

# St Dunstan's Review

August 1998



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**Cover picture:** Ready for take-off. Des Chandler tries the cockpit of a Jaguar fighter at RAF Coltishall. The controls were explained to him by Sgt Mark Smith. A full report on St Dunstan's Golf Club's visit to the station is on page 10.

## From the Chairman



I have invited the Charity Commission to "inspect" us. Their representatives will come to St Dunstan's Ovingdean on September 23rd and spend the day there. All departments will be involved. Amongst other things this will serve as a useful "end of term audit" for my term as Chairman.

### HER MAJESTY THE QUEEN

On the occasion of Her Majesty The Queen's Official birthday Admiral of the Fleet Sir Henry Leach sent the following message of congratulations:

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

Mrs Gill Middleburgh, Chief Clerk sent the following reply:

"The Queen expresses her sincere thanks to you, the St Dunstan's Council and your blinded ex-Servicemen and women for your kind message of congratulations on the occasion of Her Majesty's Official Birthday. As Patron, The Queen was delighted to receive this message and sends her best wishes to you all."



## NOTICE BOARD



### NO SMOKING AT HQ

Would all visitors to Headquarters please note that smoking is no longer permitted within the building. This ban includes travelling in Headquarters vehicles.

### MASONIC MEETING

The next meeting of St Dunstan's Masonic Group will be on the weekend of April 24th-25th 1999.

Ron Freer

Secretary

St Dunstan's Masonic Group



The new shirts as modelled by Robbie and Margaret from PR and Anne from Estates.

### DERBY SWEEPSTAKE WINNERS

The penultimate person to buy a set of tickets in this year's St Dunstan's Review Derby Sweepstake was the first to be drawn and his horse High Rise was first to race past the finish post. St Dunstaner Max Ash of Ringwood, Hants won £232.95 as first prize. A second prize of £93.18 was claimed by Herbert Frost of Manchester who also won part of the Starters' Prize. Mrs Elizabeth Daborn of Barnstaple, North Devon won third prize of £46.59 and a share of the Starters' Prize.

The remaining Starters' Prize was shared amongst Major E.S. Quinn of Ripon, North Yorkshire, Mrs B.A. Tickner of Worthing, West Sussex, Mr D. Smith of Worcester, Worcestershire, Mr T. Hart of Sandwich, Kent, Mrs M. Jerome of Maidenhead, Berkshire, Mr D. Brown of Buckingham, Bucks, Mrs D. Lavery of Minehead, Somerset, Mr T. Lukes of Old Colwyn, Clwyd, Mrs E. Leslie of Frinton-on-Sea, Essex and Mr B. Kennedy of Walton, Peterborough.

We sold 1553 tickets at 30p each, yielding a total of £465.90. As usual, the numbers were selected by a computer randomiser and the horses were drawn from a non-technological hat.

### STAFF RETIREMENT

Mrs Clare Crossman, Dentist will be retiring on August 31st after 22 years with St Dunstan's.

### GET SHIRTY WITH ST DUNSTAN'S

A new range of St Dunstan's casual shirts is now in stock. The t-shirt is 100% white cotton with a centred blue logo and is available in medium and large sizes at £4.00. The polo shirt is white polyester/cotton with a left-hand blue chest logo and is available in medium and large sizes at £7.30. The sweatshirt is blue cotton/polyester with a left-hand yellow chest logo and available in medium, large and extra large at £8.50.

Please add £2 to each order for postage and packing.

Orders should be addressed to Public Relations Department (Shirts), St Dunstan's, 12-14 Harcourt Street, London W1A 4XB.

### RE-DEDICATION IN CANADA

A re-dedication ceremony of The Sir Arthur Pearson Association of the War Blinded Lounge was held at The Canadian Institute for the Blind, Toronto, Ontario on July 6th.

### FAREWELL KENDRICK

Kendrick Morris, Head of Rehabilitation and Training is leaving St Dunstan's on August 13th. He joined in August 1995 during a period of great restructuring. We wish him all the best for the future.

### DEADLINE FOR NEXT ISSUE

The final date for submitting items for publication in the October Review is August 28th.

## SENSORY GARDEN FOR ST DUNSTAN'S OVINGDEAN

St Dunstaner Richard Bingley, who has won prizes at the Chelsea Flower Show for his scented garden designs, is keen to establish a sensory garden at St Dunstan's Ovingdean. So far he has raised £1,169 at a coffee morning, a sum which he has matched with a similar amount from his own pocket. Richard has asked that anyone wishing to contribute towards this project should please send their donation to: Head of Fund Raising, St Dunstan's Sensory Garden Appeal, Freepost, London W1A 4XB. Cheques should be made payable to St Dunstan's.

## TELEPHONE THE RAILWAY FOR ASSISTANCE

The privatisation of the railways has possibly led to confusion in knowing where to obtain assistance together with a lowering of standards of passenger care.

If you require assistance during your journey, such as being met at stations and transferred to a taxi or the Underground, then please telephone 0345 443366. You can obtain travel advice and also order your tickets with a credit card via this number provided you give seven days advance warning so that the tickets can arrive through the post. It may be still advantageous, however, to purchase tickets in advance from your local station in order to obtain good Apex rates.

In the event that you do not receive the assistance you ordered, please would you contact the following with your complaints or praise, which ever is warranted! No action can be taken to improve the situation if the facts are not known.

Contact: Gill Taylor, Joint Mobility Unit, Royal National Institute for the Blind, 224 Great Portland Street, London W1N 6AA or telephone her on 0171 385 2233.

## FANCY BEING A DISABLED MYSTERY SHOPPER?

The Grass Roots Group plc, a market research company, would like to hear from disabled people who would be interested in joining their panel of Mystery Shoppers. This involves pretending to be an ordinary customer and showing interest in the goods or services on offer from a particular outlet. For instance, you could be asked to visit a local supermarket or telephone a bank asking them a few simple questions.

Grass Roots is commissioned to check the accessibility of banks, shops, car showrooms, restaurants etc to people of all disabilities and how such customers are treated in general. The information is then reported back in confidence to the company concerned enabling them to improve their services where standards are found wanting. This is particularly relevant since under the new Disability Discrimination Act it is now illegal to discriminate against a disabled person on the basis of their disability.

Disabled Mystery Shoppers will be paid between £10-£12 for a personal visit, along with travel expenses and food expenses if the visit is to a restaurant. For telephone mystery shops the fee is more likely to be £5-£7 plus the cost of the call.

If you would like to receive more details about how to become a specialist Mystery Shopper, write to Paul Taylor, Dept 01, The Grass Roots Group plc, Pennyroyal Court, Station Road, Tring, Herts HP23 50Z. Telephone 01442 829278. Please remember to leave your name, address and reference number; Department 01. If you wish to receive our information pack in braille, large print or audio-tape please state your preference.

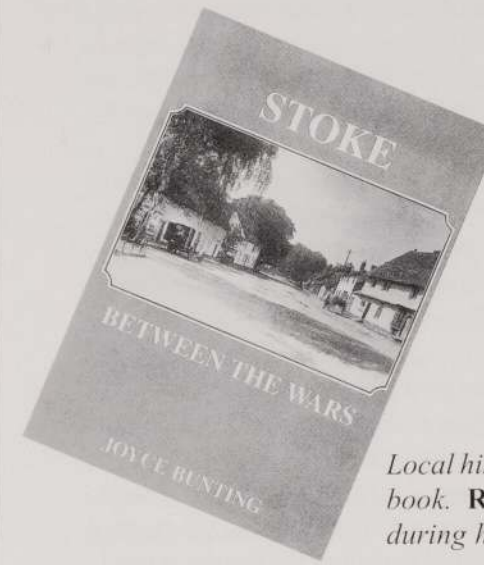
## A Letter to Sydney

The following comments were part of an address at the funeral of St Dunstaner Sydney Kirkham. We feel that many St Dunstaners who were Far East Prisoners of War will recognise the sentiments expressed as a tribute to all who experienced this kind of suffering.

