at Devil's Dyke.

After so much activity reported in the October *Review*, there has been a much quieter spell of late. The pub runs and visits to various restaurants continue on the same scale. *The King's Head* at Burgess Hill was a new venue and we found it a pleasant change. Some of us sat in the garden for a time enjoying the warm sunshine - all agreed they had enjoyed the visit. These outings are split into two parties going on consecutive days, which probably eases the escort situation somewhat.

We were all saddened at the news of the tragic death of Diana, Princess of Wales. Later in the day, Fred Bentley and myself were interviewed on the local TV (Meridian). We were asked to give our thoughts and feelings as to this sad occurrence.

One evening we had a 'Murder Mystery Night' when we had the opportunity to become Sherlock Holmes for a time. The plot was read to us and the team leader occasionally refreshed our memories with clues. These were discussed in detail with much "Oh no, he was nowhere near at that time" or "The murdered man had been her lover, she was surely suspect." It was all very professional stuff! Hopefully more to come.

Battle of Britain Sunday was celebrated at St Martin Church, Brighton. A party of St Dunstaners attended all looking very smart with medals gleaming.

The Flanagan and Allen Story in Worthing was well attended and the audience joined in all those well remembered songs with gusto.

A proposed visit to the Central Pier became a Mystery Tour when we found Madeira Drive closed

for some function or other. So it was left to good old Neville, our driver, to find a venue with a difference. This he did and we found ourselves at Devil's Dyke. It was too early to get a drink, being Sunday, but we sat in the sun and listened to the children as they flew their beautifully coloured kites from the hilltop.

For the first time ever dogs - other than Guide Dogs - were allowed in the building on an organised basis. Another Pet Day will be arranged shortly.

The Langley Visually Impaired Club spent a full morning with us in September, followed by lunch which they thoroughly enjoyed. After a somewhat limited tour of the building (construction work continuing in the annex) and chatting with various people in the house, they departed to visit Brighton Marina.

Margaret Bingham and Frank Tinsley gave an interview for the November *BT Soundings*.

John Proctor celebrated his 80th birthday in the blue room. A party of his family, St Dunstaners and staff all did justice to a very tasty buffet provided by PBK.



St Dunstan's Olympians having a ball.

On a lovely September afternoon the sporting event of the year took place on the front lawn. St Dunstaners and staff, in two teams, battled it out in seven Olympic style events - giant skittles, penalty kicks, putting, javelin, discus, shotput and archery. Gold and silver medals were awarded to the winners

in each event. Trophies (called Oscars by the participants) were given to the successful team in each event. The Summer Olympics were a great success and the athletes are now in intensive training for the Indoor Winter Olympics to be held here in December.

On October 7th, the annual Christmas pudding making was the order of the day. When Pam Durie, having put all the dry ingredients ready in large basins, supervised the mixing. With much puffing and blowing, the eggs and liquor were mixed, then ladled into basins and finally steamed for a few hours - all ready for the festive season. We were delighted to be entertained once more by the Wendy Mann Dancers (Wendy's mum Maureen is a staff member) and we had poetry and very accomplished dancing by the troupe, whose ages ranged from about six to 18. It was delightful.



Preparing puddings for Christmas.

Five St Dunstaners with escorts visited the cinema at the marina to enjoy "a film of their choice". It was a very successful outing Lynne.

ONCE A RIFLEMAN...

Simon Rogers finds Steve Pendleton hitting the bull's-eye once more



Although it looks like a normal telescopic sight, Steve's rifle is actually an acoustic device.

St Dunstaner Steve Pendleton is back on target. He's returned to the firing range to rekindle the marksmanship that was so essential during his career as a Royal Green Jacket. Already, Steve has beaten sighted opponents in friendly competition.

"It is the only sport I can think of, where I am truly independent," said Steve. "I don't need anyone to call out 'up a bit, down a bit', I can do it all myself."

He does, however, have technological assistance - an acoustic telescope mounted where a sighted person

would have a telescopic sight. As Steve takes aim, a laser reads the target, translating it into a high-pitched noise that increases frequency as he homes in on the bull's-eye. One round later, Steve has scored 48 out of a possible 60.

This success is not technology led, though. Johan Thomson, Steve's trainer at the Mayfair Gun Club in London, is quick to point out that the skill being honed is ear and hand co-ordination rather than eye and hand co-ordination. "If it was just a machine, you would get perfect scores all the time and that doesn't happen."

For Steve, part of the fun is that the full-bore Winchester lever action carbine he is firing is akin to the rifles he used as a Serviceman, but he also feels that he's regained a certain confidence through shooting as a sport. "Handling a rifle is a very responsible thing to do and I feel that if I can compete with a sighted person on equal terms in this, then I can probably do it in other things as well."

Steve is hoping that other St Dunstaners will take up the challenge and is planning to form a St Dunstan's team to take on shooting clubs around the country. Potential marksmen can contact Steve on 01634 271818.

TO TRAVEL THE WORLD WITHOUT EVER LEAVING YOUR HOUSE

Amateur radio might have been invented for blind people. The hobby is made all the more interesting by the ability to make contacts all over the world, the art of conversation with someone in an equal situation - all are blind on the microphone - the ability to operate independently and the widely varying aspects of technology. You can make many new friends; practise languages; enter competitions or delve into many different aspects of communications via satellite, moon bounce or Morse etc.

In order to maintain standards on the air an examination has to be passed. This will involve some serious study either through evening classes, at home or at your local radio society. The Radio Amateur Invalid & Blind Club have manuals on tape for private study. Blind users are exempt from much of the complex circuit diagrams during the test. The test may be taken at home. Success in this first part of the examination entitles one to the B licence, which restricts users to the 2 metre band generally only enabling communications within the UK.

To obtain the A licence, which gives access to the world, a Morse test must be passed. You are

expected to both send and receive at 12 words per minute. There are many aids (cassettes and computer programs) to learning Morse code for it is daily practise which will help you through this exam in relatively short time. Again, this examination may be taken at home.

The days of valves and shelves of heavy equipment are over. Many operators can set up in the living-room. Automatic aerial tuners and speech synthesisers to read out frequency, have made the hobby much more accessible. You do not necessarily need an aerial farm in the garden. A long wire, discreetly stretched between house and a tree or pole may suffice.

The St Dunstan's Amateur Radio Society is always pleased to welcome anyone interested in the hobby at their meetings in Brighton. You will always find a willing helper to explain any aspect of the hobby. Membership of the Society is not obligatory initially.

**For further information please contact:
The Secretary - Ted John on 0151 638 5514.**

MESSAGE FROM THE HEAD OF FUND RAISING

As mentioned in previous editions of the *St Dunstan's Review*, we are distributing ten million fund raising packs all over the United Kingdom. At the time of writing (Armistice Day) seven million packs have been distributed with over 70,000 donations being received as a result of this.

In addition to the donations, some 20-30 people per month are being drawn to our attention who in many cases may be eligible for support from St Dunstan's and we have also been able to reunite some long lost relatives and friends with a small number of St Dunstaners.

The letters of support just keep flooding in, constantly reiterating how much people care about "our blind ex-Service men and women." There is a general feeling of disgust that St Dunstan's was turned

down by the National Lottery and surprise that St Dunstan's has never been funded by the Government. It is quite clear that having returned to fund raising we must be prepared to keep up the pressure, which is precisely what we intend to do next year.

I should like to thank all the staff and volunteers in the Fund Raising department for their hard work during 1997. They have dealt with approximately 100,000 cash donations, not to mention covenants, gift aids and legacies.

As Christmas approaches the Fund Raising department team would like to wish you all a very Happy Christmas.

Neil Swan

COMPUTER GROUP MEETING

October 9th-10th
by Ray Hazan

For many years St Dunstaners throughout the country will have been heard swearing at their computers only to be responded to by a dull, indulging voice. Now these most frustrating of machines might take note as to who is boss! The time has arrived when computers can be dictated to - read on!

