

St Dunstan's Review

December 1998



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Cover picture: HRH The Duke of York spells out a greeting on the palm of deaf-blind St Dunstaner Michael Ryan.

From the Chairman



At the Council meeting held on Thursday, October 29th, I had the privilege of being elected as your Chairman. I look forward to maintaining the objectives of St Dunstan's in providing care and support to you who have lost your sight in the service of our country, your wives, husbands, widows, widowers and families. I hope to meet many of you over the coming months.

It was the last meeting for Sir Henry, after 15 years, and whose retirement was covered in the October *Review*. St Dunstaner Norman Hopkins also retired from the Council having served for seven years. I thank Norman for his valuable contribution in representing the views and opinions of fellow St Dunstaners.

There were three new appointments to the Council; Timothy Bacon was a merchant banker and now combines the provision of corporate finance advice with the management of a privately owned property investment company. His knowledge and experience will be appreciated on the Finance and General Purposes Committee. We welcome David Knowles, CBE, past National Chairman of The Royal British Legion. The third member is Ray Hazan, who became a St Dunstaner in 1973 after being injured in Northern Ireland and joined the staff of St Dunstan's in 1977.

At the Annual General Meeting, also held on October 29th, it was announced that Her Majesty The Queen, our Patron, has graciously approved the appointment of four Vice-Patrons. We welcome them and appreciate the ties their links with St Dunstan's will give us with the three Services and with industry.

Admiral Sir Jock Slater, GCB, LVO, ADC
(recently First Sea Lord)

General Sir Edward Jones, KCB, CBE
(currently Black Rod in the House of Lords)

Air Chief Marshal Sir Roger Palin, KCB, OBE
(formerly of the RAF Benevolent Fund)

Sir Donald Gosling
(former Chairman National Car Parks)

This year, the 80th anniversary of the Armistice, the Remembrance Day Parade was very well subscribed; we had over 200 people on parade and sat down nearly 260 for lunch. Thank you to those who attended, St Dunstaners, wives, widows, widowers, escorts and supporters. It is so very important that we turn out as many people as possible at this, the largest of our reunions. Not only is it a wonderful opportunity to meet old friends, but it is our chance to present our public image on television and in the media generally and to spread the word. So, those who attended and enjoyed this year, try to recruit a 'newcomer' for November 14th 1999 and see if we can do even better.

Finally, my wife Jennie and I wish you all a very Happy Christmas and a prosperous New Year.

Captain Michael Gordon-Lennox, RN

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 1999 be a healthy, happy and satisfying year for us all.



NOTICE BOARD



WHAT'S ON IN 1999

These are just some of the events and activities that make up St Dunstan's fin de siècle calendar. Details of other meetings will appear in future issues. For Club events, participants should note that arrival and departure dates are one day before and after those published.

Archery Club	Feb 14th-20th	Archery Club	June 6th-12th
Amateur Radio Society AGM	March 20th-21st	Newcastle Reunion	June 8th
Brighton Reunion (I)	April 7th	Leeds Reunion	June 9th
Ex-POW Reunion	April 9th-12th	Golf Club	June (To be confirmed)
Dutch Memorial Laying of Flowers at Ovingdean	April 11th	Brighton Reunion (II)	June (To be confirmed)
Norwich Reunion	April 14th	Exeter Reunion	June 30th
Computer Club	April 14th-15th	Cardiff Reunion	July 7th
Golf Club	April (To be confirmed)	Golf Club	July (To be confirmed)
Liverpool Reunion	April 21st	The Royal Tournament	July 20th- August 2nd
Masonic Group	April 24th-25th	HMS <i>Sultan</i>	July 30th - August 7th
Birmingham Reunion	April 28th	Ovingdean Fete	August 14th
Walking Holiday	April 22nd-28th (To be confirmed)	Golf Club	August (To be confirmed)
Handless Reunion	May 5th-11th	Archery Club	August 29th- September 4th
Shaftesbury Reunion	May 11th	Generation Three Reunion	September 3rd-5th
London Reunion	May (To be confirmed)	Golf Club	September (To be confirmed)
Golf Club	May (To be confirmed)	Physiotherapy Weekend	September 24th-26th
Nottingham Reunion	May 26th	Computer Club	October 7th-8th
		Amateur Radio Society	October 9th-10th
		Remembrance Day	November 14th

DEADLINE FOR NEXT ISSUE

The final date for submitting items for publication in the February *Review* is December 31st.

STAFF NOTICES

Mrs Sally Leaver, Head of Welfare, left St Dunstan's on November 9th. We wish her well in the future.

Miss Lesley Styche took up the post of Head of Training and Rehabilitation at St Dunstan's Ovingdean on November 23rd. Lesley is a qualified Rehabilitation Officer for the Visually Impaired (ROVI) and comes to us from the Guide Dogs for the Blind Association, where she trained their ROVIs.

PLEASE SUPPORT OUR TOURNAMENT STAND 1999

Next year The Royal Tournament will take place from July 20th-August 2nd, the last time it will be held in its traditional form at Earls Court. St Dunstan's is aiming to make its stand an extra-special one for the event.

We urgently require items for sale, such as wooden or knitted toys (particularly popular are ones of soldiers, firemen, policemen, etc), baby and children's clothes, or any other handicraft item made by St Dunstaners, widows, widowers, wives, husbands and your families. Any homemade goods such as preserves and honey or unused and unwanted new goods are also greatly appreciated.

Please contact Robbie Hazan at Headquarters on 0171 723 5021.

REVIEW WELCOMES NEW READERS

With this issue of the *Review*, we welcome 120 new readers. Apart from the print edition, it is also available in tape, braille and computer disk formats.

The *Review* is also available in an extra large format, with text that is 140 per cent bigger than normal. Partially-sighted computer users (with Windows) can also receive it in a format that allows them to increase the page size, up to 800 per cent, as they wish.

Anyone wishing to receive the *Review* in any of the variant formats should contact the Public Relations department at HQ. Suggestions, comments and letters are always welcome.

The Public Relations department also produces *Nuggets*, a monthly digest of new inventions, historical finds and off-beat items making the news. It is available on tape and in braille.

CAMP AT HMS SULTAN 1999

The camp at HMS *Sultan* will take place next year from Friday, July 30th 1999 until the morning of Saturday, August 7th 1999. I do hope that all those who enjoyed camp this summer will come again and also tell other St Dunstaners who have not yet been that it is a time of comradeship and a happy holiday.

All those wishing to come should contact Elspeth Grant, preferably by telephone on 01799 522874, or write to her at High Acre, Catmere End, Saffron Walden CB11 4XG as soon as possible, not later than May 10th 1999.

Elspeth Grant

EX-POW REUNION

The 1999 ex-POW Reunion will be held over the weekend of April 9th-12th. Anyone who wishes to attend this reunion, must book accommodation at Ovingdean through their local Welfare Officer.

I would be obliged if the ex-POWs who are in residence at Ovingdean would also indicate if they intend to attend the Reunion.

Alf Lockhart

PS Would St Dunstaners attending please let Tom Hart know in order that he can make necessary catering arrangements. Contact Tom at 15 Whitefriars Meadow, Sandwich, Kent CT13 9AS. Tel: 01304 612771.

ARCHERY FIXTURES 1999

The following shoots have been arranged for the forthcoming year.
February 14th-20th

June 6th-12th June (including a shoot against the Army on June 9th)

August 29th-September 4th (including a shoot at Sandwich, Kent against the Bowmen of Sibertswold)

Roger McMullan
Secretary
St Dunstan's Archery Club

THE HOLE PLAN

St Dunstan's Golf Club is planning to play every third weekend from April to September next year. Dates are to be confirmed.

WALKING HOLIDAY 1999

Although no details are available at the time of going to press, the holiday is likely to take place over a five day period towards the end of April.

The walk is open to all comers, both new and old! You do not have to walk every day. Would anyone who has not previously been on the holiday and would like to receive details when available please contact the PR department at HQ without delay.

STOCKING FILLERS

A seasonal recap of handy gadgets for VIPs and other items which might provide useful inspiration for that elusive Christmas gift.

SWEATSHIRTS

St Dunstan's sweatshirts are available from the Public Relations department for £8.50. Blue with a left-handed yellow chest logo, they come in medium, large and XL. Please add £2 to your order for postage and packing.

TIES

The St Dunstaners tie is French Navy in colour and made of polyester for easy washing. Price £5. Orders should be sent to the Public Relations department at HQ.

COBALT TALKIES

The next four items are all available from Cobalt Systems. All prices include p&p.

Talking Calendar Alarm Clock

This clock incorporates full reporting of the day and date as well as time, automatic adjustment for summer/winter time change over, and separate speech and alarm volume controls. Price: £29.95 with batteries (Can also be powered by optional mains adapter, £4.00).

Talking Calculator with earphone

A basic function calculator with percentage and memory keys. This calculator features a large clear display, adjustable volume, selectable unit or digit spoken results, selectable speech on/off, large tactile keys and an earphone which disconnects the speaker when plugged in for private use. Powered by two AA size batteries. Price: £20.85.