"Well, Sydney, what a truly remarkable man you are! What a life you've had! Born during the First World War, your life has been dominated by one battle or another. Called-up at 23 to fight in the Far East, you probably thought joining the Army and seeing the World wouldn't be so bad. And yet, how cruel to have been caught up in the fall of Singapore and forced to spend four years as a Prisoner of War, building distant railways and bridges. We can only guess at a tiny part of the daily privations, cruelty and suffering you and your comrades had to endure.

"There you were in November '45 the last man off the last boat home, all 5 stone of you, waving your Good Conduct Certificate and wearing a uniform for a man 6ft 3in weighing 15st. How did you manage to survive? What courage you have!"

# STOKE REMEMBERED



Local history! Mrs Bunting's book. **Right:** In uniform, during her WAAF days.

Joyce Bunting widow of St Dunstaner William Bunting has recorded her perceptions of how the world has changed during the 20th century, or at least one little corner of it. *Stoke Between The Wars* is an oral history of a Suffolk village.

Mrs Bunting explained how a friend had encouraged her to write the book. Her memories of the past were very vivid and she had always been keen on history.

Now aged 77, Mrs Bunting's recollections have proved popular reading material in her home area of Stoke by Clare, Suffolk.

While it concentrates on the 20's and 30's, the book picks up on surrounding decades and their influences on families in the area. It recalls local farming practices, events, tradesmen, families and subjects such as the introduction of electricity.

"In 1930 the East Anglian Electric Supply Company (headquarters in Stowmarket) brought electricity to Stoke. They offered to install two power points and three lights in the small cottages free, but few took this up as they could not afford the running costs. People carried on with paraffin lamps long after the end of the Second World War."

In another chapter Mrs Bunting recalls her time in the Women's Auxiliary Air Force. "We were sent to a balloon site at Erdington, the site being the HP Sauce Sports Ground where we were taught how to manoeuvre the balloons and to use the winch that hauled the balloons up and down. We lived in the



large sports pavilion and it was a lovely hot summer. It was wonderful being out on guard duty on a summer's night with a full moon, and to see the sunrise too; it is something I have never forgotten. Not so good on a winter's night though. There were 14 girls on site, two Sergeants and 12 Aircraftswomen. We all took turns at cooking, cleaning and guard duty; four were on duty at once, doing two hours on and two hours off during the night. All we had to defend ourselves was a policeman's truncheon, though we had all been taught self-defence. We always had to be on the look out as you never knew when a duty officer was going to creep up on you. One night an officer did not know the password: two Liverpool girls were on duty and one knocked him to the ground. He made a fuss about it, but bless her, she got away with it."

*Stoke Between the Wars* costs £6 plus £1 P&P from Stablis, 18 Apton Road, Bishop's Stortford, Hertfordshire CM23 3SN.

# Life and Times of Ovingdean

by Margaret Bingham

A visit to Bexhill-on-Sea for a matinee performance at the *De La Warr Pavilion* situated on the seafront proved to be a great delight to a large party of St Dunstaners. A quartet of harmonious voices sang a large variety of well known songs and a most unusual feature was the quick change of dress for various songs. A tasty tea was arranged in the restaurant part of the complex. The lovely sunny day added to the pleasure.

Which is more than could be said two days earlier when staff on Nursing Care Three took residents of that floor out to lunch at a licensed restaurant in the Haywards Heath area. This was followed by a visit to Wakehurst Place some 10 miles away, where rhododendron and azalea would have been at their stunning best but for the drizzle which had previously been quite light but became a steady downpour. We decided to stay on the coach and our driver Dave Vinall gave us a very interesting guided tour instead.

A large party visited Finchcocks Living Museum of Music in Kent to see a magnificent collection of keyboard instruments, virginals, harpsichords, so many of which are now being fully restored. Named after the family who had lived there in the 13th century and standing in beautiful unspoiled grounds, Finchcocks was acquired by Richard Burnett in 1970. He being the leading exponent of early pianos demonstrated the various instruments interlaced with amusing and interesting detail and their association with the Great Masters such as Beethoven and Liszt. Stephen Devane, Assistant Curator of the Museum, an authority on the spinet, also demonstrated his virtuosity on some instruments. A very entertaining day! We enjoyed a very tasty packed lunch in the picnic area of the grounds.

A number of us joined a Family Fun Day organised by the Beehive Sports and Social Club, Gatwick Airport on a sunny Sunday afternoon where we could look for bargains on the numerous bric-a-brac stalls or listen to screams of delight from youngsters as they crashed their mini dodgem cars into one another.

Our Widows seemed to enjoy the Widows Week judging by the peals of mirth emanating from the group at any of the functions laid on by Lynne Thomas. As well as the usual events like bingo, we

have had the Wendy Mann Dancers in the lounge (how the 'taps' echoed on the wooden floor).

A tour of the *Body Shop*, Littlehampton and a visit to Preston Manor (Servants' Secrets!), a bell-ringing concert, a leisurely shopping trip to Tunbridge Wells and finally lunch with our Chairman Sir Henry and a glorious week weather-wise to boot!

It was a beautiful day for Care Assistant Patsy Wardill's Mystery Tour and conjecture was rife as we travelled along the leafy lanes of West Sussex. Our large coach squeezed through the narrow street of the olde worlde village of Bramber. As we entered some extensive wooded parkland we passed a herd of deer, progeny of animals brought here in 1628. It was revealed we were approaching Parham House, an Elizabethan house, home of Lady Emma and Mr James Barnard. But before the guided tour got underway we sat down to a lovely picnic in the vicinity of the house with strawberries and cream to follow. Thank you PBK.

The front of the house was built mainly of uneven local stone and dominated by long narrow stained glass windows and from inside with sunshine shining through the colours were magnificent! Priceless paintings by the Old Masters hung on the walls. One unusual painting in a bedroom and worthy of note was a small group of ladies, showing surprise at something or other. It looked as if they had two eyebrows over each eye. Very strange indeed!

Thank you Patsy. It was a lovely day! (It is interesting to discover that this property was purchased by the Hon. Clive Pearson in 1922. Possibly he and Sir Arthur were related in some way!)

A cream tea at the RNIB Palm Court Hotel, Eastbourne was followed by a short ride to the seafront to listen to a local brass band playing a variety of well known tunes. A very pleasant afternoon.

A musical afternoon at All Saints Church, Hove was well attended and appreciated.

It is some time since we had an accordionist play in-house but Phyllis Gillingham played her beautiful instrument for an hour, almost non-stop, and we

marvelled at her expertise. What talent! Still on the entertainment theme but closer to home now. David Wass, Associate Nurse is an excellent singer and entertained us to an hour of singing in the lounge, which was most enjoyable (I believe he is also in amateur dramatics). Our bell ringing team meets regularly and is progressing well.

A vintage car rally was held in Brighton and a number of enthusiasts visited the site. Such beautiful vehicles dating back to the early part of the century and tended with such loving care and pride. On the same theme there was motor racing at Goodwood - a three day event - but all the cars were static on the first day. Nursing Auxiliary Paul Fairman, who was in charge, described the Talbots and Morris cars, circa 1920, to name just two. Visitors were allowed to touch and even sit in the priceless vehicles. Such a thrilling experience!