An encouraging number of St Dunstaners attended the two days at Ovingdean. Our thanks to Janis who ensured her programme and computer room were free for the period.

The first day was primarily devoted to a demonstration of the Voice Diary. This is a talking organiser. However it is now apparent that Cobalt Systems are not taking up the option to become the UK agents. They are looking at a cheaper French alternative and details about this will be published as soon as available.

There was talk and a demonstration of using the Internet. Some problems accessing the Internet with speech via Windows 95 and Internet Explorer made themselves apparent, but this was perhaps due to unfamiliarity with the program and speech. Anyone interested in the DOS Nettamer version should contact Ray Hazan. Existing users described the ways in which they benefited. It would be a very simple and easy way for St Dunstaners to contact each other.

There was an extremely good dinner that evening, attended by 23 people. Hopefully the ladies were not too overwhelmed by 'shop' talk!

The second day concentrated on Windows 95 and there were a few less frowns and puzzled faces after a demonstration by Janis. Most impressive of all was a demonstration of the IBM *Simply Speaking* voice input program. Wearing a headset with boom microphone attached, Janis dictated a short length of text, which the computer took down almost word perfectly. Even more surprising was when another member of the group dictated a passage. Bearing in mind the program had been trained for a female voice, the second dictation was accepted again, flawlessly leaving the group member concerned about his masculinity!

The program normally needs to be 'trained' to the user's voice. A problem was discovered that the voice output would not prompt the blind user during

the training process. I am advised by Computability that either a sighted person could do this for you or you need not even bother at all and the program would eventually train itself to the actual user's voice.

There are three variations of the *Simply Speaking* programme. The basic version costs £49 and places your dictation in its own word processor. *The Simply Speaking Gold* or *Via Voice* programs are a little more powerful. For instance, a single word dictated can insert a complete pre-defined phrase. *Via Voice* is due to be upgraded so that it can understand windows commands. *Gold* costs £99. The price of *Via Voice* with upgrade is not known at the time of going to press. All prices include VAT and headset. These packages are available from dealers throughout the UK, but telephone IBM on 01705 429249 who will tell you who is your nearest dealer.

Susan Harrison joined the group for a general discussion with regard to backup facilities for St Dunstaners. The RNIB volunteer scheme was re-emphasised as an initial port of call for those wanting to install new programs, or who were having trouble with their systems.

It is likely that Janis would be receiving some assistance in setting up equipment at Ovingdean. Janis is always available to answer telephone queries, but callers should bear in mind her teaching hours. The request for short courses at Ovingdean was being looked into.

It was further agreed to set up a database to be held by Ray at HQ and Janis in Brighton. Thus if anyone had a problem with a specific piece of software, the database could be consulted and people put in touch with each other. The database is entirely dependent on the input and general support. Please would all St Dunstaners willing to co-operate and who are prepared to allow their telephone number to be passed on privately upon an enquiry, let Ray at HQ have a list of the hardware and software they are using.

Our thanks go to Janis Sharp for all her help, to PBK for providing an excellent dinner, and all the staff at Ovingdean who helped make our stay both easy and comfortable.

The next meeting of St Dunstan's Computer Group will take place on October 8th-9th 1998.

AIRSHIP MANIA

Ken Revis of Oxford admits to being an airship nut. He says that at the age of six he heard of a certain Major Scott who lived in the large house at the end of the road who was "something to do with airships."

In fact, that Major Scott commanded the rigid airship R.34 which made the first return transatlantic flight in a lighter than air machine in 1919, when Ken was two years of age.

Then Ken met one of the design staff on the airship R.101 and was fascinated by a model of that airship on the bonnet of his Citroën car, that was in 1930 and for some years there had been talk in Bedford of the building of the R.101 at Cardington. It was soon known that the huge German airship, the Graf Zeppelin, was to pay a courtesy visit there.

Ken biked to Cardington about three miles away and with scores of others, positioned himself along the hedge of the airfield of the Royal Airship Works. At about five o'clock in the afternoon a speck appeared from the South, enlarging itself as an airship glinting in the sky. As the large German airship came closer and was quite clearly preparing to land excitement mounted and Ken and his friends burst through the hedge and ran helter-skelter to where the Zeppelin was about to alight. All this was unforgettable, after all, says Ken, it was only 10 or 15ft above our heads and held down by a ground crew clinging to guy ropes. Then the commander and some passengers climbed down to the ground and some mail was off-loaded. There were some salutes and handshakes as the visitors were greeted by the bigwigs at Cardington and less than half-an-hour later prepared to move off.

The huge dirigible lifted into the air and Ken saw a German engineer climb down from the body of the ship into the engine car that particular one started.

That was in April 1930 and in late June of that same year Ken was taken by his friend to Cardington to see the R.101, which had just been lengthened to 777ft, flying at the mooring mast. They climbed the 220ft tower and Ken went up by an outside iron ladder to inspect the coupling to which the R.101 was attached by the nose. Then he walked into the

ship itself along a pale blue carpeted corridor to look at the cabins and the huge lounge.

Later of course, history tells us the R.101 crashed on its maiden flight to India, not even reaching Paris, and came to grief near Beauvais in France with a loss of 48 out of 54 passengers, officers and crew and Lord Thomson, the Secretary of State for Air, was among the dead. Ken had given many talks on lighter than air machines - the Montgolfier brothers balloon of 1783, the epic flight of Alberto Santos Dumont, the Brazilian pioneer, who was given a prize for circling the Eiffel Tower in an airship in 1906 - his interest has never faded.

Hearing on the radio of the Virgin airship, Ken loosed off a letter to Richard Branson and said "May I have a flight in your airship please?" This resulted in a friendly phone call from the Virgin Airship Company and sent Ken and Jo scuttling off to Hinton-in-the-Hedges in Oxfordshire, a one-time wartime airfield.

There they met Richard Preece, the airship tour manager, Tony Allen, the airship's pilot, Jacqui Barclay, the BBC television lady and her cameraman. Filming and interviewing started immediately and Ken and Jo went up in the Virgin airship. The rather chubby ship is filled with 70,000 cubic feet of helium, is about 130ft long and has two Volkswagen engines slung on either side of the gondola, which takes four, and each engine has a 5ft propeller.

After about 25 minutes in the air they came down and Jo's place was taken by the BBC people, Ken was interviewed and with his headset talked to the pilot and the ground controller. "The flight was absolutely marvellous," said Ken. As he and Jo drove away the Virgin airship took off once more to make a recce of the Silverstone circuit as it was due to film the British Grand Prix there in three days time, Sunday, July 13th.

That evening on the box Ken's delighted face said it all and there were shots of Ken climbing into the gondola, and seated by the pilot and some good air to ground shots. From 5,000,000 cubic feet of hydrogen to 70,000 cubic feet of helium took 67 years with several balloon flights in between.

10th International War Blinded Congress (IKK)

The above triennial conference took place in Paris from September 12th-16th. The IKK is a Federation of War Blind organisations who meet to discuss and compare the rights and pensions of the war blind, provide mutual help where possible in the fields of training and exchange visits, and assist those countries where such organisations do not exist or are trying to set themselves up. In Pakistan, for instance, such an organisation is illegal.

Eleven countries attended the conference - Canada, Finland, France, Germany, Hungary, Italy, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Russia and the United Kingdom. Each country reported on its activities during the preceding three years. The European countries were concerned with maintaining pension levels and rights for older Veterans, whilst others were concerned for the victims of continuing struggles such as the Portuguese Colonies in Africa. Resolutions were adopted dealing with the welfare of the war blind and the development of weapons which specifically aim to blind, such as laser weapons.