Talking Bathroom Scale

Advanced strain gauge technology with computerised calibration, the scale speaks your weight in stones & pounds, pounds or kilos. Price: £34.95 with batteries.

Parrot Talking Organiser

This pocket sized device has a wide range of functions including memo taker, diary, appointment book, calculator, calendar alarm clock and telephone dialler. Price: £120 with batteries. The Parrot Data Link is an additional £25.

Write to Cobalt Systems Ltd, The Old Mill House, Mill Road, Reedham, Norwich, Norfolk NR13 3TL or Tel: 01493 700172.

VOICE DIARY

A hand-held talking Personal Organiser containing notepad, telephone directory with auto dialling, a diary, stopwatch, calculator and timer. The device is available in a 1MB version for £130 (which provides 15 minutes of recording time in notebook mode), or 2MB (45 minutes in notebook mode) for £230. To order contact CVIP Ltd on 0181 420 1338.

HEARTALKER, PERSONAL TRAINER

The world's first talking heart rate monitor includes adjustable volume control and times workout duration. It may be used while walking, jogging or performing aerobics. It is available in two versions, Ken for \$59.95 and Mike for \$79.95 plus an air mail shipping charge to the UK of \$20. Orders should be sent to Speak to Me, 17913 108th Avenue, SE Suite#155, Renton WA 98055, USA. E-mail: seth@halycon.com or by transatlantic telephone on 001425 235 6119.

GOLDEN CLANGERS

A classic collection of clangers and calamities broadcast by radio stations from around the world is now available on CD. *Bloopers Gold* has 20 tracks with over 100 classic radio clangers and nett proceeds will be donated to the British Wireless for the Blind Fund. Compiled and presented by broadcaster Jonathan Hewat it lasts for more than 70 minutes. The price which includes p&p is £8.99. Cheques or postal orders should be made payable to 46 Design.

Send your name and address with your payment to *Bloopers Gold* CD, BWFB, Gabriel House, 34 New Road, Chatham, Kent ME4 4QR.

CATHEDRAL MODEL

Chester Cathedral has recently installed a tactile model for visually impaired visitors. The model includes a touch-sensitive audio tour, relayed to visitors through two sets of headphones. The model is on permanent display at the visitors entrance. For details contact: Chester Cathedral on 01244 324756.

TRAVEL TO THE NETHERLANDS OR THE NEW WORLD

RNIB's Holiday Service is offering a three day break in Holland in April 1999. Excursions include a visit to Frans Roozen tulip nursery, the fabulous Keukenhof gardens and a guided tour of Amsterdam. The cost per person is £199. Also scheduled is a visit to the USA with a tour of Nashville, Memphis and New Orleans in April 1999. Cost per person £899. For details and booking forms call Carole Lambert at RNIB's Holiday Service on 0171 388 1266 ext 2042.



Message from Sir Henry

On my final day as Chairman I was deeply touched to be handed a very large cheque to which the majority of you had subscribed. This was an unexpected, undeserved and most generous gesture which I greatly appreciate. It will enable me to get a new car to replace my old one which has just reached its sell-by date. Your present can hardly have been more timely and I have ordered a Peugeot 306L diesel, coloured bright red - to show up in bad weather (as shown above).

Thank you all more than I can adequately say. I shall think of you every time I drive it.

OBITUARY:

Miss Ray Skinner, MBE

Miss Mary 'Ray' Mackenzie Skinner, MBE died on September 18th. She was St Dunstan's Welfare Visitor for the Scotland area from 1974 until her retirement in 1986. During the war she was an ambulance driver for the British Red Cross and her work for them, particularly as their Invernesshire County Secretary, earned her an MBE in the 1960 Queen's Birthday Honours. Miss Skinner was also an active member of the Soroptomists, travelling to Honolulu and Istanbul to further their message of international friendship.

GLYN BOWLS FOR BRITAIN

Glyn and Sheila Shoemith travelled to South Africa to participate in the Paralympic Games as part of the UK Blind Bowling team. Sheila picks up their story.

There were several other teams staying at the hotel in Johannesburg - from Canada, America, Hong Kong, Austria and Israel - and, of course, South Africa. Everyone was quite friendly.

Unlike Great Britain, the other countries did what is called front coaching: the coaches stand in front of their bowler and position them to within a millimetre of their correct stance, directing the wood by either clapping or chanting to their player; then, as the wood leaves the bowler's hand, it would inevitably be within half-a-yard of the jack. So you can imagine, our teams were at a disadvantage from the start.

Although we had seven Gold medals with the visual teams, this indeed was a great achievement for the visually handicapped - in general, everyone was at a great disadvantage. My husband Glyn says, "I enjoyed the Games very much but was a bit disappointed with my achievements but, overall, the experience is something I will treasure and use for the future."

Ray drops on Arnhem



St Dunstaner Ray Sheriff found himself in free-fall over Holland once more at the 54th Anniversary of the Battle of Arnhem. Ray, who lost his sight during the battle, made this 9,000ft drop with other veterans on September 20th, three days after the actual anniversary. Tandem Master John Verstegen, allowed Ray to manipulate the guide toggles during the descent, manoeuvring into open spaces.

Earlier that day Ray attended a special service at the Airborne Cemetery.

Remembrance Sunday

November 8th



As Big Ben struck the first note of the 11th hour and the crash of the field gun echoed from Horse Guards, so a misty drizzle moistened the already damp faces of the 83 St Dunstaners, 32 widows and their escorts standing in Whitehall. On this the 80th anniversary of the Armistice, St Dunstan's was privileged to have two widows of First War St Dunstaners in the contingent. Mrs Vivien Jerome and Mrs Rose Quigley bravely faced the long wait and march. Our eldest widow, Daisy Kenwood of Peacehaven reached the tender age of 104 last August, and though not able to be with us, she and many others were with us in spirit.

Sgt Robinson of the Welsh Guards kept the contingent in order, though was probably not used to having so many high ranking officers in his squad. General Sir Peter de la Billière, General Sir David Ramsbotham, former Royal Green Jacket and HM Inspector of Prisons, Major-General Andrew Keeling, member of St Dunstan's Council, Group Captain Terrett, Vice-Chairman of SSAFA and Raymond Baxter were among the escorts. Sgt Robinson looks forward to repeating the experience next year!

The BBC TV commentary was a little disappointing this year but perhaps was made up for by a showing of the ten minute documentary *Sound like Sunlight* screened on Channel 4 on the Saturday evening. The late Fred Hobbs, Mike Tetley, Jozef Loska, Sid Doy, Ray Sheriff and Ray Hazan talk briefly about their experiences and coping with life today.

In many cases, a glass of strong spirit was waiting back at the *Forte Posthouse Hotel* to relieve what were due to be spirits weakened by the forecast of wind and rain, which fortunately, did not come about. With efficiency, 260 people were seated in quick

Top: Captain Gordon-Lennox leads St Dunstan's contingent from Horse Guards Parade.

Middle: FEPOW St Dunstaner Ken Walker with broadcaster Raymond Baxter.

Bottom: Rev C. Le M. Scott and St Dunstaner Randall Williams after the Remembrance march.



time for lunch thanks to a seating plan and carefully briefed wives and escorts.

It was with anticipation, the gathering listened to our new Chairman on the first occasion he was to address us:

Captain Michael Gordon-Lennox paid special tribute, amongst the escorts, to Raymond Baxter, who had given his time and services freely to provide the voice-over for an advertisement which was currently being broadcast on Classic FM radio. He thanked Peter Irvén, whose first occasion this was in organising such an important event for St Dunstan's.

"It is a humbling experience to take over the Chairmanship of St Dunstan's from such a very great personality as Sir Henry Leach. In the *October Review*, he states that he hands over 'a ship in good shape, on a steady course, through waters, which seem today to be fairly untroubled in the immediate future.'" He lauded Sir Henry's exploits in guiding St Dunstan's through a tricky financial situation and of embarking upon a successful fund raising campaign. "We owe him an unquantifiable vote of thanks.

If I may continue his analogy; the ship may now proceed with caution. She may require total alteration of course and speed, and must be navigated with care. We should always expect trouble ahead and we must always be sure we know where we are going."

The Chairman went on to say how he never failed to be captivated by that characteristic, positive and cheerful approach to life shown by St Dunstaners. He mentioned his first encounters with our late President, Colonel Sir Mike Ansell. More recent achievements were those of Reggie Perrin and Don Planner, both mountain climbers and Peter Carr, a magistrate. Others had made great achievements in archery, bowls, shooting and golf, to name but a few. "The determination to be successful, effective and enjoy life regardless of affliction is an inspirational

Top: Lt Cmdr Tim Smart with Terry Bullingham and Tony Haskey and Major-General Andrew Keeling.

Middle: Ray and Jonathan Hazan with Sgt Robinson of the Welsh Guards.