A large audience assembled in the main lounge to listen to Brighton and Hove concert orchestra. For over an hour they entertained us with a large variety of pieces including works by Mozart and Strauss - it was very enjoyable.

A fairly large number of visitors from the Brighton Friendly Society were given a guided tour by Lynne Thomas. They were very interested in all they saw.

Another 'Olga's tea dance' from the King Alfred Leisure Centre took place in the lounge. We were

joined on the floor by staff and residents of Haven Nursing Home, Satldean. It was a very successful afternoon with some really professional dancing by one couple in particular.

A pleasant afternoon was spent at nearby Falmer for afternoon tea where delicious sandwiches and home-made cakes were offered to us. Later we sat in the sunshine listening to birds singing and ducks quacking on the large pool which is such a feature of this lovely little village. Thank you, Marilyn Baker, Care Assistant for arranging it.

An interesting way to spend a Monday morning is to visit a museum where a guide with many objects laid out on tables lets one guess as to their uses in days gone by. To name just a few, there was a posser, a ridged washboard for laundry use, and a jelly mould (embossed with three feathers) used to make the sweetmeat for the Prince Regent. But two articles of his clothing and a pair of his breeches caused such amusement because of the size! Colossal!

The unofficial opening of the new activities room in the annexe was celebrated with afternoon tea and a chance to examine the Talking Teletext with voice control etc. It was fascinating and I am sure one or two people will make an attempt to learn this new technology. It's never too late to teach an old dog new tricks!

At the time of writing the field adjacent the drive is blood red with poppies. A glorious sight I believe.

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## MESSAGE FROM THE HEAD OF FUND RAISING

On Saturday, May 16th St Dunstaner Richard Bingley ran a Coffee Morning which included a Bring and Buy Raffle in aid of St Dunstan's. This magnificent effort raised well in excess of £1,000. This is the third year that Richard has run this event on behalf of St Dunstan's and, in total, he has raised over £2,600. Well done to Richard and to all other St Dunstaners and their partners for their individual fund raising efforts for St Dunstan's.

We recently received a letter in the Fund Raising department which is so typical of the hundreds of letters that we receive each week and it reads:

"Dear St Dunstaners,  
This is a thank-you letter for what you and others have given for my benefit. It is a beautiful sunny day,

I am sitting working at home, my three children have gone to school, my husband has a secure job and we all live in a peaceful and democratic country because of people like you. I do hope this letter is read out to all St Dunstaners."

Finally, we are distributing many more fund raising packs throughout the year and I should like to reiterate the message that these packs are sent to all houses in any one road and if one should go through your door, it is not aimed at you so do please ignore it. This method of fund raising for St Dunstan's is proving to be the most cost-effective way of reminding people about St Dunstan's and its work whilst at the same time soliciting their support by way of a donation.

Neil Swan

# Get a PC with APC

Mark Pilbeam talks to Ray Hazan



Computer consultant Mark Pilbeam talking to a client about his software requirements.

Running a shop or a business is not new to many St Dunstaners. What has changed is the nature of the goods or service being sold. One St Dunstaner reflecting today's era is Mark Pilbeam, computer consultant, trainer, constructor and programmer.

Mark joined the Rhodesian Light Infantry in January 1977 and was blinded as a result of gunshot wounds sustained in January 1979. He read politics and history at the University of Johannesburg. From there he came to this country with his wife Diane to read law at Aberdeen from 1984 to 1988. It was during his last year of studies that Mark was introduced to the world of computing. St Dunstan's helped Mark to purchase a BBC computer, which was followed by others as speed and capacity changed with evolving technology.

Having graduated, Mark and Diane returned to Zimbabwe where he practised law "from changing a name to murder!" But the subject was dull and held no excitement for Mark. However, his interest in the field of computing was furthered by the fact that his knowledge and use of the subject at work had meant his being nominated their 'IT' (Information Technology) specialist. But the blind of Zimbabwe did not benefit from the support services the handicapped enjoy here in the UK. He did not see, therefore, his future in computing taking place in Zimbabwe.

Thus Mark and his young family returned to the UK in 1988 and settled in Nuneaton, in the hub of the Midlands with all its businesses and enterprises. "On my return to the UK I tried to get any job involving computers with anyone, but they weren't interested. So in early 1990 I set up my own business. I did quite a bit of work for PACT (Placing, Assessment & Counselling Team). This involved assessing the needs of handicapped applicants and suggesting systems to satisfy that need. I trained people once the system had been purchased. I also managed to obtain contract work in assessing for Barclays Bank and programming for Powergen."

PACT, like many Government agencies has suffered the vicissitudes of the financial climate and work for them fell off. In 1997 Mark set up a shop, APC computers near to a middle class estate in the north east of Nuneaton. Thus his skills were now extended from consultancy and training to providing systems. Mark discusses the client's hardware needs, obtains quotations and then physically builds the computer. "I need sighted help with the more intricate components but I can install drives and printed circuit cards myself. One problem is being able to 'problem solve' if errors occur because there is no speech at that low level so the information on the screen is totally inaccessible to me."

Mark has taken on an exacting challenge. The world of the computer changes almost daily. Reading up about these 'advances' is not easy. It is mainly through the suppliers themselves, in their eagerness to market their wares that Mark keeps up-to-date. "If I am asked a question, which I cannot answer, then there is always someone I know who can pass me the information."

In turn, Mark must market his services. Word of mouth is cheaper, but not always reliable! "There is immense competition out in the market place. The situation in the Far East has meant prices have dropped by 30 per cent in the past three months. They are flooding the market place with cheap and not always reliably tested components. There is also the 'super market - PC Worlds syndrome' to overcome. People buy from them thinking economy of numbers is cheaper, but when things go wrong,

they don't get the backup and they bring systems to me to repair or sort out."

In some cases, blindness has added to his 'notoriety'! People will remember either him or the job he did and follow up with further work. It is clear that there is still a way to go with regard to attitudes by employers to handicapped people. "If I am visiting a client, then I never tell them on the phone beforehand that I cannot see. When I visit, they are presented with a 'fait accompli', and more importantly, the client is no worse off as a result! Working for oneself reduces some of these 'contra temps'."

Mark has amassed a vast range of knowledge of computing without any formal training. He must know about the hardware - the actual items of equipment; the software - the programmes, which run on the machines to make them speak, read, calculate, communicate, etc. It is a challenge, which he has readily accepted. He is competing in a competitive, sight orientated business whilst at the same time helping the visually handicapped to access information at a hitherto undreamed level. So, if you want to be part of this, get a PC through APC!

## New Version of Voice Diary

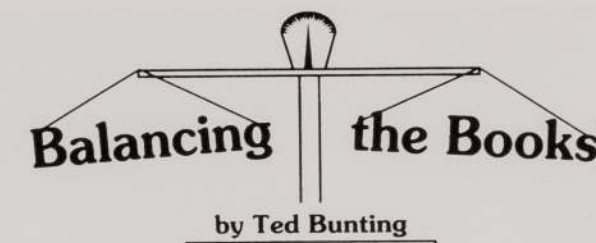
by Ray Hazan

We described the Voice Diary, a hand held talking Personal Organiser in the February Review. The Organiser contains a notepad, telephone directory with auto dialling, a diary, stopwatch, calculator and timer.

On July 7th an enhanced version was launched. This holds more memory, 45 as opposed to 15 minutes recording time in notebook mode; it can store many more telephone numbers and has other software features.