Every day of the year a rekindling of the flame at the Tomb of the Unknown Warrior, which lies under the arches of the Arc de Triomphe, takes place. The delegates participated in this ceremony and laid a wreath on Sunday evening.

During a break in deliberations, the delegates took the opportunity to visit Louis Braille's home in Coupvray to the east of Paris. We felt around the workshop, where three year old Louis had an accident at his father's workbench, which caused his loss of sight by the age of five.

We also had the opportunity to touch the early examples of Captain Barbier de la Serre's 12 dot system, upon which Louis based his 6 dot code, as we know it now.

The Congress concluded with elections and the following were voted to stand for the next three years:

President	Ray Hazan	UK
1st Vice President	Heinrich Johannig	Germany
2nd Vice President	Italo Frioni	Italy
3rd Vice President	Wladyslaw Golab	Poland

In his speech of acceptance, Ray saw five priorities for the IKK:

1. To maintain pension levels for older Veterans

2. Newly blinded victims should continue now and in the future to receive training and benefits comparable with those of their predecessors
3. Countries should resist any attempt to make savings to their national social service budget by reducing any part of the war pension
4. IKK should speak out against the development of laser blinding, chemical and biological weapons and the banning of those already produced
5. IKK should continually strive to help those countries with emerging War Blind organisations or encourage the formation where no such exist

The 11th Meeting of the International Congress of the War Blind is likely to be held in the UK in the year 2000.

Happy birthday!



Martha Eliza Jordan celebrated her 100th birthday on September 19th at Springfield Nursing Home, Crawley which has been her home for many years. Champagne and a magnificent buffet was enjoyed by members of her family, friends and staff and residents of Springfield. She was particularly proud of her telegram she had received from HM The Queen and the letter of congratulations from St Dunstan's Chairman.

Martha was born on September 19th 1897 and married her husband Albert on December 7th 1918. He was wounded on December 1st 1917 whilst serving with the 17th Middlesex Regiment at Cambrai and became a St Dunstaner on January 18th 1918. Albert sadly died in 1972.



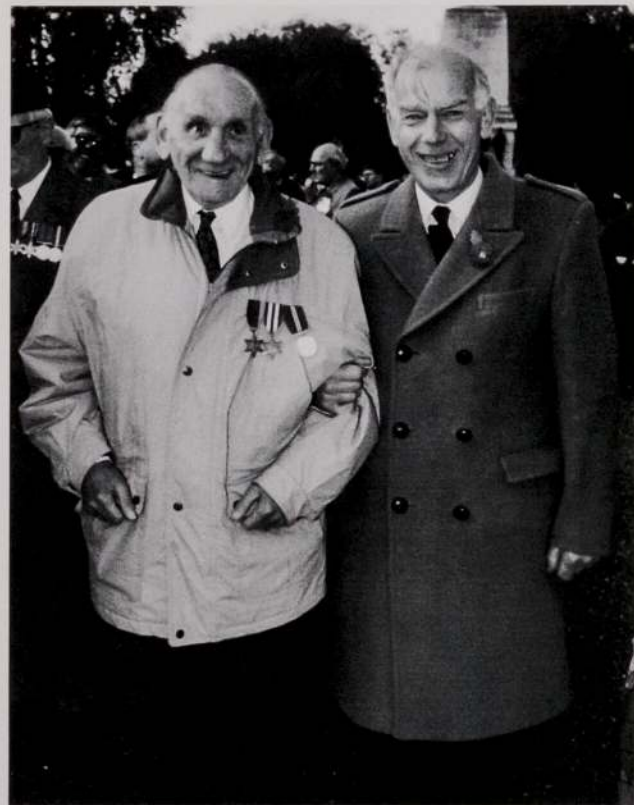
Prince Andrew takes the final salute as St Dunstan's contingent concludes its march of remembrance.

Remembrance Sunday, November 9th

by Ray Hazan

As Big Ben wound its inexorable way to 11 o'clock, the teeming rain drowned out any tears of emotion. But as the Royal Horse Artillery Field Gun sounded the beginning of the two minute silence, even the rain stopped in an act of Remembrance. The 92 St Dunstaners, 36 widows and one widower plus their escorts stood to remember fallen comrades to the backdrop of a strong breeze sighing up Whitehall.

St Dunstaner Fred Bentley with his escort, General Sir Peter de la Billière.



It must have been an emotional moment for our Chairman. This was to be the last year in which he led the St Dunstan's contingent past the Cenotaph.

Our President, Colin Beaumont-Edmonds, MC, was on his right elbow and on his left was Marcus Graham, the last person to see Sir Henry's father (more about this later). In addition, Sir Henry was pushing Winnie Edwards in a wheelchair.

Amongst the main body were General Sir Peter de la Billière, accompanying Fred Bentley, who had served in his former Regiment, the Devon and Dorset Light Infantry. Sir Harry Secombe escorted Ron Cattell and Stan Grimsey, both ex-FEPoW's. It was a proud moment for Ray Hazan to be accompanied by his son Jonathan, recently commissioned into the Royal Tank Regiment.

Heading the wheelchair contingent was Lionel Scott, pushed by Lt Col Tim Courtenay, Royal Marines. Lionel was on active service in Aden from 1964 to 1967. It was Lionel who handed over St Dunstan's wreath, a fitting gesture as this year marks the 30th anniversary of the withdrawal of British troops from that Protectorate. Also in the wheelchair contingent was Fred Hobbs, our remaining surviving St Dunstaner from the First World War. Former Spitfire pilot and BBC commentator Raymond Baxter accompanied ex-RAF member Stewart Harris. Behind them came our War Widows, some of whom were in wheelchairs. All were kept in step by CSM Roberts, Welsh Guards.

The new venue for the Remembrance reunion was the *Forté Post House* Regent's Park, a significant



Stan Grimsey marching with Sir Harry Secombe and Ron Cattell.



With thoughts of Flanders Fields, Fred Hobbs keeps the faith.



Susan Harrison, Dr John Janvrin and Sir Henry Leach.



Two Royal Marine St Dunstaners, Steve Nixon and Jack Mason.



A poignant moment for St Dunstan's widows. **Below:** Field Gun Salute.



Sir John Gingell, Colin Beaumont-Edmonds and Rolf Blach.



St Dunstan's President, Colin Beaumont-Edmonds, Marcus Graham and Winnie Edwards joined St Dunstan's Chairman, Admiral of the Fleet Sir Henry Leach as he led the tribute.

improvement. Thanks are due to Deputy Head of Fund Raising, Pat Moore-Searson, who found this new hotel and successfully negotiated a sizeable discount. Just under 300 guests sat down to lunch. In his speech, Sir Henry started by welcoming two new St Dunstaners, Samuel Threlfall and Robert Hughes attending for the first time. Our eldest on parade was Fred Hobbs, aged 98, and the youngest was Jason Hobday at an 'advanced 27'!

The Chairman went on to mention some of the helpers, each of whom received appreciative applause. Special tribute was paid to our President

Colin Beaumont-Edmonds and his wife, Joyce, who do so much for St Dunstan's and for blind people in their local area in the West Country.

This was also the last occasion on which our Pensions and Admissions Officer, Peter Marshall would be organising the event as he retires at the end of the year. Sir Henry thanked him for this and all the area reunions, which he had organised over the years. Sir Henry went on to refer to the sensitive issue of the invitation to consider carrying white canes. "Whilst the occasion should not be turned into a political or advertising stunt, it is the one occasion of the year when St Dunstan's appears in public in any numbers. The decision is yours!"

Sir Henry restated the purpose of the day. "We remember with gratitude, pride and humility all those who gave their lives, their sight, their limbs or their health in two World Wars and many other conflicts since. We also remember with sympathy and admiration their wives and their widows. We do so earnestly hope that such sacrifice will never be needed again, but with the confidence that their young successors will show the same selflessness and courage if called upon to do so."