Bottom: Ovingdean's General Manager Susan Harrison scans the plan for Bill Carthy.



example to the rest of us and long may this continue. To coin a phrase – 'don't just sit there, get a life!' that is what St Dunstan's stands for. It will be an honour and a privilege to serve you and I will give it my best shot."

The response was given by St Dunstaner John Walbrugh, member of Council. He started by welcoming the Chairman on behalf of all St Dunstaners, wives, widows and widowers. "We offer you and Mrs Gordon-Lennox our very best wishes and unfailing support for the future years of your chairmanship. We wish you and all members of staff good luck and great wisdom for the future."

The reunion served two purposes; an opportunity for us to remember those who did not come back and for the family of St Dunstan's to gather both physically and spiritually. He urged people to make the most of the occasion.

John went on to thank Sue Harrison, Jackie Greer and all the staff at Ovingdean for the welcome they added in addition to the excellent facilities that exist in Brighton – "so let's use them, or surely we shall lose them. Over the years, St Dunstaners have founded many different clubs. We must not let them fade or die."

John concluded by saying, "We are very lucky having St Dunstan's always in the background. But it is to the wives, husbands, widows and widowers who, day in and day out, through good and bad times, to whom we owe so much. You have our love and our admiration."

Noticeable amongst the spectators lining the route was the predominance of youth. Perhaps lessons are being learned? That adds to the important occasion the day provided for the family of St Dunstan's to pay its tribute to fallen comrades and to remember others who have passed on. It was also an opportunity to share in fellowship and friendship amongst ourselves and our escorts.



Eyes right. St Dunstan's contingent marches up to take the final salute.

The Pointless War

by Matthew Rhodes

What a stunningly beautiful country,
As it still is today.
Huge magnificent forests,
Astounding, glorious countryside.
People from all around the land come to live here,
Amongst the attractiveness,
Different religions, beliefs, understandings.

What about the war, the fighting,
The shooting of each other's neighbour?
For the amount of years this has been going on,
Even before the birth of Jesus.
You would be sure they would ask,
"Why bother?" but do they?
No.

It all seems so pointless, so hollow,
Why oh why were they fighting?
The world feels sorry for the warring people,
So sends in a protection force.
A single soldier goes to a fine village,
And ends up playing marbles
With the young children.
There are goats, sheep, dogs,
Enjoying themselves.
He, smiling away, rolls his marble.

All the children disappear.
The bombs start cascading down
Upon the young, innocent soldier.
What can he do?
Nothing but pray for the best.

But, above all the carnage,
The flowers still grow, the bees still bumble.
It shows, like watching a nature film,
How other lives continue,
Whatever we do.

WAR GRAVES ON WEB

Families and comrades of Commonwealth servicemen who died in both world wars will be able to find their graves and records more easily, thanks to an innovative project launched by the Commonwealth War Graves Commission. The *Debt of Honour Register* on its website, www.cwg.org, gives details of 1.7 million who gave their lives. Families will be able to do their own searches for date of death and location of cemetery.

Primates, palaces and places

The 1998 Ladies' Reunion

by Margaret Bingham

This year's Ladies' Reunion saw Barbara Bell, Margaret Bingham, Margaret Patterson, Winnie Edwards and Brenda Tinsley meet for an extended weekend at St Dunstan's Ovingdean over September 10th-14th.

Drusilla's Park at Alfriston near Eastbourne was the first outing for our special weekend. Joined by other St Dunstaners and escorts we made quite a big party, all eager to sample the various activities at this very popular zoo.

At the entrance called *How Life Began* were prehistoric creatures, reptiles such as the Burmese python and iguana frogs slithering over rocks and mammals such as the tiny tree shrew climbing the branches of a tree in this very authentic looking enclosure. Ruffed lemurs pressed their quivering noses to the glass.

Children were very well catered for with a playland area with a bouncy castle and climbing frame, swings and ropes and also a train with a carriage at the rear for prams and wheelchairs. Changing rooms are provided and everything has been considered for the comfort of visitors.

After a very tasty lunch we went to a large room where a member of staff gave a talk about the zoo's inhabitants. All the houses were as natural as possible to ensure the well being of the creatures and they certainly looked healthy. There were some exhibits for us to handle. One, a live snail was horribly cold and clammy. These are farmed and are a great delicacy in some parts of the world. A live guinea pig was small and docile, but a great spider was so creepy! What an interesting visit it had been and we thank all who helped make it so.

Our visit to the Fishbourne Roman Palace near Chichester was yet another interesting experience. In 1948 a workman cutting a water main trench came across a mass of ancient looking rubble. Eventually the find was reported to the local archaeological society. It transpired that the site had been a 1st century palace. Below this building there were traces of earlier timber structures dating back to AD43.

The remains of a bathhouse came to light and sporadic finds were made of Roman material in watercress beds, which covered a wide area.

Using the specially constructed walkways we wandered around noting the beauty of some clearly discernible mosaic floors. The pattern was based on the box-within-a-box motif flanked by elongated panels of tendrils drawn in black, red and yellow against a white background. Repeated patterns varied, but each of the 100 or so rooms in the Palace had a mosaic floor!

There was a fine example of an under floor heating system, which for some reason was never completed. The formal garden has been replanted to the original as discovered by excavation, but no pollen or plant survived to indicate what was grown. Unfortunately, we didn't have time to visit the museum. An audio visual programme is provided at the commencement of this very interesting tour.

On to Chichester for lunch and the shops!

Sunday morning was free, but in the afternoon we went on a Mystery Tour with David Vinall acting as guide. We travelled through Newhaven to the main road, which took us into West Sussex with its green fields and leafy trees. David gave a running commentary on places of interest we passed, giving dates and histories. For example, Dane Hill in West Sussex was invaded by the Danes long before the Norman Conquest, hence the name. Thank you David for a memorable trip.

On Monday morning we had another visit by Edwyna Allen in which she explained commodities in use at the turn of the century. Some concoctions like liniment smelt vile and the upper classes used a far better type of soap than the poor.

She had an assortment of both men's and women's underwear in a sort of rough unbleached material. Edwyna asked our volunteer, Anna Curry to model a pair of very open-legged knickers, and with her very slim figure she was an excellent choice. She also tried on a black satin corset, rather high waisted, but with

hooks and bones made of metal. It was a very heavy garment indeed. No wonder women had the vapours! A very entertaining morning - thank you Edwyna!

We were joined at lunch by Daphne Ingram together with Sir Henry and Susan Harrison, it was most enjoyable. Sir Henry was in high spirits as he mentioned his retirement. We all wished him well as he left us to return to London.

We had a free afternoon to rest or pack, then dinner with Susan Harrison in the Winter Garden. The meal provided by PBK was delicious, and we all enjoyed it. Thank you PBK! Bernard Dombey on violin and Harry Norman on piano provided musical entertainment. Thank you gentleman!

And so this was the end of the St Dunstan's Ladies' Reunion, and I think it was enjoyed by all.

Computer Group

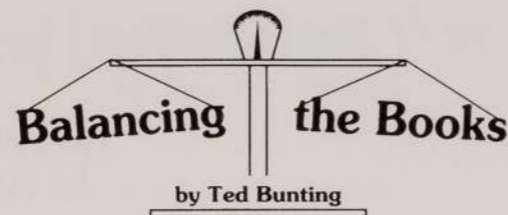
by Ray Hazan

A small number of computer enthusiasts gathered at Ovingdean on October 8th-9th. The size was ideal for teaching purposes and the two day gathering consisted mainly of ironing out problems and introducing newcomers to Windows 95. Our thanks to Janis.

An exception was a visit by Iki of CVIP Ltd who are the UK distributors for the Voice Diary, a talking personal organiser. He gave a most impressive demonstration of the unit's capabilities as a memo taker, diary, telephone directory and dialler, calculator, stopwatch and timer. Certainly two systems have been ordered since.

Instead of a 'dinner night' a buffet supper was enjoyed on the first evening. It is inevitable when two or more St Dunstaners are gathered together, they will reminisce! But this meant the wives were not excluded by boring 'shop' talk and it turned out to be a most pleasant evening.

The Computer Group is keen to encourage all comers. If you would like to attend and have suggestions for speakers, demonstrations or to seek advice on any application, please apply to your Welfare Officer for accommodation and to either Janis Sharp or Ray Hazan for any other matters. Please see next year's diary for future dates.



Landmarks in the Law

Author: Lord Denning

Reader: George Hagan

Duration 12.5 Hours

Catalogue number: 5839

Whoever prompted Lord Denning to write this book has done us all a service. You might have thought that a work by a law lord, a Master of the Rolls no less, would be as dry and dusty as his woolly wig, but not a bit of it, it's fascinating right through. Scanning legal history as he does, it is easy, with his help, to see not only how selected cases have changed the law of the land but how the judges themselves have altered too. But the metamorphosis from king's lackey to impartial, incorruptible custodian of the law was not completed overnight. There is the case, for example, where the jury brought in a verdict of "not guilty", and the judge ordered them to be locked up without food, drink, tobacco, or even a chamber-pot, until they changed their decision ... Fortunately for us all, they refused to do so. His Lordship also points to occasions when the law has been misapplied for political expediency, the Tolpuddle Martyrs being a famous example. There are cases in addition, which have helped to change public opinion as that of Mrs Ruth Ellis did, and those like the Profumo inquiry, which kept the public, spellbound for weeks on end. As one might readily appreciate, a judge of the experience and seniority of Lord Denning can speak with knowledge and great authority on cases without number; it's the fact that he can do so in such a pleasant style and manner which impresses and rather surprised me. You'll find very little legal mumbo-jumbo in this one, which makes it a treat to listen to.