The price of the original version has been reduced to £130 and the larger capacity version comes in at £230. Delivery at £7 is extra. CVIP will do a trade-in if you already have a Parrot Organiser. They will upgrade the original Voice Dairy to the 2MB version for £70.

As a user of the original version, I would be happy to answer any queries. For sales enquiries contact CVIP Ltd on 0181 420 1338.



### The Masked Fisherman

Author: George Mackay Brown

Reader: Crawford Logan

Duration: 6.5 hours

Catalogue number: 8477

All people, the young and the old alike, love to hear a good yarn, with the result that many collections of short stories have become available over the years. But unfortunately, and this selection is a case in point, not all short stories are good ones and not all collections contain works of equal merit. In other words, although this recording contains one or two, or even three or four tales which are either novel or interesting or both, it also harbours some, which certainly deserve the title of "rubbish" and yet more which are so difficult to follow that they border on plain gibberish - if that's not a contradiction in terms. So not unnaturally I was disappointed with *The Masked Fisherman*; for despite my earnest hopes a poor story was not invariably followed by a better one, though as I said earlier, it does have a few reasonable ones. If I had known at starting what I know from experience now, I'm afraid there would have been no starting. I am fully aware that these few words go nowhere to reflect six and a half hours of listening but if it prevents someone duplicating my mistake I shall feel rewarded.

## Squadron Leader Valerie Webster

St Dunstan's Campers at HMS *Daedalus* and HMS *Sultan* will be sad to hear of the death of Valerie Webster on July 3rd following a stroke. Valerie became a camp helper in 1987 and became immediately popular and great fun joining in all the activities and making many friends. Valerie had retired from the RAF a few years earlier and with her Service background fitted in well with us all. She recovered from a stroke three years ago but was unable to come to camp again. Our sympathy goes to her two sisters and brother.

Elsbeth Grant



*The best of enemies! RAF Coltishall Golf Society and St Dunstan's Golf Club prepare for battle on the green.*

## A BIRDIE ON THE WINGS

### Simon Rogers ducks fast-flying golf balls in Norfolk



*Sgt Zeb Render helps Des Chandler to prepare for a shot at Sprowston Manor.*

**T**he tone of voice is almost hushed, excited but reverential. "Des has just done a birdie-birdie on the 16th!"

"That's good?"

"That's very good!"

The person who has prompted this comment is Des Chandler, a St Dunstaner for the past 20 years, his sight lost to a landmine in Rhodesia. He's out on a golf course in Norfolk playing against a sighted opponent who habitually picks out camouflaged enemy positions photographed from stratospheric heights.

In May, St Dunstan's Golf Club squared up to their greatest challenge to date - RAF Coltishall. Five St Dunstaners took on a group of people for whom 20-20 vision is a prerequisite feature of their lives.

With Des that weekend were Arthur Carter, Iain Millard, Stephen Pendleton and Peter Surrige.

Since the club was founded it has been an ambition to play the different forces and the Royal Air Force were the first to pick up the challenge. A return match is scheduled at Brighton later this month where a team from the Navy will also join the fray.

The golfers at RAF Coltishall provided a warm welcome at the Sergeants' Mess for their St Dunstan's counterparts. Inevitably, Iain Millard, who had been stationed at the base, ran into an old colleague Mac McCarthy.

Sprowston Manor very kindly provided the course free of charge (the first time St Dunstan's Golf Club had played a full 18 holes as opposed to nine holes twice round) and local coach firm Dolphin Travel smoothed logistics by laying on transport.

The two teams teed off. One of the RAF golfers, Sgt Paul Humphreys teamed up with Stephen Pendleton for the game so that there would be six players on both sides. Paul was a logical choice in this respect, his late father Harry Humphreys was a St Dunstaner.

Des, guided by his brother-in-law Chris Falcon, developed a reputation as a human threshing machine when his ball ended up in the rough. Teamed with Peter Surrige, he was playing against Wing Commander Russ Torbet and Sgt Zeb Render.

Along the way there were ooohs, ahs and ughs as golf balls either behaved as expected or not. There were balls in the water and balls in the rough, some balls obviously headed off to the same part of the universe that offers sanctuary to odd socks.

In the end the RAF golfers won by two holes but they were willing to admit it was a close played game. Steve Pendleton, who has the additional handicap of playing with one leg, drew against Squadron Leader Stuart Richardson.

"We want revenge," declared Des when he thanked the RAF for their hospitality. "If necessary we'll play you at night."

A non-golf diversion the following day was a quick tour of the station with Des and Arthur taking turns to try out the pilot's seat in a Jaguar fighter plane (probably deployed in Eastern Europe last month). Weapons systems were thankfully deactivated.



*Celebrity match! Iain Millard and Bryan Gunn.*

The golfers remained in Norwich that afternoon for a special charity match. Iain Millard teamed up with Neil Baxter of English Blind Golf to play former Norwich City footballer Bryan Gunn and Mark King, Club Champion at Bawburgh Golf Club.

The match was arranged by Bawburgh Captain Mike Sowerby on behalf of the Norfolk and Norwich Association for the Blind and English Blind Golf. In the event St Dunstan's Golf Club also received a donation on the day.

This time the field was somewhat levelled or perhaps turned the other way. The two sighted players took to wearing simulating spectacles that mimicked the effects of the eye conditions afflicting Iain and Neil.

Mark King conceded that it was disorientating experience being blind, even temporarily. "It's tough, very tough! The swing feels totally different you can't trust yourself."

Bryan Gunn expressed similar sentiments, describing his opponents he said: "Both play very well. It shows you can get on and enjoy a game of golf if you want to. All you need is the patience." The tournament lasted for 11 holes and Iain and Neil won two up.

Any St Dunstaner interested in joining the Golf Club should contact Iain on 01273 589446 or Des Chandler on 01273 472193.

# BUFFALOES ON THE BEACONS

by Woody Oakes

I have recently resumed an active interest in The Antediluvian Order of Buffaloes and with two other lodge members went out on the third Drivers Walk on June 20th. Unlike the first and second walks I was not very keen to take part, but I did anyway. I did some groundwork by going to Ovingdean for two weeks working-out in the Gym. I also bought belt, kidney pouches ('58 Pat) and water bottle from a surplus supply store in Brighton.

Another reason I was not keen to go was Cookie my Hearing Dog. It would be a four hour car drive and Cookie is a very poor traveller. There were several other valid reasons for not going one being the weather, the wettest June on record, but I still went.

George and I departed Wells in Somerset just after 09.00. I had bought knock-out pills for the dog but she refused to take them. After two hours we stopped to give her a walk and then finished the journey in another two hours much to the relief of the dog and myself.

After dinner that evening I walked the first two miles of the route and my fears for the conditions were confirmed. The footpaths were streams. I should mention here that Cookie does not like getting her feet wet! I also knew now that the walk was the same one that I had done in '96.

At 05.10 I was woken up by four stone of wet nose insisting on being taken out for a walk. At home this would not be a problem, I would just open the back door but we were on the second floor. Another phobia that Cookie has is going down stairs. At Ovingdean the only way I could get her down was in the lifts, but there were no lifts in the hotel. I did get her down but how I did it is covered by the Official Secrets Act.

The walk started at 09.05. The notable changes between '96 and '98 was the weather. It had been a fine summers day in '96, now it was cold and wet.

The track that had been littered with branches and tree trunks had been cleared but was flooded for 60-70 yards. At the farm the old tractor with the "Coke bottle" shaped exhaust stack had gone but the dead sheep just along the track were still there.