The Chairman concluded with an emotional tale of destiny. On December 10th 1941, his father, Captain Leach, commanding the Battleship *Prince of Wales*, was drowned with 600 others when the ship was sunk by Japanese aircraft.

A young Royal Naval Volunteer Reserve Lieutenant, Marcus Graham struggled vainly to tow his Captain's body to a destroyer picking up survivors, but was overcome by exhaustion. He was consequently the last to see Sir Henry's father. "It was my privilege to have him on my court hand during my last Cenotaph parade this morning."

Terry Bullingham responded on behalf of St Dunstaners, "We should be mindful of those, who for a variety of reasons, are unable to experience the fellowship of the occasion." Terry referred to a similar Service of Remembrance being held in Silent Valley, Aden on the same day. Major-General Andrew Keeling, RM, our Member of Council, and Lt Col Peter Irven, our Pensions and Admissions Officer designate, both Aden Veterans, were laying a wreath at the war cemetery.

"In addition to having both served in the Royal Navy, albeit at opposite ends of the spectrum, your

Chairman and I became involved with St Dunstan's in the same year - 1982. I well remember his words of encouragement and support at my bedside in the aftermath of the Falklands War."

Terry went on to relate an amusing anecdote from Sir Henry's book *Endure No Makeshifts*, which he urged everyone to read. Before thanking the staff of the Post House, he expressed the "gratitude of all to St Dunstan's, its Members of Council, staff, volunteers and donors for the all embracing and individual support we have received over so many years. Without that support, or knowledge of its availability, our present situations would have been so very different."

It was a day upon which Sir Henry had led one of the strongest contingents for many years; a fitting tribute for this, his last Remembrance Sunday parade at the head of the St Dunstan's column.



Raymond Baxter escorting Stewart Harris.

Balancing the Books

by Ted Bunting

The Wimbledon Poisoner

Author: Nigel Williams

Reader: Raymond Sawyer

Duration: 11 hours

Catalogue number: 8418

Murder has always had a strange attraction for the general public, murder by poisoning especially; so it was with the anticipation of natural macabre fascination that I embarked on *The Wimbledon Poisoner*. I learned from the outset that this man, Henry something or the other, was intent on killing his wife and I was most interested to find out how he achieved it (not through any sinister motive of my own let me assure you) but because I understand forensic science is so advanced today that poison in any form is sure to be detected.

But sadly, all I learned was this was yet another so-called 'comedy' completely devoid of humour, and that the author mistakenly believed that foul language and obscenity could substitute for talent and writing skill. And to make matters even worse, the plot was quite incredible, lacking even such plausibility as a well penned farce would possess.

One is asked to believe for instance that this Henry character, having bungled his first attempt and murdered his best friend instead of his spouse, then uses the funeral as an opportunity to poison several of the mourners with a bowl of punch laced with domestic bleach.

It's not as if one even knew why he was so anxious to kill his wife in the first place; fair enough she nagged him, but don't they all?

Let's face it, if every hen-pecked husband took to woman-slaughter, the world's roads would be gridlocked with hearses. So avoid *The Wimbledon Poisoner* like the plague; it's neither funny nor clever, and as entertainment, in my view, it is a story which fails utterly.

BLIND AND HANDLESS REUNION 1997

by TED MILLER

On Wednesday October 1st, we again made our way to Ovingdean for the Blind and Handless Reunion. We did not arrive until late in the afternoon, so we didn't meet our friends until supper time. After supper we made our way to the Blue Room for a chat. We were sorry not to see Tommy and Audrey Gaygan, but Tommy has been very poorly for a long time. We were sorry too, that Pam and Wally Lethbridge would not be staying in the house, as Pam was not at all well. But, they had Jock Carnochan staying with them and he acted as Wally's escort. Jozef Loska, John and May Proctor joined us for two of our dinners up in the Winter Garden, which we will tell you about later.

So, our little party consisted of Gwennie Obern, our Chairlady and her escort, June, Bill and Alice Griffiths, Winnie Edwards and her escort, and myself and my wife, Iris. I must say here how much we shall miss Sybil Bell who passed away just recently, she was such a lovely person.

On Thursday morning, during breakfast, we met Susan Harrison, the new General Manager. Afterwards, we went to the chapel for the Communion Service. We all then made our way back to the Television Room where we had coffee before discussing our plans for the rest of our stay. We had an excellent supper that night up in the Winter Garden, thanks to Paul and his catering staff. It was grand to see Jozef with his son, John, and we were happy that John and May Proctor were able to join us. We then went up to the bar for the rest of the evening.

On Friday morning, we were to go on a mystery tour, and Michael, our driver, kept us in suspense and would not tell us where we were going. Eventually we arrived at the Wyevale Gardening Centre where we had tea and coffee before having a look around the gardens. As usual we ended up buying plants, and Winnie's escort bought quite a few as she is making a new garden. We then boarded the coach for the rest of our mystery tour.

On the way back towards Brighton, Michael paused to show us the house where Vera Lynn lives. Alice popped up ready to knock at the door to ask her to meet the boys and girls, and perhaps sing us a song. But, Michael thought we had better move on. Later,

we arrived at the *Hove Manor Restaurant*, where we were made very welcome by the staff and had a splendid lunch. After supper, we made our way as usual to the bar, and had another pleasant evening remembering old times and singing old songs. Thank you, Michael, for a lovely day out.

On Saturday morning, my wife and Alice went down into Brighton to do some shopping. Then after lunch, the coach took us all down to Wally and Pam's house for afternoon tea, we are always made most welcome there. It was lovely to spend some time with Pam who said she was feeling a bit better. Thank you Pam and Wally, not forgetting Jock. I must say, Jock was very helpful especially with the jokes he told us ..ha..ha.. tell me another one do.

It was to be a special supper this night as we were going to celebrate our Chairlady's birthday. Paul again did us proud, but he left us to look after ourselves. Pam came up to wish Gwennie a 'Happy Birthday' with a glass of champagne, and stayed just long enough to hear Wally give a lovely speech, thanking Gwennie for all the work she does on our behalf. Jozef and his son came and it was so nice to have them with us. After the meal we cleared the tables, but left the washing-up and then made our way up to the bar. I think we all know the way there by now.

On Sunday morning, the coach took us to Saint Margaret's Church in Rottingdean, where as well as being the Harvest Festival Service, there was to be a Baptism of a little boy, Christian. The church was absolutely packed. It is a beautiful church, and it was a lovely Service given by the Rt Rev Peter Ball.

In the evening, we were guests of the current High Sheriff of East Sussex at his lovely old farmhouse which he told us was over 600 years old. He was at the door to meet us, but we were very sorry and disappointed to hear that his wife was very unwell and unable to meet us. But, Mr Whitmore made us most welcome and coped splendidly with a couple of young lady helpers. He told us about Hartfield, the village where A. A. Milne lived and wrote *Winnie the Pooh*. He added that they now get very many visitors, including lots of Japanese, who are very interested in Pooh. We sat in the drawing room by a lovely log fire set in a large inglenook. We then had

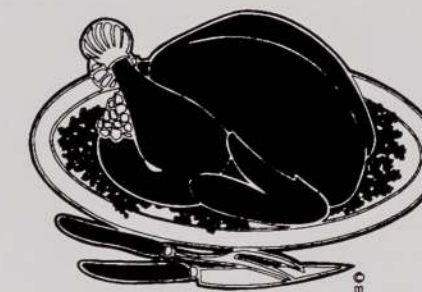
an excellent meal with champagne and wine in the dining room. My grandson would have said "That was a 5-star meal, Grandad." After our meal we returned to the drawing room where we had a long talk with our host. Bill gave the vote of thanks, before we took our leave. David, our driver, then had his orders from Wally to make for the bar before it closed at 11 o'clock. Thank you, Mr Whitmore, for a lovely evening.