QUIZ ANSWERS

Last issue we asked if you could name this fictional trio, all three frequented the area round Harcourt Street? **1)** Sherlock Holmes was located at 221B Baker Street, a fictional address then, but a real one now. **2)** Simon Templar, The Saint had a flat in Paddington where he could rest in between stealing from criminals. **3)** He was an ordinary copper in most respects, but Dixon of Dock Green (that was Paddington Green) rose from the dead to star in a long running tv series. Evenin' all!

Life & Times of Ovingdean

by Lynne Thomas

As winter draws in again at Ovingdean, the weather continues to be dreadful and all hope of an Indian Summer is gone. Fortunately there are lots of interesting activities to see us through the winter months.

SHEAR NOSTALGIA

A brief lull in the weather enabled a group of St Dunstaners to visit the nearby Seven Sisters Sheep Centre for the second time this year. The first time was during lambing season, and this time was sheep shearing. The visit brought back many memories to those raised in the country. The centre is a working farm, which is only open to the public on certain days at certain times of the year and the guided tour is always interesting.

CRAFT MASTERS

The East Sussex Association for the Blind's Craft Exhibition took place at St Dunstan's for the first time on October 3rd. It was very successful. Over 100 guests visited the Exhibition and St Dunstaners were very successful in the competition.

There were 17 categories and prize winners from St Dunstan's were:

Sid Doy	Papier Mâché	1st, 2nd and 3rd
	Stools	2nd
Ron Tingay	Stools	1st
	Rug Making	1st
Frank Tinsley	Woodwork	1st and 3rd
Reg Goding	Woodwork	3rd
	Rug Making	1st
	Rug Weaving	3rd
Peter Surridge	Woodwork	1st
Alf Waters	Basketwork	1st

VIVACIOUS

The second St Dunstan's Widows' Week was very successful. The presence of a vivacious group of women livened up the house, and increased the profit in the bar! The ladies seemed to enjoy themselves and didn't let the sometimes wild weather conditions deter them. We certainly enjoyed having them here and we're looking forward to the next Widows' Week.

A CHOICE OF WINE

One of the most popular activities in recent months was the wine and cheese party, which took place on the Widows' first night. The aim was to find a new house wine for St Dunstan's. Residents and visitors sampled nine different wines and a selection of cheese and biscuits. Most managed to stay the course without too many ill effects and a good time was had by all.

EVERYBODY OUT

The musical *Seize the Day* was another highlight of the week. It's a brand new show, set during the 1926 General Strike, which was written by Brighton composer, Darren Vallier, for the Starlite Theatre Company, a local youth theatre. His last musical *Ring of Roses* was a great success in Brighton and even made it to the West End. *Seize the Day* promises to be equally popular. Children as young as seven performed alongside teenagers and adults, and everyone was excellent.

Now the clocks have gone back and the nights are drawing in, there's a lot to look forward to over the next couple of months - Christmas and the New Year always provide plenty of cheer. Watch this space!

TOP MARKS FOR INDEPENDENCE TRAINING

Sir Henry Leach praised ten more Ovingdean staff members for their success with the RNIB New Independence Training when he presented them with certificates on September 23rd.

They had sat the exam on September 8th and all passed with flying colours. Head of Care Jackie Greer and Senior ROVI Lucy Roberts both passed with 100 per cent marks while Maureen Davies, RGN had a 97 per cent mark. Staff Members Patrick Molloy, Anna Green, Karen Dawes, Deena Davies, David Higginbottom, Dee O'Halloran and Heidi Walker all obtained scores well over the pass mark.

The aim of the training is to improve the service we provide to St Dunstaners by promoting independence and dignity while maintaining the core values of privacy, choice and fulfilment.



The Prince declines to take a bow. St Dunstan's Archers demonstrate their tactile targeting skills.



Testing the acoustic sight.



Ken Edwards explains his latest handicraft project.



Jack Wysall offers a few fitness tips.



The New Training Centre is declared open.

Keeping it in the family

Ray Hazan reports on The Duke of York's recent visit to St Dunstan's Ovingdean

On September 28th, at St Dunstan's Ovingdean, His Royal Highness The Duke of York completed a task initiated by our Patron, Her Majesty The Queen. In 1985, accompanied by Prince Philip, the Queen formally opened the newly re-furbished South Wing. During his visit, The Duke of York opened the last of the enhancements, the new training wing, as described in the June *Review*, and the refurbished 1st floor fuselage.

Despite his arrival 15 minutes early, no one was caught napping or unprepared. The Blue Lounge provided the venue for the meeting of three Falklands Veterans; The Duke who had been a helicopter pilot, Sir Henry Leach, who was First Sea Lord at the time and St Dunstaner Terry Bullingham, blinded on the deck of HMS *Antrim*.

HRH enjoyed a two hour conducted tour of the building observing many activities from training and cooking to hobbies and chatting to several Residents and visiting St Dunstaners. He scored nine out of ten with the acoustic rifle sight, but declined to shoot an arrow. Plaques were unveiled in the new training wing lounge and in the fuselage corridor.

A secondary aim of the day was to show those who had contributed towards these refurbishments, the results of their donations. Representatives from the three major Service charities, the King George's Fund for Sailors, the Army Benevolent Fund and the Royal Air Force Benevolent Fund together with other benefactors were given conducted tours by the Fund Raising department. Many county and local dignitaries were present and were able to see for themselves what goes on within Ovingdean.

Prior to his departure, HRH urged our benefactors to continue supporting our cause – amen to that!



HRH The Duke of York arrives at Ovingdean.



Three St Dunstaners weave their spell.



Richard Bingley shares a joke with HRH.



The First Floor Fuselage residential accommodation is officially opened by The Duke of York.



Our active adventurers during a relatively quiet moment of the weekend.

ST DUNSTAN'S ACTIVITIES WEEKEND

SEPTEMBER 25th-27th 1998

by Grant V.A. Cooper, ILAM, Dip,
Sports & Recreation Supervisor

The weekend commenced on an intellectual note. Having mustered in the bar at 19:00, great skills and tact were utilised in prising 25 thirsty young men and women from the bar to partake in *A Question of Sport Quiz*. At great expense to St Dunstan's, prizes of plastic footballs and whistles were banded amongst the quick answering contestants, and with Ken Moss wearing two footballs inside his sweatshirt (which reminded me of a Chief Wren Regulator I once knew) I realised that the teams were beginning to gel and approach this competition with the seriousness that was warranted. As trays of liquid refreshment were hastily fetched by willing team members the competition reached a thrilling climax and was finally decided on the last question of the evening.

The following morning saw many faces of apprehension as we mustered in the entrance. I wondered if this was from the thought of dangling

from a 100ft cliff on a piece of rope, or perhaps the consequence of the "Après Sports Quiz" and the nightclub visited by several of our participants.

The group was split into two, one group headed to the Rottingdean Riding School to select their mounts, whilst the other intrepid venturers drove to Peacehaven to throw themselves off a 100ft cliff. On their return we saw several of the group resembling Roy Rogers after a hard day on the trail, and Steve Nixon with the rear of his designer tracksuit ripped to shreds. "Well you will try to abseil upside down Steve!"

On Saturday afternoon the weather took a change for the worse and the heavens truly opened as we gathered in the grounds for the extremely wet and wild *It's a Knockout*. Our men and women were not deterred by this and within minutes I was almost run down by Don Planner flying down the grass slope on a sledge with caterpillar tracks, carrying a large

bucket of water. He had left his guide 50 metres up the slope, and was heading for a sticky end. It was my duty to try and stop this man! My heroic act was short-lived, and I watched as Don's wife, Sharon, tried in vain to prevent the inevitable. Yes! Sharon ended up wearing the bucket of water. Rough justice eh!

There were men and women flying in the air on the end of bungee ropes, Cheryl Moss unstable on her feet, collapsing the "Nessie" infested pool, and Alan Mitchell being pulled up the grass slope with his cargo of balls hanging over the edge of an inflatable dinghy.

After about an hour it became too cold to continue, and so the competition was terminated, but not before a great deal of fun and frivolity was had by all, and enough points fairly gained to decide a winning team.

The evening's entertainment began with an exquisite indoor barbecue, provided by PBK, and a disco in the ballroom. Dancing around the handbags proved too much for many of the weary teams, and after a short nightcap the comfort of a feather pillow was sought.