Streams that could be stepped over in 1996 were in full flood and had to be forded. The mature fir tree plantation just before the first control point had been harvested since then.

Between the first and second control points was a distance of less than two miles of very wet marsh. Cookie was a great help finding her way around the worst of the swampy ground, all I had to do was follow her.

A long steep descent and the '58 Pat webbing came into its own, the lower centre of gravity made it easier to keep balance. The fast flowing stream which was now a raging torrent with a waterfall needed care to cross.

The ford across the river where, in 1996, George had slipped and twisted his back was impassable and we had to use the bridge. The bridge made from old railway sleepers, all rotten and several missing was as much of a hazard as fording the river would have been.

From the *Grouse Inn*, the second control point, it was decided that we would take the B route, five miles of road walking back to the finish. It was a good walk and my time was a little quicker than in 1996, given the conditions then were not bad.

The turnout for the walk was very low, only 88 walkers.

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## LETTER TO THE EDITOR

**From: Mrs Barbara Wharton, Lancing**

Thanks to those who attended my beloved husband's funeral, to those who gave flowers and to those who sent their condolences.

My thanks also to the staff of St Dunstan's for the kindness shown and help given to Ray and me during his illness and to me after he passed away.

God bless you all!

# TALKING NEWSPAPERS

by Stella Cork

I have no doubt that many St Dunstaners enjoy receiving tapes from their local Talking Newspapers. There wasn't a local TN when my father, St Dunstaner Ted Cork, was alive, but when I retired I became involved in setting up and running the Shaftesbury Area Talking Newspaper going on for six years ago.

Years ago visually impaired people had little option but to put up with being read to or learning to cope with the cumbersome braille. The advent of tape recorders was an improvement but still handicapped by the sheer size and weight of the reels and machines - let alone the expense incurred in their use. The invention of audio cassettes, players and recorders in the late 60's revolutionised access to the written word. Straightaway local groups got together to put local news on to cassettes for the benefit of blind people and the Talking Newspaper Association of the United Kingdom was established in 1974 on the premise that all people with visual difficulties should have the same choice of newspapers and magazines as sighted people.

The national service is provided by TNAUK and for a nominal annual fee of £20 subscribers have an unlimited choice of some 200 publications - all the major national daily papers, weekly and quarterly papers and magazines etc. TNAUK sends out well over 1 1/2 million cassettes annually.

Early on TNAUK negotiated for postal concessions for partially sighted as well as blind people and, later secured VAT exemption for equipment used by Talking Newspapers.

There are over 520 local TN groups affiliated to TNAUK who supply news from local papers and magazines free of charge reaching 120,000 blind people; some 25,000 volunteers send out well over 6 million tapes annually. Each TN is autonomous in style frequency and content and may provide cassettes for a handful of recipients or for a thousand.

When Shaftesbury Area Talking Newspaper was set up during the winter/spring of 1992/3 we were fortunate to be given the use of a tiny room in an old part of the local comprehensive school and we began with one Coomber recording machine and mike, a

clapped out X3 copier loaned by RNIB, begged and acquired new and second-hand cassettes, several "shoe strings", fearful inexperienced and anxious staff and 45 delighted recipients. Five years on we are still in the school but have almost sole use of a large enough room in a rebuilt part of the school with quite good acoustics, our own secure storage space for our highly sophisticated X11 "slave" copiers and all our own other equipment. We still use two Coomers as we find them reliable, robust and easy to use; one of our clever technicians has made us a simple but effective mixer for our two microphones. To keep tabs on cassette returns and to ensure full copying, we use specially made cassettes of identical length in bright coloured sets.

We have about 110 recipients on our list and send out a weekly C90 cassette of local news, a monthly C60 of news and items from parish magazines in the area and about every six weeks we distribute a magazine tape of useful information culled from a variety of sources - including *St Dunstan's Review* - or of music, poetry, plays and other items read and produced by local schools, arts groups and any others who can be persuaded to so do.

There is a lot of very willing local support in both a practical sense and financially. Our annual running costs are about £1,000 and good equipment is expensive to purchase and maintain. Most of our funds come from local businesses who sponsor a tape for a week in return for having an advertising slot on the tape, but of course, we resort to Bingo occasionally and we sometimes benefit greatly from bequests or collections at memorial services for deceased recipients. We have a team of 14 editors, about 50 readers and 15 or so recorders, copiers and packers all working on a rota basis. Two visually impaired recipient members of the committee act as "quality control" monitors to keep us up to standard as well as to, anonymously, vet potential readers; not everyone who thinks they have a super voice is suitable for this kind of reading!

Each weekly production takes at least 16 man hours. Firstly there are the wallets to be checked back in and the condition of the cassettes checked over - there have been occasions when tapes have been chewed by the dog! The wallet address labels have

to be reversed and a register kept for holidays or spells in hospital or other reasons why a person doesn't want a cassette for a while. Editing involves collecting up all the papers, reading them (and last week's script for continuing items) cutting and pasting ready for the readers and delivering the script to the recording room - all that is certainly a day's worth of work. Reading and recording involves three people, a further two hours at least, sometimes more if fits of giggles set in and too many mistakes are made. Erasing the tapes copying the new news and packing cassettes into wallets uses up another two hours if all goes well. Everyone is very determined to send out the highest quality of reading and recording so there are times when things have to be redone in order to satisfy our "quality control" monitors. Only once in five years have we failed to send out an edition, although there have been one or two hairy weekends of "try and try again" exercises!

Nowadays, of course, TNAUK provides computer disk and e-mail news for those who have the right sort of home equipment and the rapidly developing

computer systems that you can dictate into without even touching a keyboard, that speak back to you, that provide braille feedback etc at, now affordable prices, are beginning to put a question mark over the future of cassette newstapes. There is also the battle against the proposal to provide compensation to copyright holders for audio reproduction of their material by adding a possible 20p each levy to the cost of blank tapes and to recording equipment. We have no intention of succumbing to computerisation or the EU - not only do we feel that most of our recipients can cope with simple audio tapes better than computers, we know that we would lose nearly all of our happy, willing volunteer producers. In any case we feel that there is nothing better than the personal touch.

Details of local TN's, other information on tapes and organisations for visually impaired and disabled people are available from TNAUK, Heathfield, East Sussex TN21 8DB. Telephone: 01435 866102 Fax: 01435 865422. E-mail: [info@tnauk.globalnet.co.uk](mailto:info@tnauk.globalnet.co.uk). Web address: <http://www.tnauk.org.uk>.

## REUNION ROUND UP

This year's reunions continued with Birmingham on May 20th when nine St Dunstaners and 12 widows met at the *Strathallan Hotel*, Birmingham. Norman Hopkins presided on behalf of St Dunstan's Council.

Shaftesbury reunion was held at the *Royal Chase Hotel* on May 28th. There were 15 St Dunstaners and 12 widows attending. Colin Beaumont-Edmunds presided on behalf of St Dunstan's Council.

The London gathering was on May 30th. Lt-General Sir Maurice Johnston presided at *The Victory Services Club* where 11 St Dunstaners and 15 widows attended.

Sir Henry presided at Newcastle on June 2nd. The *Forte Crest Hotel* provided a gathering place for seven St Dunstaners and six widows.

Four St Dunstaners and 12 widows attended the Leeds reunion on June 3rd. Sir Henry presided at the *Forte Crest Leeds/Bradford*.

Sir Henry presided again at Nottingham on June 10th where five St Dunstaners and five widows gathered at the *Forte Posthouse Nottingham City*.