On Monday, our final day, we met in the Television Room to talk over the plans for the day. Iris and Alice went down to Rottingdean to finish their shopping.

After lunch, we had a discussion with Gerard Frost, John Loughran and Marion Lurot from headquarters, and our own President Sir John Gingell, about our welfare which was held in the Committee Room. At about 4 o'clock, we returned to our own rooms to get ready for our farewell dinner in the Winter Garden with staff and guests. Our guests included Sir Henry Leach, the Chairman of St Dunstan's, Mr L. Whitmore, the High Sheriff of East Sussex, and Mr R. Petley, a former Sheriff who, with his wife, made us very welcome at their home at one of our previous reunions, John Loughran, Gerard Frost, Marion Lurot, Clare Woods, Sir John and Lady Gingell, and we were so pleased that John and May Proctor were able to join us for our final dinner.

After grace, we sat down to another excellent meal prepared by Paul and his staff who always do us proud. After the Loyal Toast, Sir John gave us his usual witty speech, and then Gwennie rose to give an excellent vote of thanks to all our friends, especially to St Dunstan's. Bouquets were then presented to our lady guests, and then Gwennie was given a little gift from us all for all she does on our behalf. The party ended about 9.30pm and we then said our farewells before making our way to the bar for a drink and a sing-song. Some of our guests joined us there - that was very nice. As always I should like to thank all the staff, and I mean all the staff, including the drivers, the catering staff (especially Paul) and all the helpers for making it such a memorable occasion. We all send our love to Tommy and Audrey, and Pam and hope they will soon be feeling better. Our love too, to Ivy Southall and Joan Higgs who we all remember and miss. The weather was very kind to us, still they always say 'The Sun Shines on the Righteous'. Funny though it poured with rain the day we left.

Thank you all for another grand reunion, they always bring back so many memories.



XMAS HINTS

by Iain Millard
(our Roving Chef)

CRANBERRY RELISH (SERVES EIGHT)

Ingredients:

1lb cranberries (fresh)
zest & juice of one orange
piece of cinnamon stick
3oz sugar
4 cloves
1/2 teaspoon ginger
2 tablespoons port

Method:

Put all the ingredients, except the port, into a saucepan and bring slowly to the boil. Simmer for five minutes. Leave to cool and then stir in the port. Pour into container and freeze until required.

The ingredients will mulch down, but pieces of cinnamon and clove can be removed, before or after serving, according to taste.

HANDY TIP

For those of you who have difficulty in removing your turkey from the roasting dish, I have the following simple solution.

1. Get a length of string which is twice the length of the roasting dish and tie a knot at the two open ends.
2. Tie a knot at each end of the loop about 2-3ins down to form a handle at each end.
3. Place the turkey over the string, which should be opened out. Lift the turkey by the handles and place in the dish put in the oven. When cooked, all you have to do is pick up handles and remove the turkey.

GARDENING WEEK AT CHESTER

by Margaret Bingham

The coach trip up from Brighton to Chester was a long and arduous journey and we were all very relieved when we reached *The Dene Hotel*, our home for a week on the outer limits of the city. It is a very comfortable hotel, good food and a well-stocked bar. The staff were very pleasant and nothing was too much trouble.

Members from the north who had come by hired transport awaited us and soon there was a buzz of conversation as old friends greeted each other and exchanged pleasantries.

The Annual General Meeting was opened by Bob Alty giving an account of the places we hoped to visit, but with a warning to the group of the possibility of the Stapeley Water Gardens being closed or only opening for a limited period because of the funeral of Diana, Princess of Wales. This was understandable and the club was very moved by the sad happenings going on.

Bob went on to refer to the death of Les Bushell and Peter Jones and called for a minutes silence in memory of them. We all signed a card which was sent to Rene with expressions of goodwill and love. This was followed by apologies for absence from Marjorie and Dorothy Ball.

Then Bob dropped his bombshell by saying he could no longer carry on as Chairman, he found the job too arduous and difficult and he would be resigning at the end of the week. Likewise John and Irene McDermott would offer their resignations for the same reasons. He hoped some club members would feel capable of taking over thus enabling our Gardening Club to continue. The minutes of the last meeting were read and passed.

Now on to our trip as the coach waited to take us to Ness Gardens in the Wirral. We travelled along a road called St Dunstan's Lane to the gardens which had extensive grounds overlooking the lovely River Dee. A beautiful, tranquil spot! Away from all the hustle of the nearby town. We wandered about noting various plants for our own interests. There were some beautiful roses, one in particular, Fulton McKay, a brilliant red and highly scented. Some of the old-fashioned roses growing in squared off plots

were being tested for black spot and mildew. A few bushes had signs of disease.

Trees and shrubs from different parts of the world were of particular interest. A *Prunus serrula rosa* from West China was most unusual with rings of coloured bark the whole length of the tree. Another outstanding tree was Angels Trumpet, with large pinky white trumpet-shaped blooms, underplanted with various coloured heathers. These were found in banks and around large white stones showing colours very effectively.

The grounds looking down to the river bank looked to have been landscaped, as trees with beautiful foliage grew singly or en masse. At the furthest extremity of the garden were two large pools with water lilies, reeds and ducks swimming around with their newborn chicks.

The sales department did a good trade with our club as few came away empty-handed. On sale was a new line from America, saplings and shrubs though green at the time should turn a gorgeous rosy colour in the autumn.

For our visit to Chirk Castle on September 3rd, the weather turned out to give a damp, misty and chilly day. The various flocks of sheep looked rather ethereal as they continually chewed their cud on the beautifully kept grassland.

The castle built about 1295 has been described as a dramatic dungeon hollowed out of the rock and with circular towers built to provide defensive viewpoints over the surrounding countryside.

The magnificent fortress close to the Welsh border has been in use constantly since then by the Myddelton family who bought Chirk for £5,000 in 1595. Of course, the pound went further then!

Medieval Chirk was owned by a succession of immensely powerful figures of both good and ill repute, but most came to an untimely end. At one time it became the property of the Earl of Arundel with violent interruptions until 1415 when it fell to the Lancastrian Kings. After a very turbulent period it was bought by Sir Thomas Myddelton in 1595. In

the eyes of the Denbighshire people he was a self-made London businessman and his purchase of Chirk was considered an act of "monstrous presumption." He amassed a huge fortune from his activities and in 1613 became Lord Mayor of London.

There were many treasures in the castle, porcelain, tapestries, furniture attributed to Ince and Mayhew, plasterwork by Robert Adams and much more. Because of the wet weather we did not all visit the garden but a picture showed them to have beautiful yew topiary. Clippings from the yews are sent out to the USA to be used in cancer drug research.

On September 4th, our group visited Chester Cathedral in the centre of the city.

In Anglo-Saxon times, Dominican monks had built a monastery where the present cathedral now stands and St Wurberg, the abbess, was very prominent in the progress of the monastic life of that time. She is still commemorated in the life of Chester.

We were shown how the monks lived and worked in what we now consider the cloisters. We saw the scriptorium where manuscripts and other religious works were laboriously written by monks sometimes as young as twelve. The refectory and dormitories were also in the cloisters.

After the Norman invasion, the monastery began to change under the influence of the local lord, Hugh Lupus. He built the present north transept with typical Norman arches and windows correctly known as Romanesque. His choir is very magnificent with its carved stalls and panelling.

The rebuilding of the church progressed westwards down the ages. The two lines of magnificent pillars were erected in the different centuries. The brilliant west window was reglazed after the last war and at this moment the nave floor is being relaid.

We were indebted to our guide, Nick, who made the visit to this ancient and magnificent building so interesting. He brought the past to life.