The following morning we gathered enthusiastically at the entrance to depart for further ventures. Due to

the predicted thunderstorms the paragliding had to be cancelled, a great disappointment to all. Again we split into two groups, one headed for Cuckmere Haven for canoeing in Indian style two-man canoes, whilst the other made their way across the fields to the pitch and putt course for a morning's golf.

After lunch the teams mustered in the new annexe lounge to participate in a Sports Olympiad involving target bowls, rifle shooting, archery and putting. There was great excitement as teams tried their hands at new sports and motivated each other to record some stunning results.

As the competition and the weekends activities neared an end, we again mustered in the annexe lounge for the prize giving ceremony.

Prizes were awarded as follows:

QUESTION OF SPORT

		points
1st	Walkers Wanderers	51
2nd	The Shail Trail	42
3rd	Derry's Delights	42
4th	Mahoney's Mean Machine	37
5th	The James Poole Factor	27

Alan Mitchell's dinghy wasn't at sea but the land certainly wasn't dry. Inset: Peter Walker runs for gold.



IT'S A KNOCKOUT

		points
1st	The Shail Trail	19
2nd	Mahoney's Mean Machine	17
3rd	Derry's Delights	16
4th	The James Poole Factor	14
5th	Walkers Wanderers	13

OLYMPIAD

		points
1st	Mahoney's Mean Machine	19
2nd	Derry's Delights	17
3rd	Walkers Wanderers	14
4th	The James Poole Factor	11
5th	The Shail Trail	7

MARKSMAN OF EACH TEAM

(Medals donated by East Sussex Small-bore Rifle Shooting Association)

		score
<i>Mahoney's Mean Machine</i>		
	Andrew Mahoney	27
<i>Walkers Wanderers</i>		
	Tim Lane	28
<i>Derry's Delights</i>		
	Derry Laviolette	29
<i>The James Poole Factor</i>		
	Ray Hazan	28
<i>The Shail Trail</i>		
	Martin Shail	25

OLYMPIAD EVENT WINNERS

		score
<i>Bowler of the Tournament</i>		
	Peter Walker	21
<i>Archer of the Tournament</i>		
	Andrew Mahoney	52
<i>Marksmen of the Tournament</i>		
	Derry Laviolette	29
<i>Golfer of the Tournament</i>		
	Keith Puplett	102

SPORTS PERSONALITY OF EACH TEAM

<i>Mahoney's Mean Machine</i>	Steve Nixon
<i>Derry's Delights</i>	Colin Oakes and Cookie
<i>The Shail Trail</i>	Chris Emery
<i>The James Poole Factor</i>	Alan Mitchell
<i>Walkers Wanderers</i>	Tim Lane

THE SPEED WOBBLE TROPHY

Presented to Steve Nixon as the sports person showing the greatest courage and determination.

THE SPORTS PERSONALITY OF THE YEAR

(Donated by Sussex Engraving Company)
Presented to Don Planner.

The weekend's activities were a huge success, full of courage and determination, but above all, team-work, camaraderie and laughter. My thanks to all those who took part, and a special thank you to all of you who gave up your time to help make this such a successful event. Let's hope we can repeat it next year.

Sea King uncrowned by the elements

In severe weather conditions a Sea King Mk IV helicopter landed on the front lawn at Ovingdean at 2pm on October 27th.

The aircraft captain, Lt Tim Ramsdale, together with Lt Matt Shrimpton, CPOACMN Micky Cook and LALMN Paddy McClelland from the 848 Commando Helicopter Training Squadron at Royal Naval Airstation, Yeovilton, Somerset, are usually involved with Royal Marine tasking support and troop support in Bosnia, Northern Ireland, Norway and Royal Navy ships.

Local traffic came to a standstill, fascinated by the event. Residents and staff braved the elements to visit the helicopter and met with the Marines who stayed 1 1/2 hours on site.

Widows' Week

The Widows' Week at Ovingdean in October was memorable in every respect, the company was superb, the 'crack' excellent and the weather absolutely foul - but this detracted not from the jollity of the holiday because of the wonderful transport arrangements and the 'in-house' entertainment. We all enjoyed ourselves so much we want to come back next year and wish to thank Lynne Thomas and Susan Harrison and all the staff for making our stay so good.

Sir Henry, to whom all St Dunstan's Widows are indebted for their recognition in this great family, put the gilt on gingerbread when he entertained us to a magnificent lunch.

Many thanks from
"The October Widows"



MESSAGE FROM THE HEAD OF FUND RAISING

Time for a Classic campaign

As mentioned in previous editions of the St Dunstan's Review, during 1998 we are distributing 22 million fund raising packs all over the United Kingdom. At the time of writing (Armistice Day) the final packs have just been delivered. In addition to 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 or the Diana Gubbay Trust and we have also been able to reunite some long lost relatives and friends with a small number of St Dunstaners.

Whilst the autumn door drop campaign has been running, St Dunstan's has had a radio advert running on Classic FM. This featured Second World War Spitfire Pilot and television commentator Raymond Baxter who kindly provided the voice over and his time free of charge. There are five versions of the advert each one featuring a different St Dunstaner. We are most grateful to Gwen Obern, Bill Griffiths, Sid Doy, Terry Bullingham and Ray Hazan for allowing their story to be told and also for providing their voice for the advert. If you missed the adverts and wish to hear them, please send a blank tape to Neil Swan at HQ.

Building works at Ovingdean

As you read this, the main lounge at Ovingdean is closed for refurbishment. As described in the Chairman's Notes in the June Review, the bar is being moved into the lounge at the same time.

The work in the lounge and the dining room will be completed in time for the Christmas holidays.

Chapel roof

The new roof to the chapel has been successfully completed. Notice is given that the handrail is going to be extended across the path leading to the chapel. This will be in the form of a gate, like the one into the dog-run, which can be opened for access.



Behind the scenes. Staff and volunteers sort through just some of the donations and messages of support received from members of the public.

On September 29th Meridian TV interviewed St Dunstaner Stan Grimsey for the six and ten o'clock local news. As a direct result of this very moving interview over £5,000 was received during the following week.

On November 7th Channel 4 TV featured a short ten minute film about six St Dunstaners which was followed by an advert for St Dunstan's. It is too early to say what the fund raising response to this will be, however, all those who saw the film were greatly moved by it and early indications are good.

The very next day there was a short film featuring Ray Hazan together with footage of St Dunstaners on the Cenotaph parade itself. The net result of all the radio, TV and newspaper coverage in support of our most recent fund raising campaign, is that St Dunstan's has had unprecedented exposure during the last three months. Hopefully, we are slowly turning the corner with regard to members of the public remembering St Dunstan's once again.

As the year draws to a close, I should like to thank all the staff and volunteers in the Fund Raising department for their hard work during 1998 dealing with approximately 150,000 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

The Handless Reunion 1998

by Ted Miller

On Wednesday September 30th, in the company of Bill and Alice Griffiths we arrived at St Dunstan's Ovingdean for our annual Handless Reunion. We met Pam and Wally Lethbridge, Gwennie Obern and her escort Anne, Winnie Edwards and Jock Carnochan who was to be such a big help to us all during our stay.

On Thursday after breakfast, we all met in the stables for a little get-together to talk about our programme for the coming few days. They were all interested in how we were getting on after being so badly flooded out in the Leamington floods on Good Friday, and I'm pleased to say we are gradually getting straight. We were pleased that John Proctor and Jozef Loska were able to join us, and to meet John's friend and escort Mrs Vivian Rye.

In the evening we all met for supper in the Winter Garden. It must have been a sad occasion for John who has only recently lost May. We also missed seeing Audrey Gaygan following the loss of Tommy. These annual reunions bring back so many memories of all our lost friends and I was pleased to be able to say a few words about Tommy who we all so loved and admired for his courage and cheerfulness. I must also say how much we enjoyed Head of Care Jackie Greer's tales and jokes about her family life in Ireland. She had us all in fits of laughter. Gwennie then rose to say how pleased she was to see us all. We had a lovely supper, and we have Paul to thank for it. He always makes all the meals so attractive.

On Friday after breakfast, we boarded the coach for a mystery tour. We had a grand tour of East Sussex and were very surprised at our driver Dave's knowledge of the countryside, and the history of the places we passed through. We stopped for a drink and a break at a Garden Centre on our way back to Hove. We had a lunch ordered for us at the *Hove Manor* restaurant where we were made most welcome and had really excellent meal. While we were waiting for our meal, Bill rose to say a few words about May. How pleased we were John was with us. After lunch we made our way home, and after supper that evening had our usual get-together - 'where do you think!?!' - yes you are right, up in the bar.

On Saturday, another trip this time to Chichester, but John and Jozef did not join us. We had a short time

looking round the town, doing a bit of shopping and visiting the cathedral. This is the mother church of the Diocese of Chichester, which covers both East and West Sussex. It is a centre for concerts, recitals, exhibitions and drama, but primarily it is a place of worship as it has been for over 900 years. They say the two greatest artistic treasures of the cathedral are twelfth century stone carvings depicting the raising of Lazarus and the arrival of Christ at Bethany. Originally the panels were highly coloured and there were jewels and semi-precious stones in the eyes.

