

St Dunstan's Review

June 1999



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Cover picture: Mike Tetley examines the knotted base of a medieval oak tree. The twisting bark has created a hole almost big enough for him to step inside.

From the Chairman



I am pleased to report that once again, St Dunstan's have been able to provide financial support to the many Clubs. These form an impressive list of activities and interests, from archery to amateur radio, computing to skiing and from bridge to bowling.

Most of these club activities take place at Ovingdean. It is an opportunity for St Dunstaners and Gubbay beneficiaries to indulge their interests with like-minded colleagues. It is also a chance for wives and partners to enjoy a break and meet their own contemporaries as well. All participants can share experiences, knowledge and information in convivial surroundings. Please avail yourself of these occasions especially as they are now included in the 'two weeks for the price of one' at Ovingdean.

St Dunstan's was privileged to benefit from an Open Day at Frogmore House on May 5th. For most of the day, the sun shone down on gardens full of both flowers and spectators! You will read a full account later in this issue. The day was a great success and we are very grateful to our Patron.

Michael Gordon-Lennox

Captain Michael Gordon-Lennox, RN



NOTICE BOARD



OVINGDEAN BOOKINGS FOR CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR HOLIDAYS

With Christmas and New Year's Day falling on a Saturday, the following schedule will apply to festive holiday bookings at St Dunstan's Ovingdean.

Christmas Week Wednesday, December 22nd to
Wednesday, December 29th.

New Year Week Wednesday, December 29th 1999
to Wednesday, January 5th 2000.

This will ensure that the main events occur in the middle of the stay and will ease travel problems. As usual please contact your Welfare Officer to make a booking.

NEW MINIBUSES FOR OVINGDEAN

Three Mercedes 19 seater minibuses affectionately known in Ovingdean as Tom, Dick and Harry, have now reached the end of their useful life. We are pleased to say that, following an extensive review of the market place, we will soon have at our disposal two new 24 seater Mercedes vehicles. These will have full air suspension, comfortable seating and an underfloor tail-lift. These features should provide our passengers with a far more comfortable ride.

SKIING 2000

Would anyone interested in receiving details about next year's skiing trip, please contact either Gerry Jones on 0187255 3957 or Ray Hazan at HQ.

FINAL REMINDER FOR G3 PARIS

There are still places for anyone interested in attending the Generation 3 get together on September 3rd-5th. It will be based at the French War Blind hotel situated near the heart of Paris. For more details, please contact Ray Hazan at St Dunstan's Headquarters on 0171 723 5021 as soon as possible.

ST DUNSTAN'S GOLF CLUB COMPETITION PROGRAMME

June 18th and 19th (St Dunstan's Invitation Shield)
July 17th and 18th
August 21st and 22nd
September 4th and 5th (Possible match against RAF
Coltishall to be arranged)
September 18th and 19th

Please let the Secretary or Treasurer know two weeks prior to the weekend if you are going to attend. Anyone wishing to act as an escort should also get in touch.

Secretary Mel Sayers Tel: 01273 580301
Treasurer Iain Millard Tel: 01273 589446

LAST CALL FOR TOURNAMENT

There is still time to send in any items for our stand at the Royal Tournament. Goods should be in by July 5th. If you have any queries please contact Robbie Hazan at HQ on 0171 723 5021 ext 2233.

GOLFING APARTMENT IN ALTEA, ALICANTE, SPAIN FOR RENT

The parents of Matthew Rhodes have kindly offered for rent (at a reduced rate to anyone connected with St Dunstan's), a luxury 2 or 4 double bedroom apartment. The prestigious Don Cayo Golf Club backs onto the apartments and it is also within easy reach of several other courses.

Altea is a 20km (30 mins) drive from Alicante Airport and is 7km from the shopping paradise of Benidorm with its exciting nightlife. Altea has long beaches and a picturesque harbour. It is well known for its weekly market. There are many restaurants specialising in seafood, particularly lobster and prawn.