Afterwards we made our way to another famous cathedral city, Liverpool, or to be more precise, Albert Docks which has the largest group of listed buildings in Britain. There are scores of speciality shops, restaurants, bars and dockside cafes. Many other attractions including Merseyside Maritime Museum and The Beatles Story. Fred, the



St Dunstaners Winnie Edwards, Margaret Bingham and John McDermott at the Water Garden.

weatherman, does his report from the floating map in the dock. Located here is the Customs and Excise Museum depicting the story of smuggling from the 1700's to the present day.

Albert Dock is where the great liners left for the transatlantic crossings taking immigrants before the war and soldiers during the war.

The weather was good on September 5th, allowing us to walk around the grounds of Tatton Park at our leisure. Set in mid-Cheshire, this estate has artifacts dating from the Stone Age proving there had been some kind of habitation in the vicinity for 2,000 years.

The Egerton family have lived at Tatton Park from the 16th century when Sir Thomas was a Baron. In the house there are state apartments, family rooms and servants' quarters all open to the public. Some of the rooms contain original furniture made by Gillows of Lancaster. Cherry coloured silk walls and inlaid furniture in the music room helped create a feeling of warmth and luxury. This contrasted with the cold, spartan servants' quarters. Children are encouraged to visit the kitchen and make cakes from very old recipes. With the lingering aroma of baked cakes we escaped into the 50 acres of garden!

The gardens are full of exotic trees, shrubs, ponds and fountains. The orangery produces fruit all the year round, being one of the few outside Kew to do so. There is a physic garden laid out with box hedging 'chequerboard' fashion filled with herbs.

In the entrance there is a step with the date 1630 engraved on it. The roses were full of scent, lovely in the brilliant sunshine. We walked from the rose garden back towards the house across undulating grass and shade-giving trees to the fountain of flowers and yew trees in the Italian garden in front of the house. In the parkland there is a large herd of red deer. After a lovely visit we returned to the hotel.

Stapeley Water Gardens was our destination for September 6th. After a late start because of members wishing to watch Diana's funeral, we left to visit an excellent garden centre. When we got off the coach we went for tea and a bun and then went our separate ways. Some went to see the Yesteryear Museum with its varied vehicles. Children were well catered for with a display of Dinky toys and aircraft. Facilities for disabled people were excellent. In the garden centre traditionally designed pools can be found amongst a maze of ponds. Stapeley is the home of the national collection of water lilies where

over 350 varieties are grown. Unfortunately some of the gardens were closed owing to a wedding party.

We held our wind up meeting on the morning of September 7th. No nominations for a committee were received, therefore it was agreed to wind up the club. The club funds are being held by St Dunstan's in case a future Gardening Club comes into existence.

At the end of the meeting gratuities were given to the hotel manager who advised that they would be distributed at Christmas with other gifts.

In the morning some members went to church and in the afternoon we had a leisurely cruise on the River Dee passing through a pastoral setting on one side and tree-lined on the other. It gave such a peaceful farewell to the St Dunstan's Gardening Club allowing us to enjoy the last get-together in the evening before thinking about the return to our various homes.

SHUT OUT THAT BURGLAR

These are a few handy tips to help deter burglars.

Have quality 5-lever mortice locks fitted to your doors at home.

Fit and *use* window locks.

Plant prickly bushes or shrubs around your fences and windows.

Always use a door chain when answering the door.

If someone calls in a professional capacity, ask for proof of identification before undoing the door chain. Some organisations use a password to help identify their representatives.

Only list your surname and initial in the telephone directory, not your full name.

Ask your local police about security marking your valuables. The police can give you a sticker for your windows advertising you have done this.

Put gravel in your driveway (if you have one). The noise warns you of approaching visitors and discourages unwanted ones.

When you go out, shout, 'goodbye' to an imaginary person left in the house.

Leave a radio on while you're out.

Never hide a spare key outside - it will be found!

Be a good neighbour and offer to take deliveries for those away from home.

If you live in a Neighbourhood Watch area, display a sticker in the front and back windows.

If a Neighbourhood Watch scheme is not in existence, don't sit back and wait for it to happen! Find out about setting one up by talking to your local police or Neighbourhood Watch co-ordinator.

Change your answerphone message to 'I'm busy and can't get to the phone right now', rather than 'I'm not here'.

If you see someone acting suspiciously, a simple 'Can I help you?' should do the trick. Potential thieves don't like being noticed!

More tips will feature in the *Review* soon.

THE LAST DROP?



THE BATTLE OF ARNHEM, 53RD ANNIVERSARY SEPT 1944-97

IN TANDEM BY RAY SHERIFF AND CSM D. YOUNG

Once again, "For the Last Time" 18 members of the "Arnhem Veterans Parachute Team" boarded the Paramount coach which had ferried the tandem masters from the UK. The time was 07.30, the date Saturday, September 20th. Our destination was to an airfield at Deelen, situated 10 miles north of Arnhem. Fortunately, the weather was ideal for parachuting, sun shining from a clear, cloudless sky, with just a gentle breeze. Sergeant-Major Dougie Young and I were looking forward to completing our third jump together. As he fitted and adjusted my harness he put me in the picture re the type of aircraft being used, where the exits are situated, port, starboard or rear plus sitting or standing exit.

On this occasion he informed me that three aircraft were being used. Two Cessna Caravans with rear-gate exit, or more simply, a plane with a hole in the back-end, therefore exit from a sitting position. I had no experience of this aircraft. The third aircraft was a

Britten-Norman Islander, flown in from Germany, which was to carry six static line solo jumpers. The three aircraft formation was led by the Islander. Each of the Cessnas carried six tandems, jump-master cum-cameraman. Dougie and I were in the last Cessna. We duly emplaned at 09.30. It was not too comfortable. Pretty tightly packed, with little room for movement in any direction. Our flight southward towards Arnhem, gained altitude to 13,000ft which took approximately 25 minutes. Dougie and I were seated on the starboard side. He kept me well informed from time to time as to varying landmarks, the Bridge at Arnhem and the River Rhine. Giving me his altimeter reading at 12,000ft the final strap adjustments are made thus to ensure that one does not part company in mid-air! I realised as a result of the cramped conditions, Dougie was having difficulty in fully tightening the left side strap. However, suddenly I felt the gust of cold air as the jump-master opened the exit door and moved out. So, within seconds Dougie was giving me the order to slide forward to exit, then legs together, head back and away. Normally I get a sharp tap on my shoulder which means arms outwards to front, thus commencing the 7,000ft free fall. I noticed a slight jerk to the left but no tap on my shoulder, or in fact, no activating of the drogue 'chute as normally

expected. I wondered if I had missed the tap signal. I decided to remain in exit position, arms across my chest, and did so until the main 'chute was opened at 6,000ft. I immediately enquired of Dougie "Did I make a mess of that?" or words to that effect. Must admit I was quite relieved when he assured me that I had done the correct drill by remaining with arms crossed. The last 6,000ft, under the canopy down to terra firma took approximately five minutes, proved enjoyable and relaxing. The 7,000ft free fall only took 35 seconds. The final touch down almost feather-like. No credit to me just the expertise of Doug. He then explained to me that he had not been able to tighten up quite enough on the left-hand strap. Thus, on leaving exit we went straight into a left-hand turn, which of course had to be counteracted before opening the drogue 'chute and getting on to the right downward course.

Therefore, the less movement from me proved the right action to adopt... not often I do the right thing.

So endeth my last tandem parachute jump? Luckily with a clean bill of health. Thus my final tally of solo and tandems reaches 30. How small and insignificant this number is when one considers the Sergeant-Major's jumps to date are just over 4,000. These were completed whilst serving with the 1st Parachute Regiment, with the Red Devils and finally as current CSM with Joint Service Parachute Centre.