There was so much to see, but our time was short as we had to get back to the coach for lunch at the *Holly Inn* near Arundel. We left the Inn to pick up John at St Dunstan's Ovingdean who said he would go with us all to Wally and Pam's for tea, but he didn't feel up to it. So, we continued on to Wally and Pam's house where we always get a lovely tea. We drank their health with champagne as they have recently celebrated their 25th Wedding Anniversary. Our love and best wishes to them both.

Back at the house, we made our way to the Winter Garden for a buffet supper, where we helped ourselves to the food prepared by Paul and his staff before going to the bar, and then retiring to bed.

On Sunday, our coach left Ovingdean at about for Old Heathfield, where we were to have lunch at Heathfield House with Mr and Mrs Petley who we have met before. We had a lovely lunch, and met so many of their friends sitting in front of a lovely log fire. It was a grand afternoon in every way and there was so much to talk about. The afternoon went far too quickly. Bill and Gwen thanked our hosts for our lovely afternoon and gave them a gift of Bill's book with all our names in it.

On Monday after lunch while our wives and escorts entertained themselves, the members of the Handless Group met in the Conference Room with the members of Headquarters staff, which included Mr Gerard Frost, Mrs Sally Leaver, Miss Marion Lurot and our President Sir John Gingell. After the meeting we then went to prepare for the farewell dinner.

We all arrived in the Winter Garden. Our guests were Mr Peter Irvén, Mrs Sally Leaver, Miss Marion Lurot, Mr Neil Swan and Mr Gerard Frost (all from

Headquarters), Jackie Greer, Sir Henry, Sir John and Lady Gingell, Lady Lloyd, who apologised that Lord Lloyd was unable to come due to pressure of work, and Winnie's escort, Sue Hendrikson. We had a lovely meal before Sir John Gingell rose to introduce our chairlady Gwennie, who works so hard on our behalf. Gwennie then gave Sir Henry a small gift from us all. He replied that he is sorry to leave St Dunstan's after 15 years, but we all wish him a happy retirement when he will be able to enjoy his hobbies and his gardening. Flowers were then presented to our guests and a little gift was given to Gwennie from us all. Our thanks to all the staff, escorts and drivers who look after us so well, not forgetting Paul and his staff. We then ended up in the bar with some of our guests who joined us for a chat and a sing-song before saying goodbye.

On Tuesday morning, we said our farewells and made our way home after a very enjoyable reunion.

Fifty years ago

Aneurin Bevan indulged in some "paw-jaw" with 140 deaf-blind people. Two St Dunstaners, "Ginger" Scott and Percy Ashton, were among the crowd who had the Minister of Health's dialogue spelled out on their hands.

A. Hamlett started growing his own tobacco, an experiment which proved satisfactory when mixed with a shop-bought brand. The *Review* does not record if he tried rolling cigars with his weed.

A Christmas party held for St Dunstaners in the Cork area coincided with the christening of Prince Charles. A toast of good wishes for the health and happiness of Princess Elizabeth and her son was raised with unanimous and hearty approval.

Poet's Corner

SOUNDS TRAVEL

By St Dunstaner George Powell, Leighton Buzzard, Bedfordshire

I do not drive a motor car, I travel by bus and rail
They refused a licence when I asked for the Highway Code in Braille.
They said "You cannot drive a car because you cannot see,"
But others drive with this complaint so why just pick on me?
They do not see their speedo, or traffic warning signs,
They tell the police they did not see, but end up paying fines.
In fog they drive at ninety along the M4 and M5
And, if they've had their Weetabix perhaps they will survive.
They chat away on mobile phones without a sign of fear,
Like me they don't use mirrors. so can't see to the rear.
They blindly switch from lane to lane when perhaps the time's not ripe,
They'll get a rude awakening with an artic up their pipe!
So I'll stick to bus and train, although they're always late.
I want more years before I see those glittering Pearly Gates.

Food for thought ...

To realise the value of one year:
Ask a student who has failed a final exam.

To realise the value of one month:
Ask a mother who has given birth to a premature baby.

To realise the value of one week:
Ask an editor of a weekly newspaper.

To realise the value of one hour:
Ask the lovers who are waiting to meet.

To realise the value of one minute:
Ask the person who has missed the train, bus or plane.

To realise the value of one second:
Ask a person who has survived an accident.

To realise the value of one millisecond:
Ask the person who has won a silver medal in the Olympics.

Time waits for no one. Treasure every moment you have. You will treasure even more when you can share with someone special.

Author unknown
Submitted by St Dunstaner Leslie Shvemar, Canada

GENERATION THREE

by Terry Bullingham

The inaugural get-together of 'Generation Three' took place over the weekend of September 11th-13th at the *Moat House Hotel*, Stratford-upon-Avon.

Friday afternoon saw people settling in and taking advantage of the Hotel's excellent indoor recreational facilities, such as the swimming pool, jacuzzi and sauna. Everybody gathered in the early evening and enjoyed an excellent 'carvery' meal. The only real problem was to keep the intake within reasonable proportions, as there were no restrictions on the amount that could be removed from the food counters. Both Rowen (16) and Jered (15) Williams, managed to persuade the staff to reopen the pool after dinner and were thoroughly enjoying the additional exercise, maybe as an aid to digestion. Oh what a joy it is to be young?

Saturday morning commenced with a full 'English' breakfast, notwithstanding the consumption of the previous evening. One individual, who shall remain nameless, was heard to exclaim; "I've paid for it, therefore, I'm going to eat it!"

The cultural element of the day consisted of a Careline coach to the Coventry Museum of Road Transport where a guided tour of the many exhibits on display awaited. These included Queen Mary's magnificent *Daimler* limousine, the latest *Jaguar XJ220* supercar (retail £440K), delightful *Alvis Tourer*, and the awe-inspiring *Thrust-2* world land-speed record breaker. There was a plethora of *Jaguar XJ6* variants, together with the somewhat more mundane, *Triumph Heralds* and *Morris Minors*. The *Leyland Metro* once owned by the late Princess Diana is displayed as is a comprehensive range of buses and motor-cycles. One feature of the Museum - in addition to free admission - is that visually impaired visitors are allowed to touch the exhibits as well as sitting in the driving seat of many. The sight of Ray Hazan 'shoe-horning' himself into the prototype *Aston-Martin DB7* in the manner of some sort of latter-day James Bond must have been quite something!

Upon return to the hotel, many availed themselves of the facilities whilst others took to their beds for a doze in preparation for dinner. The early part of the

evening was given over to an informal gathering where ideas for the group's way forward were thoroughly aired.

Dinner was as well received as on Friday evening. Afterwards the digestive processes were eased with convivial chat augmented by an impromptu 'keyboard' recital in the hotel's foyer by 'The Don'. An impressive variety of standards and favourites, from the fifties, sixties, and seventies, was presented in a very accomplished manner. The sounds emitting from this high-tech digital instrument (very long and black) were absolutely astonishing. Local patrons, queuing for the hotel's night club, were also able to avail themselves of this bonus entertainment. Unfortunately none of our company felt they possessed the energy for the club's attractions and all adults retired before 1am.

Sunday morning commenced with a further 'English' breakfast (for those with the stomach for it) as fortification for the respective homeward journeys. The hotel is the one used by the St Dunstan's Walking Group and it was refreshing to note that all staff were universally helpful and very friendly, in addition to possessing a high level of visual awareness. The Walking Group have obviously done an excellent 'PR' job - thank you.

It is hoped that the weekend will become an annual fixture, for St Dunstaners whose sight loss has been caused by factors arising after the Second World War and members of the Gubbay Trust. The gathering is intended for young-at-heart families with children and singles being very welcome. The weekend to note in next year's diaries is that of September 3rd-5th. Remember, it will not be as good without you. Individuals will be contacted in due course with details of cost, etc. In the meantime, anyone with either suggestions for outings or constructive criticisms, please contact either:

Ray Hazan 0171 723 5021

Don Planner 01202 730404

Randall Williams 01884 253703

Terry Bullingham 0121 429 2428

We look forward to seeing you all next year.

A Moment to spare ...

... with Sydney Scroggie

Ay, ay, you've had enough



During years of prowling about in the Scottish wilderness, rucksack on back, heather for bedding, my wife Margaret and I have climbed quite a few Munros, hills over 3,000ft, and the easiest of all of these to get up is Carn Aosda. An ascent of a thousand feet takes you from the driving road to its summit.

The Cairnwell pass between Blairgowrie and Braemar, saw Major Caulfeild of old pushing his military road northwards in the interests of the subjugation of the Highlands, and now this road, broaden'd and tarmac'd, achieves an altitude of 2,000ft as it passes between Meall Odhar on one side, Cairnwell on the other, before dipping down into Glen Clunie on the Aberdeenshire sides. What they're paid nowadays to maintain this road I don't know, but 250 years ago the Redcoats of Major Caulfeild got an extra sixpence a day for labouring on its construction.