Unfortunately, Sir Henry was unable to attend but 19 St Dunstaners and 15 widows gathered at Exeter on June 24th. One guest, Mr Richard Willson ran in this year's London Marathon on behalf of St Dunstan's. Major General Andrew Keeling was the Member of St Dunstan's Council presiding.

Finally six St Dunstaners and three widows at *Forte Posthouse Cardiff City* on July 1st. Lt-General Sir Maurice Johnston presided at the Cardiff reunion. A presentation was made to Sir Henry by Gwen Obern on behalf of St Dunstaners and widows in Wales.

## 50 YEARS AGO

In 1948 the newly formed London Club had a debate on road safety around Harcourt Street. Westminster Council declared that it was not "practical" to put up extra signs or move crossings and bus stops. Sir Ian Fraser cautioned St Dunstaners to take the utmost care when crossing the road. That probably remains sterling advice in 1998 despite the recent introduction of "spinner" crossings to the area.

## STORY COMPETITION RESULTS

This year's theme was 'A Wartime Romance' and we were very privileged to have Claire Rayner as our judge. She awarded the entries as follows: First winning £60 was Ted Bunting writing as Gladys Wainright with *Any Day Now*. Second winning £25 was Mrs Phyllis Nesbitt with *The Gift*. Runners up winning £5 each were Terry Walker with *Embarkation Leave* and Leslie Shvemar with *A True Wartime Story*. Claire Rayner wished to congratulate all the participants and enjoyed reading the contributions.

## Any Day Now

By Gladys Wainright

"Oh I do love you Gladys," said Harry when we were watching Alfred Hitchcock's *Rebecca* from the back seats of the Regal. "And I love you too, Harry," I replied, snuggling even closer and kissing him tenderly on the lips. It was that wonderful night he asked me to marry him, and when I told him "Yes" he said he was the luckiest man in the world, which made me kiss him yet again, and smile, and cry a bit as well because if anybody's had some rotten luck in his time it's my Harry; he was born to parents called "Pratt" which didn't exactly give him a flying start did it? And although they found out very early on that he was very good, in fact brilliant at music, (he can play nearly everything Harry can) his dad died of the 'flu in 1919 when Harry was only six and there was never any money for instruments or lessons after that. But he started playing with the Salvation Army; cornet, and French horn did he say? It's the sax he likes best though, but it took him ever such a long time to save up for one of them; like I say, life's not been easy for Harry and if anyone deserves a stroke of good fortune it's him; he spent his 27th birthday on the beaches at Dunkirk and he came back with two toes missing; something to do with "A great berk with an outboard motor" Harry says but he spares me the gory details.

It was just after that that we met, he was still hobbling about with a stick but he'd gone to the top deck of my bus and was opening a packet of fags when I called out, "Any more fares please?" Well I don't know what he saw in me because I was in my shapeless uniform and loaded down with my money bag and all the other things and my hair must have been a proper mess but he said, "You can punch my ticket any time you like; what's your name, beautiful?"

"Gladys," I said.

"Well Gladys," he told me, "My name's Harry and

I'm going to take you out somewhere this weekend. I can't take you dancing because of my foot but I can take you to a club where they play some great music. What do you say?"

And that was the start of it, I heard myself saying "Yes please Harry," though I didn't know him from Adam and he's treated me like a real lady ever since.

On that first Saturday, which was the first time I'd been to a jazz club, (or any type of club come to that) I was surprised to see he had a sort of case with him, and when I asked what it was he said, "It's a sax, I thought I might have a blow with the boys." And could he blow? He was wonderful, he really was, he could almost make that saxophone talk he was so good! Everybody clapped like mad and the leader of the band pleaded, "Just one more number Harry" but he wouldn't, and he came back to the front table which was ours; even the girl in the sequins who sang, "Let him go let him tarry," tried to coax him back onto the stage but he refused to leave me again; "He's a perfect partner," I thought then, and nothing since has caused me to change my mind.

Over the following months we became closer and closer, I met his mum who made me very welcome and he came back home with me. We were everywhere together, sometimes the pictures, sometimes to the music club, sometimes for a drink at the pub, but most often just being quietly together; I'm glad I was able to be with him when he heard he was discharged from the Army; "Unfit for service" they said, which upset him a great deal I can tell you; he'd been proud to serve his country, Harry had. "My Granddad was in the Boer War," he said, "And my Dad was in the last lot. The Pratts have always volunteers." But secretly I was pleased the fighting was over as far as he was concerned.

Then a grocer friend of his mum 'Uncle Sam' as



Harry calls him, gave him a job in his shop; they get ever so busy there because hundreds of families are registered with Uncle Sam for their rations, but it meant we could be together in the evenings if I'm not on a late shift, we could go dancing sometimes once Harry's foot healed properly, it's taken a long time but he's winning, just like we're all winning this awful war. It's a long time now since Mr Churchill said that stuff about "this is not the beginning of the end but it may be the end of the beginning," and there's no doubt now that we've got Jerry on the run, we're in the last weeks of 1944 and it can't last much longer; not now the Yanks are in it, bless 'em, because they are going to make all the difference, and change the future for Harry and me as well.

Harry's luck has changed at last, and this is the way it came about; Harry was having his five minutes "blow" at the jazz club one night when this group of Americans came and somebody said "Hey, that's Glenn Miller," and it was too, Harry and the others started playing, *In the mood* and everybody applauded the great band leader who was dressed like a GI Colonel. Well, when Harry came back to me, these Yanks came over and said, "Wow Buddy, that was something else. How'd you like to work for me?" Very direct the Americans are aren't they? And of course my Harry wasn't backward at coming forward either. He jumped at the chance the moment I agreed he should. It will mean travelling all over the world when the war's over, but right now the band is in France entertaining the troops and Harry went with Colonel Miller last Friday, that was the 15th.

He may not be back for Christmas, unfortunately, but we will be married early in the New Year when he comes back. It's hard for me to take it all in but, barring accidents, I'll be Mrs Pratt any day now.



## TORMENTING TEASERS

Strain the brain with this short quiz.

- 1) Where is Beorthelmes?
- 2) What is Inspector Morse's Christian name?
- 3) Who is buried in Grant's Tomb?
- 4) Who was the first King of England to speak English as a mother tongue?
- 5) If you were Robespierre, how many months would you expect to find in a year?

Answers might appear next issue if we are feeling in a generous mood.

## 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 William Mullins** of Royton, Oldham, Lancashire became a St Dunstaner on May 13th. Now aged 82, he served as a Corporal/ Acting Sergeant in the East Lancashire Regiment from May 1940 until his discharge in 1946. He lost two knuckles in a motorcycle accident in the early part of the war and lost his left eye to shrapnel in an ambush in Bremen, Northern Germany in April 1945. The blast temporarily robbed him of sight in his right eye though he regained some sight several months later. On leaving the Forces he returned to his family business running a drapers stall in Oldham Market with his wife Millicent. In 1983 his daughter took over the business though he continued to help her until he finally stopped working four years ago at the age of 78. Mr Mullins also has a son who is a pilot with British Airways.

**Mr Cyril Stanley** of Wrenthorpe, Wakefield, West Yorkshire became a St Dunstaner on May 19th. Now aged 83 he joined the Royal Artillery in 1938 and lost a kidney when a learner driver he was directing reversed into him. In 1942 he rejoined his regiment in North Africa and was with them on the push into Italy. At Cassino his vehicle was hit by shellfire and he temporarily lost the sight in both eyes, but swift action by an American aid post helped to restore it. He remained with his unit for the rest of the war. Back in civilian life, he joined the sales staff of a tyre manufacturer. Mr Stanley and his wife Yvonne have three children.