Once again, on Sunday, September 21st, we attended the commemorative service at the Airborne Cemetery, Oosterbeek. This occasion always proves a very impressive and moving ceremony, especially at the conclusion when the Dutch schoolchildren lay their bunches of flowers on the 1,700 graves of the fallen Airborne soldiers who gave their lives as a result of the Battle of Arnhem.

FIFTY YEARS AGO

The first post-Second World War Remembrance Day Festival in Wales was graced by the voice of Gwen Obern. She sang to nearly 2,000 people at Brangwyn Hall, Swansea.

Princess Elizabeth wrote to thank a St Dunstaner for a wedding gift - a standard lamp with an "E" shaped stem. "It is something which I greatly admire, but I am, if possible, even more pleased by the loyalty, affection, and goodwill which I know that this kind present represents," she wrote.

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 Samuel Threlfall of Stockport became a St Dunstaner on September 3rd, aged 82. He became a trainee dyer in the textile industry on leaving school, and after completing his training obtained a Higher National Diploma in chemistry. He remained in his job, a Reserve Occupation, but at the beginning of 1942 he managed to obtain his release and joined the Royal Corps of Signals where he was trained as a combat wireless operator. He was posted to North Africa and received injuries to his right eye whilst he was in action. Although he could have opted for a return to the United Kingdom, Mr Threlfall insisted on returning to his own Signals Squadron with whom he remained for the rest of the war. He eventually reached the rank of Corporal (Acting Sergeant), and served with them throughout the Italian Campaign. On his discharge in 1946, Mr Threlfall returned to his old firm and eventually became the head of their Dyeing department, retiring in 1982. Before losing his sight, Mr Threlfall was interested in caravanning and gardening.

Mr Ernest Walker of Horsham, West Sussex became a St Dunstaner on September 3rd, aged 93. He started at the Stock Exchange on leaving school and, apart from his period in the Army, stayed with the same firm of Stockbrokers all his working life. Mr Walker joined the Army in April 1941 as a Private in the RASC. He was then posted to Malaya and Java and captured by the Japanese. He was sent from Java to Changi gaol in Singapore and then sent with a work party to Borneo until the end of the war. Mr Walker is an ex-FEPoW and on return to the UK spent some time in hospital and was then discharged from the Army. Sadly his wife died in 1985. He has four sons.

Mr Charles Young of Lincoln became a St Dunstaner on October 2nd, aged 34. Mr Young served in the Royal Air Force between 1981 and 1995. His trade was that of fireman, and he reached the rank of Corporal. During his time in the RAF, he served in the Falkland Islands and Cyprus. He and his wife, Tracy, have two children. Mrs Young is

currently serving as a WRAF SAC, and is about to be discharged after completing ten years of service.

Mr Tom Adams of Newton Abbot became a St Dunstaner on October 30th, aged 89. He joined the Royal Navy in August 1924. He served with distinction and reached the rank of Chief Petty Officer before being discharged in March 1947. Mr Adams served on HMS *Exeter* with our late St Dunstaner, Admiral Sir Frank Twiss. He was married in January 1942, and was captured by the Japanese in March 1942. After leaving the Navy, Mr Adams entered the motor trade in the Devon area. He and his wife have taken a great interest in the HMS *Exeter* Ship's Company Association and regularly participated in reunions.

CLUB NEWS

ARCHERY

by Bert Wood

August was a sad month for the Archery Club. First came the news that Bill Grimes passed away on August 9th. He used to do his archery from a wheelchair - which he did with great success. His wife, Kathy, cared for him with devotion and hard work. All our love Kathy, our thoughts are with you.

On August 26th, Ernie Elliot our Club Secretary and coach died after a long illness.

Both have now passed from this living world of pain and grief to the world of spirit and peace. Bless you.

ARCHERY WEEK

September 7th-14th

A two minute silence was held on the archery field in memory of Bill and Ernie.

A mini general meeting was called by the Chairman, John Lilley, to choose the new Secretary/Coach. The choice was obvious, Roger McMullan - national archery judge, coach and a helper of our club for many years. He received an overwhelming 100 per cent yes vote from the members and was therefore declared Secretary/Chief Coach and Treasurer. May the Lord have mercy if you go missing with the dosh!

The week was most enjoyable with great archery and companionship. An afternoon on the Golf Driving Range was enjoyed, accompanied by a

couple of old dears, Sue Lilley and Enid Andrews, myself and John Lilley. We did quite well for first-timers, hitting the balls a hundred and forty yards and more. This was achieved with five irons and we were told we were very good and we decided to take it up.

Another year is slipping into history and another Christmas is upon us, therefore, I shall take time to wish all club members, our helpers and friends a "Very Happy Christmas and a Healthy New Year to you all."

I would also like to extend this Christmas greeting to our friends at HMS *Sultan* who provided the entertainment that we enjoyed so much. It started early each morning with the camp comic and his group, Frank & The Tea Boys, making music with the tea urn. Each day Liz, Von, Jean, Bridget and the rest of the lads and lasses led a power packed week of events. For me the entertainment went on into the night. A varied sound of musical notes came from the other six members of the billet, their snores and wind instruments, with the odd paradiddle thrown in, made them sound like a German Oompah Band tuning up. Thanks for my first Navy camp, Elspeth - do it again next year, please God.

George Allen Trophy September 9th 1997 (Nationals)

Handicap Score

Ron Freer	1559
Ron Cattell	1501
John Lilley	1426

Royal Insurance Trophy September 10th 1997 (Western)

Norman Perry	1498
Bert Wood	1470
John Lilley	1409

Spurway Trophy September 11th 1997 (St Nicholas)

Bert Wood	1522
Norman Perry	1439
John Lilley	1391

Cuckfield Trophy

Cuckfield	4256
St Dunstan's	4125

Greenways Salver

Greenways	4271
St Dunstan's	4125

GOLF
by Chris Falcon



Champion Blind Golfer Craig Neller proudly displays his trophies at Ovingdean.

This is the end of the club's fourth year since being founded by Des Chandler. The first years were slow to begin with, however this year the number of active members was ever on the increase thanks to the hard work of David Goldsmith.

The year has seen five medal competitions with trophies for the winner in the blind and sighted categories:

April Medal	Iain Millard Francois Pienaar	Blind Sighted
May Medal	Des Chandler Anthony Burtonshaw	Blind Sighted
June Medal	Des Chandler Chris Falcon	Blind Sighted
August Medal	Craig Neller Alex Durie	Blind Sighted
September Medal	Des Chandler Tony James	Blind Sighted

The Adam Lazer trophy was won by Craig Neller, who also won the Champion Blind Golfer of the Year Trophy with Alex Durie winning the Champion Sighted Golfer of the Year Trophy. Congratulations to all the winners for 1997, we will be back again in 1998 to take revenge.

The annual prize-giving was held at St Dunstan's Ovingdean with the normal copious amounts of alcoholic beverage and food consumed. Thanks go to Iain and Des for all the work in organising the evening, "but where's the music?" The new committee for 1998 was elected after the prize-giving and is as follows:

Chairman	Des Chandler
Treasurer	Iain Millard
Secretary	Steve Pendleton
Club Captain	Chris Falcon
Committee Members	David Goldsmith Arthur Carter Tracy Pinon

1998 is going to be a busy year for the club with competitions against the three services, so practise, practise, practise over the next months.

AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY

A small but quality meeting of the Society took place on October 10th-11th at Ovingdean. The Chairman of the Society, Bill Shea, presided over the general meeting on Saturday morning. The President of the Society, Admiral of the Fleet Sir Henry Leach was also present and joined the members for lunch.

The affairs of the Society are in good order. Once again, a debt of gratitude was expressed to Brian Freeman, our QSL manager and who keeps a weather eye on our antennas. Members enjoyed an excellent dinner in the Winter Garden on Saturday evening - wine and chatter flowed in abundance!