You get ptarmigan in these upland regions, snow buntings in season, and many a time Margaret and I

have seen there the golden eagle which has its eyrie on the crags of Caenlochan Glen. We've often enough been on Carn Aosda, little more than a stroll from the car-park, threaded its summit boulders, looked down on Loch Vrottachan below, and never thought anything more of this ascent than getting up the Balgay Hill in Dundee, the 1,492ft Craigowl we see from our window here at Roseangle.

Mind you we had a bit of a fright a few years ago when we encountered a gale on Aosda so violent that we had to get down on hands and knees to prevent us getting blown down. There was just a touch of suspicion on this occasion that perhaps the party as constituted was getting to be a bit on the old side for this kind of thing. Margaret is not quite five foot, and her husband is not only 79 years of age and blind, but also has a tin leg.

I hadn't been up a hill for a year or two, the legs no longer trustworthy when Margaret and I got out of the car the other day and started strolling in the direction of Carn Aosda, the day a bright one and the breeze rather milder than what we've got used to up here in a particularly bad summer. Well, however slowly, however painstakingly, we got to the top of Aosda, Margaret and I, watched a hawk below us hovering over the boulders.

We then started on a descent which of old would have seen us returned to the car in no time. My legs began to wobble uncontrollably it became a matter of stop, start, stop, start, and a question arose whether or not Margaret might have to adopt the fireman's lift as a means of getting her husband down to the bottom of the hill. This ignominy I avoided if only just, I sat myself down on a wall, and Margaret went forward to get the car, bring it up a bit closer so I wouldn't have to walk the last bit.

There are ski installations here, and a lad coming out of one of the buildings, saw me on my wall, the white hair, the manifest indications of old age. "Ay, ay," he said; "You've had enough," and in fact he spoke nothing less than the truth. Carn Aosda, its mossy boulders, its ptarmigan croaking, is likely to be the last thousand-footer this particular St Dunstaner has it in him to get up.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Letters to the Editor are always welcome.

Send a letter, tape or disk to 12-14 Harcourt Street, London W1A 4XB. E-mail: st.dunstans@btinternet.com



Sadly we were unable to publish this picture before Joe passed away.

Anges Moffett from Night Owls and Friends Swimming Club presented a cheque for £2,812 to Joe and Marjorie Humphrey on behalf of St Dunstan's. The money was raised from a sponsored swim. Since 1993 when we resumed fund raising Joe personally raised a total of £11,442.56 for St Dunstan's.

From: Mrs Marjorie Humphrey, Belfast

When Jackie Greer, Head of Care at Ovingdean, telephoned me to say that she had heard that Joe was ill and asked me to bring him over I felt a surge of relief. During our 53 years of married life we thoroughly enjoyed our periodic visits to IFH and Joe had repeatedly said "I love my St Dunstan's." Little did I realise it would be our last visit together as he subsequently died there on September 26th.

I cannot compliment the Staff enough, especially those on the Nursing Wing, for the skill and tender loving care shown to us during Joe's last two weeks of life. I know that from the moment we arrived he was at peace. I am thankful that during the last three years we had been involved in successful fund raising activities for St Dunstan's.

My life seems empty and colourless without Joe, who was a wonderful man, but I am most grateful to all who assisted us during those memorable few weeks and especially the staff at Ovingdean.

On the day of Joe's funeral there was an emotional minute's silence throughout the St Dunstan's complex prior to the funeral. The integral chapel is wonderfully situated on the cliffs beside the sea and made a memorable setting for the military funeral attended by veterans of his own Commando who fought beside him between 1942-44. A Royal Marine Standard and Standard Bearer were in attendance and the service was concluded with the playing of the *Last Post*. We sang the Royal Marine hymn *Eternal Father Strong to Save* and the *23rd Psalm*. At the crematorium, a really beautiful small old chapel, we were greeted with the *Londonderry Air*. Joe would have enjoyed every minute of it.

His ashes were committed to the deep by the Royal Navy with Royal Marines and family aboard.

I would like all our friends to know he had a wonderful send-off, the only pity is that when I came home I couldn't tell him about it. I have been thankful for a close and loving family, all of whom attended the funeral despite having to travel long distances.

Like many before me I don't know how I can bear the future but others have, and I shall do my best.

From: W.F. Shea, Brampton, Huntingdon, Cambridgeshire

In *item 1*, I would welcome the views of St Dunstaners, particularly those of my era, who have been in the organisation for over 50 years.

In *item 2*, I would welcome answers from St Dunstan's senior staff and council members.

Item 1) During the lifetime of St Dunstan's, some 83 years, we have been proud to have been known as St Dunstaners. In recent times the staff particularly senior staff at HQ and at Ovingdean are using more and more the word 'Beneficiary' to replace St Dunstaner. A typical example of this are the appalling notices at the entrances to Ovingdean. "Private property for the use of Staff and Beneficiaries of St Dunstan's." This gives staff priority as it does with prime parking. Surely these notices should read "Private property for the use of

St Dunstaners, other Beneficiaries and Staff of St Dunstan's." I have asked who is responsible for these appalling notices but have not as yet received an answer.

Item 2) The question many St Dunstaners are asking is "Where is St Dunstan's going?" We appear to gain and lose staff, particularly senior staff with ever increasing rapidity. What is going wrong? Where is the problem? As the numbers of St Dunstaners decrease the number of staff appears to increase with little empires being built up in the organisation. We now live in the age of 'Information Technology'. So can we please have some lines of communication set up so we St Dunstaners know what is going on.

From: Gerard Frost, Chief Executive

In response to Mr Shea's request for answers to *item 2* in his letter of October 31st 1998, I would reply as follows:

1) There have been several changes of senior staff in the last two or so years. The principal reason is that many of our long serving employees have reached retirement age. Of these several have service of over 20 years. There will be more retirements in the near future.

2) In today's world it is not considered the norm to spend a lifetime with one employer but to move on in order to obtain career advancement.

3) It would be wrong to discuss individual cases but I have to disagree with Mr Shea that there is any particular related problem.

4) The total monthly average number of equivalent full time employees for the last three years is:

1996	188
1997	178
1998	183

If we look back earlier the numbers were far higher when Pearson House was open.

5) The only new department is Fund Raising. St Dunstan's must raise money now and in the future. This department has been successful but needs staff to carry out this operation.

6) Although there may be fewer St Dunstaners many of these need much more support as they become elderly or infirm. Some of the new younger St Dunstaners who have severe injuries as well as

being blind also require extra care. In addition the number of 'Gubbays' is growing and they too are given support by St Dunstan's staff, albeit that The Gubbay Trust is responsible for providing funds for these services.

7) The St Dunstan's *Review* is the vehicle for passing on information to our St Dunstaners, wives and widows and although we have plenty of Information Technology it is not the answer to broadcasting the news when this needs to be done.

From: The Editor

Re: *Item 1*, The sign in question at St Dunstan's Ovingdean has been removed.

Longitude and gratitude



Ted John presents Sir Henry with a quarter-sized working sextant on behalf of St Dunstan's Amateur Radio Society in October.

REALLY NEAR HARCOURT STREET

This historical trio all lived in London in the streets around St Dunstan's HQ. Can you name them?

1) She inspired a popular song about a girl who danced with a man who danced with a girl who had danced with ... But that would give it away.

2) Regarded as the author of the first English detective story, which put a St Dunstaner on TV.

3) He originally fought against the English but then became one of their most distinguished military commanders, though Americans might disagree.

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 John Griffiths of Shareshill, Wolverhampton became a St Dunstaner on October 9th. Now aged 61, he served in the Staffordshire Regiment between October 1955 and October 1957, before transferring to the TA until 1961. On finishing his National Service he returned to the family business of a Post Office and General Stores until poor sight forced him to retire in 1982. As a boy he played football for Wolverhampton Under-18s, he was a marksman in the Army and enjoyed fishing. Mr Griffiths and his wife Pamela have two sons Gary and Simon.

Mr Stanley Bakewell of Winyates, West Redditch became a St Dunstaner on October 15th, aged 75. In 1940 he enlisted with the Dorset Regiment at the age of 17. Posted to Burma he was injured in 1945 while leading a night patrol which was caught in an ambush. He received gunshot wounds to both eyes. Returning to the UK he spent some time at St Dunstan's, Church Stretton and then went on to work as a butcher and then in the kitchens of a manufacturing company. A widower, he has eight adult children.

Mr Geoffrey Hagger of Overstrand, Norfolk became a St Dunstaner on October 29th. He joined the Royal Engineers in 1939 and was wounded while clearing a minefield in Normandy in 1944. He spent some time recuperating at St Dunstan's, Church Stretton. Back in civilian life he worked for 20 years as a meter reader and then a further 15 years as a switchboard operator for Barclays Bank. He retired in 1980. Mr Hagger and his wife Olive have a son Graham and daughter Marion.