**Mr Josef Ryszka** of Ovingdean became a St Dunstaner on July 2nd. Now aged 89 he is already known to many St Dunstaners since he worked for the organisation as General Orderly for many years. He originally joined the Polish Army in 1931 but was taken prisoner by the Russians when they invaded Lithuania. He was sentenced to ten years hard labour near the White Sea but was released along with other Polish POWs when Germany invaded Russia. He joined the 12th Podolian Lancers in Italy serving as a Staff Sergeant. Wounded at Monte Cassino in 1944 by a shell blast which seriously affected the right hand side of his body, he lost his right eye. After treatment he arrived at Church Stretton in June 1945 where he was employed as orderly. From there he moved to St Dunstan's Ovingdean and worked there until his retirement. Mr Ryszka and his wife Leokadia live not far from the house.

points, but we all won a most enjoyable lunch in the Winter Garden prepared and served by PBK and so ended a great day, here's to the next time.

## OTHER RESULTS

### The Dacre Trophy

Winner	Tom Hart
2nd	Ron Cattell
3rd	Sid Doy

### The Curly Wagstaff Trophy

Winner	Sid Doy
2nd	Roy Cattell
3rd	Tom Hart

### The RUC Pairs Trophy

Winners	Eric Bradshaw & Norman Perry
2nd	Ron Cattell & Tom Hart
3rd	Bert Wood & Sid Doy

Gale force winds caused the match with Cuckfield and Greenway archers to be abandoned after two dozen arrows, St Dunstan's were declared winners of both trophies.

## CLUB NEWS

### ARCHERY

by Bert Wood

### Summer Championships and Fairy Stories June 8th-13th

The weed strewn slopes of Ovingdean trembled as the weather hardened archers of St Dunstan's drove hundreds of arrows into target and ground. "Dive! Dive! Dive!" came the panic stricken order over the tannoy from King Wiggly as the steel tipped missiles pieced his worm domain. "We're under attack! Any casualties captain?" "Slow worm copped it sire, he was a sliced in half by a missile." The King gasped in horror and his crown slid down his back. "How does he feel?" asked the King. "Double queer sire, he doesn't know if he is coming or going. His voice has changed too," reported the captain.

The sunniest day of the week (best of two) brought the army team led by Major Wendy Legasic, with Major Chris Vitali and three other ranks, they were also accompanied by a Lieutenant Colonel from the defence office as observer. I think he was looking for archers for a new regiment, last ditch stand and all that. He sounded like Prince Charles, told me of his training in Canada and the officer who went bear hunting, he was found two days later naked up in a tree, those are the bare facts, who hunted who? The beautiful day made the army match a happy one, this pleased us because of the long distances they travel to be with us, sorry they lost by just a few

### NEWHAVEN SHOOT

On May 10th St Dunstan archers Ron Cattell and John Lilley were invited to shoot with the Newhaven archers. This venture resulted in a further invite, this time to demonstrate their prowess with bow and arrow at East Grinstead.

### BBS CROWN WINNER

The brass monkey weather on May 29th deterred St Dunstan's archer Norman Perry not a bit as he shot to his highest potential to lift the British Blind Sports Championships Crown, class B1. John Lilley made second place in the B2 class. Newcastle TV covered the event.

### BOWLING

The Bowling Club again held a successful tournament from March 23rd-30th and though some members were missing through illness, we were still able to produce some excellent bowling.

For the first time in any of our competitions we had a joint first in the Pairs. The results were as follows:

### Totally blind

Winner	Bob Osborne
Runner-up	Jackie Pryor

### Partially sighted

Winner Jesse Mills  
Runner-up Frank Smith

### Pairs

Joint Winners Jackie Pryor & Len Walker  
Bob Osborne  
& Colwyn Lloyd

### Triples

Winners Tom Whitley,  
Mark Maddock & Jesse Mills  
Runners-up Bob Osborne, Jackie Pryor  
& Frank Smith

The Club has been supporting the Weston-Super-Mare Visually handicapped Tournament since 1981 and in May five bowlers and their wives spent a very enjoyable week at this venue.

The Tournament was well supported with the continued help of Edna Cope, John Muga, Reg and Vi Bradford who are always available to mark and call the games, and to Rita Pryor and Joan Osborne for their hard work in organising everything. Appreciation is also given to the staff at Ovingdean.

The next tournament will be from November 9th-16th and we are looking forward to meeting our friends once again.

**R. Osborne**  
Chairman

## FAMILY NEWS

### BIRTHS

#### Congratulations on the birth of:

Ryan Wheeler-Osman on May 10th. He is the fourth great grandchild of *Joe Whitley* of Southampton, Hampshire.

### WEDDINGS

#### Congratulations to:

Daniel and Esther Planner on May 16th. Daniel is the son of *Don and Sharon Planner* of Poole, Dorset.

Jayne and Peter Baker on June 6th. Jayne is the daughter of *Gordon and Ann Parr* of Highbridge, Somerset.

### ACHIEVEMENTS

#### Congratulations to:

Commander David Perfect RN, MNI, on the award

of a BSc Honours First Class (Mathematics and Physics) at University College, London. David recently left the Royal Navy after 32 years service to start a new career as a Senior Consultant with a firm in London. He is the elder son of *John and Audrey Perfect* of Yealmpton, Devon.

Joanne Jordon on completing a four year degree course, and obtaining her BA Hons (Education). She is the daughter of *Chris and Win Jordan* of Washington, Tyne & Wear.

Jonathan Phillips, eldest grandson of *Trevor and Joan Phillips* of Paignton, Devon, has been awarded a BSc with honours after reading Computer Sciences at Portsmouth University. Also, their son-in-law Michael Ellis of the Devon & Cornwall Constabulary has been promoted from Sergeant to Inspector.

### RUBY ANNIVERSARY

#### Congratulations to:

*Alexander and Joyce McLeod* of Luton, Bedfordshire on June 7th.

### GOLDEN ANNIVERSARIES

#### Congratulations to:

*Alfred and Elsie Lockhart* of Dagenham, Essex who celebrated on June 5th.

*Charles and Betty Tibbit* of Capel-le-Ferne, nr Folkestone, Kent on June 12th.

*Douglas and Irene Norman* of Bradford, West Yorkshire on June 26th.

### DIAMOND ANNIVERSARY

#### Congratulations to:

*Gilbert and Majorie Smith* of Heathfield, East Sussex on May 14th.

### SPECIAL ANNIVERSARY

#### Congratulations to:

*Samuel and Dorothy Keating* of Exmouth, Devon who celebrated 62 years of marriage on June 6th.

### DEATHS

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

Mrs Betty Wright on June 12th. She was the wife of *Alan Wright* of Leeds.

Mrs Edna Somervell of Auckland, New Zealand on April 26th. She was the widow of *Alan Somervell*.

Mrs Irene Cox of Ashford, Middlesex on May 11th. She was the widow of *Thomas Cox*.

Mrs Clara Smith of Newcastle-under-Lyme on May 31st. She was the widow of *Alfred Smith*.

Mrs Lilly Jones of Abercrave, Swansea on June 24th. She was the widow of *William Jones*.

Mrs Nora Clark of Southampton, Hants on May 18th.