The 1998 meetings of the Society will be on the weekends of March 14th-15th and October 10th-11th.

FAMILY NEWS

BIRTHS

Congratulations on the birth of:
Amy Walker on May 10th. She is the great granddaughter of Mrs Jean Kelly of Workington, Cumbria, widow of *William Kelly*.

WEDDING

Congratulations to:

Katherine and Dominic Ellis on September 27th. Katherine is the granddaughter of *Douglas and Irene Norman* of Bradford, West Yorkshire.

GOLDEN ANNIVERSARIES

Congratulations to:

Frank and Dot Madgwick of Crawley, West Sussex on September 8th.

William and Hildegard Carthy of Heron Park, Gloucester on October 11th.

Percy and Joan Walker of Woodford Green, Essex on October 11th.

Edward and Mary Quinn of Ripon, North Yorkshire on November 1st.

SPECIAL ANNIVERSARIES

Congratulations to:

Sydney and Ethel Whiting who celebrated 66 years of marriage on September 12th.

John and Doris Price of Hathern, nr Loughborough who celebrated 63 years of marriage on September 23rd.

Leslie and Rose Tanner of Morden, Surrey who celebrated 65 years of marriage on October 15th.

Joseph and Ellen Whitley of Totton, Southampton who celebrated 61 years of marriage on October 17th.

DEATHS

We regret to announce the death of:

Mrs Teresa (Tessa) Hoyle on October 7th. She was the wife of *Clifford Hoyle* of Oldham. She was killed tragically in a road traffic accident.

Mrs Lilian Etherington of Woking, Surrey on September 18th. She was the widow of *George Etherington*.

Mrs Doris Woofenden of Leicester on September 22nd. She was the widow of *Ernest Woofenden*.

Mrs Hannah Dalton of Stanley, Co. Durham on October 14th. She was the widow of *Joseph Dalton*.

Mrs Marion Wood of Petersfield, Hampshire on October 14th. She was the widow of *William Wood*.

Mrs Irene Molly Biggs of St Leonards-on-Sea on October 18th. She was the widow of *Henry Biggs*.

Mrs Valerie Knapper on September 10th. She was the daughter of *Frederick and Dorothy Collingwood* of Newcastle-under-Lyme, Staffordshire.

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.

John Chatwell,

Winnipeg Grenadiers

John "Hap" William Chatwell of Newmarket, Ontario died on July 19th, aged 74. Originally a farmer, this Canadian St Dunstaner enlisted with the Winnipeg Grenadiers in September 1940 and was taken prisoner by the Japanese in Hong Kong. He was discharged in October 1945. In civilian life, he worked for the Canadian National Institute for the Blind as an Industrial Placement Officer. He also earned a reputation as a tireless and relentless fighter for the rights of veterans as a leading member of the Sir Arthur Pearson Association. Our sympathy goes to his wife Marjorie, and all members of the family.

George Watt,

Royal Army Medical Corps

George Frank Watt of Borrowash, Derbyshire died on September 12th, aged 79. He had been a St Dunstaner since 1989. Enlisting in early 1940, he served in the Royal Army Medical Corps as a Private. Wounded in Italy in 1944, by an exploding mine blast, he lost the sight of his left eye and his right eye was damaged. He was discharged from the Service the following year. Mr Watt worked for his local authority until the age of 60 when he retired due to the loss of his remaining sight. He was a DIY enthusiast and made furniture and elaborate fencing for his home. Our sympathy goes to his wife Pat and all other members of the family.

Alfred Parslow,

Royal Air Force

Alfred Parslow of Micklefield, High Wycombe, Buckinghamshire died on September 22nd, aged 81. He had been a St Dunstaner since 1946. Mr Parslow enlisted into the Royal Air Force in 1940, serving as an Aircraftman. He was taken prisoner by the Japanese whilst on Java. During his captivity, his health suffered severely and he was admitted to

St Dunstan's when he returned to the UK. In 1947, he became a shopkeeper in Battersea, selling confectionery, cigarettes and toys. He remained there for four years before moving to High Wycombe where he took over another shop. He retired in 1973. Our sympathy goes to his daughter Rita and all other members of the family.

Stephen McGuinness,
Royal Armoured Corps

Stephen McGuinness of Southdene, Merseyside died on October 7th, aged 77. He had been a St Dunstaner since 1982. Mr McGuinness enlisted into the Royal Armoured Corps in July 1938. In 1942 he was taken prisoner by the Japanese at Singapore. He was discharged from the Army in 1946. Because of this period in captivity his eyesight was seriously damaged resulting in his being considered unfit for employment after returning to civilian life. A keen gardener, Mr McGuinness also enjoyed the close companionship of his pet boxer dog and their long walks together. Sadly, Mr McGuinness's wife predeceased him in 1973 and from then on he lived alone looking after his own needs. We send our sympathy to his daughters Maureen and Jeanette, son Stephen and all of the family.

Edward Kitson,
Royal Air Force

Edward Knowles Kitson of Brecon, Powys died on October 18th, aged 77. He had been a St Dunstaner since 1940. Mr Kitson joined the Royal Air Force in 1938 and was commissioned ten weeks later. He served as a Flying Officer in the Second World War but having received gunshot wounds to both eyes and his jaw he was discharged from the service at the beginning of 1940. After his discharge from the RAF Mr Kitson, with the help and encouragement of St Dunstan's, went to Cambridge to study law. He was called to the Bar in 1947. Prior to his retirement, in 1973, Mr Kitson was firstly a lecturer in law at London University (King's College), after which he became a legal assistant in the Ministry of Education.

Sadly his wife, Pat, whom he married in 1942, predeceased him in 1990. Following his wife's death, her two sisters, Gaynor and Dilys, moved into Mr Kitson's home to help look after him and it is to them and all other members of the family that we send our sympathy.

Joseph Edwards,
Royal Navy

Joseph Llewlyn (Lyn) Edwards of St Dunstan's Ovingdean died on October 20th, aged 75. He became a St Dunstaner in 1947 and had been a permanent resident at our Home since early 1996. Mr Edwards enlisted into the Royal Navy in 1938 at the age of 16. His eyesight began to deteriorate in 1942 and he was discharged from the service in 1945. After training at St Dunstan's Mr Edwards worked in industry for 21 years. Among his hobbies he included gardening, basket work and toy making. Sadly, he suffered a stroke in 1988 and from that time on his health continued to deteriorate. We send our sympathy to his wife Irene, whom he married in 1943, daughter Lynne and sons, Raymond, Robert and Richard, and all members of the family.

Thomas Barton,
Royal Air Force

Thomas Alfred Barton of Scalby, Scarborough, North Yorkshire died on October 23rd, aged 84. He had been a St Dunstaner since 1944. Mr Barton enlisted into the Royal Air Force in 1941. Having been wounded in an ammunition explosion, he was discharged from the Service in 1944. After rehabilitation and training Tom Barton opened a dogs boarding kennels and also bred dogs. His hobbies included gardening, radio and tape recording.

He married Olive in 1939, sadly she predeceased him in 1994. Our sympathy goes to all other members of the family.

Ronald Lamb,
Royal Air Force

Ronald Arthur Frederick Lamb of Waltham Abbey, Essex died on November 7th, aged 77. He had been a St Dunstaner since 1988. He enlisted into the Royal Air Force in 1941 and married after four months in the Service. Posted to the Far East, he was taken prisoner by the Japanese in Singapore and his captivity included periods in Java and Sumatra. Due to malnutrition and privation, Mr Lamb's sight was first affected in 1943. He was discharged from the RAF in 1946 and following repatriation was employed as a Storeman in the MoD at Waltham Abbey until he retired. His many interests included gardening, talking books and music. His wife Elsie predeceased him in 1996. Our sympathy goes to his daughters Sandra and Janice and all of the family.