CLUB NEWS

ARCHERY

Autumn Archery 98

A chilly Sunday morning in late August saw the sleek mass of St Dunstan's large coach leave the Ovingdean drive and smoothly melt into the traffic, this being difficult to do on a cold day, what a driver! And so the archery circus moved on out - its destination Sandwich, Kent. We were greeted on arrival by two of the town's festival committee Chris and Lyn Hart, son and daughter-in-law of that old smoothie, our own Tom Hart. Our friendly shoot with

the Sibertswold Archers was soon under way on this spacious sports field.

An audience soon gathered to see St Dunstan's blind archers perform, the Mayor also attended. It was a close fought and pleasant shoot, the home team pipped us by 40 points.

An excellent roast beef dinner and delicious sweet provided by our hosts at a local hostelry ended the visit. Thank you Sandwich, we hope to call again.

The Week's other results:

George Allen Trophy (6 dozen arrows)

1st	Sid Doy
2nd	Margaret Bingham
3rd	Eric Bradshaw

Royal Insurance Trophy

1st	Eric Bradshaw
2nd	Leslie George
3rd	Sid Doy

Spurway Trophy (7 dozen arrows)

1st	Eric Bradshaw
2nd	John Lilley
3rd	Leslie George

St Dunstan's Two v Visiting Welsh Two

(8 dozen arrows - straight scores)

John Lilley	434
Eric Bradshaw	300
<i>St Dunstan's total</i>	734
Dave Evans	282
Alan Hancock	268
<i>Wales total</i>	550

Gold Medal of the Day

Bert Wood with golds	526
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Three Club Match for Two Trophies

(6 dozen arrows - total handicap scores)

St Dunstan's v Cuckfield AC	
4406	4269

St Dunstan's take Cup

St Dunstan's v Greenways AC

4406	4243
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St Dunstan's take Salver

The Tommy Gaygan Gold Medal

Awarded and presented by Audrey Gaygan to John Lilley for his score of 89 golds scored throughout the year's club championships only.

It's almost Xmas again, so I will take this moment in time to wish you all a very Happy Xmas and jolly decent New Year.

Bert Wood

FAMILY NEWS

BIRTHS

Congratulations on the birth of:

Jasmine Mary on August 16th. She is the granddaughter of *Frank and Doris Magwich* of Crawley, West Sussex.

Jonathan, Chloë and Frank Harris on September 24th. These triplets are the grandchildren of *John and Pat Harris* of Caversham, Reading, Berkshire.

Andrew Mayes on September 24th. He is the grandson of *Sydney and Margaret Scroggie* of Kirkton of Strathmartine, by Dundee, Angus.

Shannon Ellen on October 12th. She is the daughter of *Steve Pendleton and Michaela* of Rochester, Kent.

WEDDING

Congratulations to:

Mark and Karen Sharples on their marriage on September 12th. Mark is the grandson of *Tom and Nancy Taylor* of Leyland, Preston.

GOLDEN ANNIVERSARIES

Congratulations to:

James and Eiddwen Woods of Orpington, Kent on October 10th.

Richard and Cynthia Bishop of Malmesbury, Wiltshire on October 18th.

Bernard and Marion Blacker of Saltdean on December 18th.

DIAMOND ANNIVERSARIES

Congratulations to:

William and Frances Allen of Farnham, Surrey on October 1st.

Frederick and Florence Morgan of Bristol on October 1st.

SPECIAL ANNIVERSARY

Congratulations to:

Leslie and Rose Tanner of Morden, Surrey who celebrated 66 years of marriage on October 15th.

DEATHS

We regret to announce the death of:

Mrs Barbara Minter on September 14th. She was the wife of *James Minter* of Ruislip, Middlesex.

Mrs Margaret Gale on October 11th. She was the wife of *John Gale* of Peacehaven, East Sussex.

Mrs Elizabeth Lewis of Salford, Greater Manchester on June 9th. She was the widow of *Joseph Lewis*.

Mrs Mary Mitchell of Burgess Hill, West Sussex on September 12th. She was the widow of *Albert Mitchell*.

Mrs Jessie Emerton of Luton, Bedfordshire on September 19th. She was the widow of *Ewart Emerton*.

Mrs Isobel Parsons of Southwick, West Sussex on October 16th. She was the widow of *Albert Parsons*.

Mrs Helen King of Brighton, East Sussex on October 24th. She was the widow of *Leslie King*.

Mrs Eva Terry of Desborough, Kettering, Northamptonshire on October 28th. She was the widow of *Arthur Terry*.

Mrs Jean Reid of Highworth, nr Swindon, Wiltshire on October 30th. She was the widow of *Robert Reid*.

Mrs Elsie Donbervand of Hove, East Sussex on November 5th. She was the widow of *John Donbervand*.

Our sympathy goes to their families and friends.

The death was announced in the last issue of Phyllis Nesbitt, widow of *Alex Nesbitt*. Many St Dunstaners will have known Phyllis better as "Johnnie" Johnson, who taught telephony after the war.

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.

Kåre Semmelmann,

Hong Kong Volunteer Defence Force

Kåre Juel Semmelmann of Norway on August 27th, aged 76. He had been a St Dunstaner since 1977. Born in Horten, Norway he moved to Shanghai in

1930 when his father was made captain of a ship sailing between there and Vladivostok. Completing his schooling he secured work with a firm of chartered accountants.

On the outbreak of hostilities he enlisted with the Hong Kong Volunteer Defence Force. He was taken prisoner on Christmas Day in 1941. He was marched with other prisoners to Shamshuipo. The privations he suffered caused damage to his nervous system, hearing and sight.

Discharged in 1946, he married a Naval VAD he met in Australia and they eventually settled in Norway. He studied Company Law and learned Spanish, but like many FEPOWs never regained his former health. Our sympathy goes to his widow Lena and all members of the family.

Joseph Humphrey,

Royal Marine Commandos

Joseph Humphrey of Belfast died on September 26th, aged 77. He had been a St Dunstaner since 1944. He enlisted with the Royal Marine Commandos in November 1937 and served as a Corporal. With the outbreak of hostilities his Commando were frequently deployed on front line assaults and he was involved in El Alamein, Dieppe and Termoli. While in Italy he tended to a blinded comrade unaware that he would confront a similar fate himself. Soon after shrapnel wounds robbed Joe of his sight. After training at St Dunstan's he became a physiotherapist. Joe was a stalwart of the camp at HMS *Daedalus* and his interest in music led him to learn the accordion. In 1979 he returned to El Alamein with other St Dunstaners to plant a tree in the Forest of Peace.

He became Vice-President of the Belfast Branch of the Royal Naval Association in 1984 and three years later was declared Founder President of the Belfast branch of the Royal Marine Association. Joe was one of three St Dunstaners to receive the Malta George Cross 50th Anniversary Medal.

Earlier this year, he became the third person to receive the President's Award of The Royal Marines Association. The citation praised his work for the RMA and his fund raising efforts for St Dunstan's. His ashes were committed to the deep on November 7th. Our sympathy goes to his wife Marjorie, daughters Marilyn and Angela and all of the family.

Frank Simonds,

Royal Navy

Frank Hartley Simonds of Sholing, Southampton, Hampshire died on October 14th, aged 83. He had been a St Dunstaner since 1947. He joined the Royal Navy as a 16 year old, rising to the rank of Petty Officer. During his career he specialised as a wireless telegraphist.

He was captured by the Japanese in 1941 and spent the next four years as a Far East Prisoner of War. The privations during that period caused his loss of sight and also affected his hearing. After training at St Dunstan's he became a capstan lathe operator for a division of General Motors, retiring in 1977. Our sympathy goes to his widow Myrtle and all members of the family.

Robert Chalmers,

Royal Air Force

Robert Chalmers of Hebburn, Tyne & Wear died on October 24th, aged 76. He had been a St Dunstaner since 1982. Enlisting in the Royal Air Force in 1941 he served as an Aircraftsman but was taken prisoner in the Far East. Discharged in 1946 he became a caretaker at Sunderland Polytechnic. However, the privations and malnutrition he suffered as a FEPOW had taken their toll and he had to retire early. After becoming a St Dunstaner he showed much determination in taking up picture framing despite being confined to a wheelchair. Our sympathy goes to his son Harry and daughter Valerie and all members of the family.

Mark Kingsnorth,

Sussex Home Guard 19th Battalion

Ernest Mark Kingsnorth of Tunbridge Wells, Kent died on October 27th, aged 88. He had been a St Dunstaner since 1944.

Originally a clerk of works for a builders agent, he enlisted in January 1942 and served as a Corporal with Sussex Home Guard 19th Battalion. In 1943 he was injured on exercise when a blank cartridge exploded in his face. After training at St Dunstan's Mr Kingsnorth opened a confectioners & tobacconist in Southgate and ran the business for 17 years before selling up. In 1963 he became a braille instructor at Ovingdean, retiring in October 1976. Our sympathy goes to his sons Roger and Anthony and all members of the family.