**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 widowers, widows, family and friends.**

### John Alton,

*Royal Air Force*

John Francis Noel Alton of Victoria, Australia died on May 5th, aged 85. He had been a St Dunstaner since 1946. Originally from Dublin, Mr Alton enlisted in the Royal Air Force in 1931 and served as an Armourer attaining the rank of Warrant Officer. He was wounded by a shell explosion in Burma in 1944. Discharged in June 1945, he returned to Cheshire and after becoming a St Dunstaner he was employed as an aircraft fitter. In 1949 he emigrated to Australia and continued to work in the engineering field. Our sympathy goes to his daughters and all other members of the family.

### Captain Alan Milne,

*Royal Regiment of Artillery*

Professor Alan John Mitchell Milne of Old Headington, Oxford died on May 24th, aged 76. He had been a St Dunstaner since 1945. His early ambition was to become a professional cricketer, he was also keen on rugby and swimming, but the advent of war took him in other directions. In 1940, at the age of 17, he enlisted and served in the Royal Regiment of Artillery. After being commissioned he joined No 3 Commando, Royal Artillery and was serving in Germany when wounded by a sniper's bullet. Back in the UK he trained with St Dunstan's at Church Stretton before commencing studies at the London School of Economics in October 1946. He studied politics, philosophy and economics which would be the cornerstone of his academic career. He spent two years studying at Berkley and Princeton in

the USA courtesy of a much coveted Commonwealth Fund Fellowship award before returning to the LSE as a temporary lecturer. He moved on to Queen's University, Belfast and was appointed to a 'personal chair', Professor of Social Philosophy in 1973. He eventually became Professor of Politics at Durham University, a post from which he retired in 1987. Professor Milne's writings, starting with *The Social Philosophy of the English Idealism* (1962) and concluding with *The Ethical Frontiers of the State* (1997) were feted for their clarity of argument even when drawn against the popular tide. He maintained his links with the LSE, broadcasting on radio as leader of their debating team. Our sympathy goes to his widow Susan, his seven children and all other members of the family.

### Raymond Wharton,

*Dorset Regiment*

Raymond Charles Victor Wharton of Lancing, West Sussex died on May 25th, aged 74. He had been a St Dunstaner since 1953. A market gardener by trade he enlisted in 1942, joining the Dorset Regiment as a Private. He was posted with them to the Far East. He was wounded and his sight was damaged as a result of a grenade explosion in 1944. On his return to civilian life he joined the motor industry and was employed by Chrysler and Morris Motors, which subsequently became British Leyland, until his early retirement. His leisure hours were spent mostly gardening or toymaking. Our sympathy goes to his widow Barbara, their three children and all other members of the family.

### Eileen Gomez,

*Auxiliary Territorial Service*

Mrs Eileen Gomez of Goring-by-Sea, West Sussex died on June 1st, aged 73. She had been a St Dunstaner since 1992. Mrs Gomez, nee Herbert, enlisted with the Auxiliary Territorial Service (ATS) in September 1941 and served as a Lance Corporal. She was an administrative assistant with the supernumerary trade of Physical Training Instructor until her discharge in April 1944 through ill health which eventually resulted in the loss of her sight. On returning to civilian life she took up employment as a bookkeeper and typist and continued working until 1980. She was very skilled at dressmaking, handicrafts, knitting, cookery and was also a keen organist. She used to play regularly for her local Methodist Chapel. Our sympathy goes to her widower John and all other members of the family.

**Alexander Nesbitt,**

*Royal Air Force*

Alexander (Alex) Nesbitt of Ovingdean died on June 7th, aged 78. He had been a St Dunstaner since 1946. He enlisted, aged 16 with the Royal Air Force and served as a Sergeant until his discharge in 1942 having been blinded while loading an American rocket. He suffered other facial injuries as a result of this accident (he also lost his sense of smell). On his return to civilian life he lived in Eire for many years, but returned to England in 1956 to work in industry until ill-health forced his early retirement. His main interest in later years was listening to music and tapes and those who knew him will remember his great sense of humour. Our sympathy goes to his widow Phyllis, son Alexander and all members of the family.

**Jaroslaw Majchrowicz,**

*Polish Resettlement Corps*

Jaroslaw Majchrowicz of Ovingdean died on June 14th, aged 85. He had been a St Dunstaner since 1971. His father had been a judge and Mr Majchrowicz worked in the law courts in Poland before the start of World War II. However, as a reservist he was mobilised when Germany invaded. Captured he was held Prisoner of War in Russia until 1941 when the German-Russian Alliance had dissolved. As a Corporal in the Polish Resettlement Corps he was subsequently wounded at Monte Cassino, suffering head injuries and losing his right eye. He was discharged in 1949. Mr Majchrowicz was one of three brothers and found that his family had been dispersed during the war, despite his best efforts he was only partly successful in tracing them. Settling in the UK he worked for Walls and for a while as a hairdresser. He remained single and lived in both Pearson House and St Dunstan's Ovingdean.

**Alfred Hall,**

*Royal Armoured Corps*

Alfred Thomas Hall of St Athan, nr Barry, South Glamorgan died on June 24th, aged 83. He had been a St Dunstaner since 1983. A sheet metal worker he enlisted in 1937 with the Royal Armoured Corps. He was taken prisoner of war by Japanese forces in Java in 1942 and was moved to Amboina in September 1943. Like many FEPOWs malnutrition caused the deterioration of his sight. After his discharge in 1946 he worked as a silk printer until retiring in 1977. Our sympathy goes to his widow Lily, their three daughters, Nancy, Annette and Jeanette and all of the family.

**Herbert Morrison,**

*Royal Army Service Corps*

Herbert George Thomas Morrison of Sherborne, Dorset died on July 1st, aged 83. He had been a St Dunstaner since 1987. Known as 'Tom' he was a teacher of mathematics and physics before he enlisted in the Army in 1936 and joined the 2nd Battalion Rifle Brigade. He was posted overseas to India, Palestine and the Western Desert serving as a Colour Sergeant. Injured shortly before the Battle of El Adem, Mr Morrison soldiered on through El Alamein but after a spell in hospital at Cairo he was ordered back to England. Once home he transferred to the Royal Army Service Corps, working on the preparations for the D-Day invasion. Discharged in 1945 he returned to teaching, retiring in 1970. A keen carpenter Mr Morrison was feted for a series of working spinning wheels that he constructed, building both wood and metal parts. He also kept bees and was a keen gardener and enjoyed bowls. Our sympathy goes to his widow Doris, daughter Susan, and all other members of the family.

**Maurice Bull,**

*Royal Air Force*

Maurice Arthur Bull of Stretton, Burton-on-Trent died on July 2nd, aged 77. He had been a St Dunstaner since 1993. He served in the Royal Air Force from 1947 until to 1948 when he was injured chopping wood in a training accident. Discharged, he returned to his original work as a gardener but having become interested in golf during his time in the RAF he became a greenkeeper at his local golf club. He also enjoyed fishing. Our sympathy goes to his widow Dorothy and all members of the family.

**Jack Aylott,**

*Royal Air Force*

Jack Reginald Aylott of Yarm, Cleveland died on July 3rd, aged 86. He had been a St Dunstaner since 1989. He enlisted in the Royal Air Force in 1941 as a trainee Navigator and whilst training in the UK was injured in a bombing raid when he lost his left eye. He was invalided out of the Air Force in 1943. He then started work in the furnishing trade and soon had his own business. He later sold out and worked for the Post Office, ending his working life as a sub-Postmaster. His interests included stamp and coin collecting and he was a keen gardener. Our sympathy goes to his sons Paul and Russell, daughter Susan and all other members of the family.