For further information please contact: Mr & Mrs N.J. Harris on telephone/fax 0034 96 584 60 51 or write to them at Don Cayo Golf, Buzon 193, Sierra de Altea, 03590 Altea, Alicante, Spain.

DEADLINE FOR NEXT ISSUE

The final date for submitting items for publication in the August Review is June 25th.

MASONIC DONATION

St Dunstaner Freemasons will be pleased to hear that a donation of £500 has been received from the Provincial Grand Lodge of Suffolk.

WIGHTLINK DISCOUNT CARD

Ferry operator Wightlink who run services to and from the Isle of Wight has introduced a new travel card for blind and visually impaired foot passengers. Available free of charge, the card carries a braille sticker and entitles bearers to a 34 per cent discount off standard return and day return fares.

For details and an application form contact Emma Cole on 01705 855468 or write to her at Wightlink Marketing Department, Wightlink Isle of Wight Ferries, 70 Broad Street, Portsmouth, Hampshire PO1 2LB. Please note applications must be made prior to travelling.

CHECKMATES

Are you interested in joining the Braille Chess Association (BCA). This is an organisation that arranges over the board and correspondence chess tournaments for visually impaired players of all ages whether novices or experienced. For further information please contact: Richard Murphy on 01865 778557 evenings and weekends.

BRILLE OUT FOR THE LADS

The RNIB has launched a braille magazine for young men. Entitled *SP*, it sports a lively and entertaining mix of news and views on relationships, sex, health, fitness, music and celebrities. The features have been drawn from popular magazines such as *FHM*, *Loaded* and *Men's Health*. *SP* is available on subscription in braille and on computer disk priced 30p per issue. To order a copy contact RNIB Customer Services on 0345 023153.

TAXATION OF ARMY INVALIDING PENSIONS

Last year the Ministry of Defence discovered they had made an error in the tax treatment of the pensions of some former members of the Army who retired before 1973. The individuals concerned had been medically discharged and the Ministry of Pensions and National Insurance (the forerunner to the DSS) had accepted that the condition which caused their retirement was attributable to service. This should have made their pensions tax free, but this was not done in all cases.

As a result of the discovery, the pensions of over 150 former members of the Army have now been made tax free and refunds of wrongly paid tax will soon be made.

Unfortunately, there may be other pensioners who had tax wrongly deducted in the past who have since died. If they left a surviving widow, she would be entitled to a refund of tax wrongly paid by her husband (although tax will continue to be paid on the widow's own pension). The MOD is trying to identify eligible surviving widows from its records, but it will be difficult to do that quickly because of the way the records are kept. So widows who believe they may be entitled to a refund should contact the Ministry, as this will enable the MOD to make a refund much more quickly.

You may be entitled to a refund if:

- * Your husband was medically discharged from the Army (the Air Force and Navy are not affected) before March 31st 1973.
- * The Ministry of Pensions and National Insurance (the forerunner to the DSS) accepted the condition for which he was invalided as attributable to service at the time of his discharge, and awarded a War Pension. (War pensions which came into payment later than the time of retirement had no effect on tax.)
- * He was paid a Service Invaliding Pension (SIP) from the Armed Forces Pension Scheme (AFPS).

If you think your late husband met all the above criteria you should contact the Army Pensions Office (APO). They will need to know your late husband's full name, dates of Service, discharge date, and Service number in order to deal with your claim quickly.

Write to them at Pensions Division, Army Personnel Centre, Room 2102, Kentigern House, 65 Brown Street, Glasgow G2 8EX. For any further help or information ring their telephone helpline number 0141 224 2314 where staff will be able to assist you.

Please help HELPS

Tilakman Pun served with the 2nd King Edward VII's Own Gurkha Rifles and became a St Dunstaner in 1993. He is currently living and working in Hong Kong. David Vinall, Head of the Ovingdean Transport department will be joining him in Southern India for a heated challenge!

Tilak and David will be walking the 90 miles from Bangalore to Mysore and are looking for sponsorship for HELPS. They will be confronting temperatures of 110 coupled with monsoon downpours! The walk takes place from July 24th-30th 1999.

HELPS stands for Health, Education, Literacy, Population Services. The charity is based in Shoreham-by-Sea and has been set up to help provide a mobile clinic and education centre for the remote villages around Mysore in Southern India.

The main target of the charity is the women and children of the area. The charity, working with a group of local doctors, etc, aims to provide education for as many girls as possible at its school. It costs as little as £50 a year for a place. For this amount the girl gets full board and lodging and all of the education fees are met. Already the local people can see the benefit to the family of the girls being educated. There will be a mobile clinic, which will tour the 40 or so villages providing basic health care and advice on preventative medicine and Family



Tilak and David in Nepal on a previous expedition.

Planning. This way every penny is used for the purpose for which it was given.

Anyone interested in supporting our St Dunstaner should please contact David Vinall at Ovingdean on 01273 307811 for a sponsorship form.

London triumph for two marathon men and a marathon lady Running for glory

There were 31,000 people running in this year's London Marathon on Sunday, April 18th, including two St Dunstaners. Very many congratulations to Gerry Jones of St Agnes, Cornwall, who successfully completed his 14th London Marathon. Gerry and his escort, Commander Colin Douglas, Fleet Air Arm, only started training at the end of January due to injuries and illness.

Their time of 4 hours and 10 minutes, therefore, is all the more commendable. Gerry said, "The press of people meant we could only dogtrot around the course." Some dogtrot to cover 26 miles in that time! Gerry was raising money for the Cornwall Blind Association, for whom he is a Fund Raiser.

Congratulations also to Don Planner of Poole, Dorset, who ran his 8th London Marathon. It brings his total of marathons to the round dozen. Don was raising money for SeeAbility. He sustained a knee injury at 15 miles but went on with his escort, Nick Feltham, to complete the course in just over 5 hours. The large number of competitors resulted in Don and Nick not being able to cross the start line until 13 minutes after the 'starter's gun'!

Also running in the Marathon was Welfare Officer Angela Neath who was the 19,861st person to cross the finish line. Her time was 4 hours and 38 minutes. Her chosen charity supports people with the human form of BSE. Well done all!

Ex-Prisoners of War Reunion

by Alf Lockhart



Bill Griffiths, Sir John Gingell, Jackie Greer and Susan Harrison enjoy a chat.

St Dunstan's ex-Prisoners of War held their Annual Reunion over the weekend of April 9th-11th at Ovingdean. Our guest of honour was Air Chief Marshal Sir David Cousins, KCB, AFC and we were pleased to see Mr Hazan from Headquarters and his wife among our other guests.

The reunion started on the Friday. This is when the ex-POWs arrive and meet in the bar for a social evening before the AGM on Saturday morning. This year things were a little different, for one thing the bar is now in the Lounge. This has both plus and minus points but on the whole it did not appear to make any difference to the joviality and camaraderie of the occasion. The evening went well. There were several old friends returning to join us and three new men made their debut. A very good opening.

Saturday morning the AGM was opened by our President Air Chief Marshal Sir John Gingell, GBE, KCB, KCVO. After the Exhortation and the President's Welcome, our Chairman Bill Griffiths, MBE took over for the remainder of the meeting.

There were no 'matters arising' from the last AGM and it was proposed that the present Committee be re-elected en-bloc. This was seconded, so we now have the same as before.

After the Reunion dinner our guest of honour gave us his speech. It was not exactly a speech but comprised several very amusing stories. These were very well received and he sat down to quite a loud

applause. Tom Hart then presented Sir David with a St Dunstan's plaque as a memento of his visit to Ovingdean. Elsie Lockhart then in her turn, presented Lady Gingell with a bouquet. When our Chairman Bill Griffiths stood up to give his closing speech he had a surprise for us. He announced that it was the Golden Wedding of Jim and Nancy Fraser. Congratulations on this special anniversary were showered on them from all quarters and Alice Griffiths presented Nancy with a lovely bouquet. It was on this happy note that the dinner ended and we all adjourned to the bar, where a good time was had by all.

On Sunday, the Memorial service was brought to a close by a young professional singer and her accompanist. These young women made a really fine ending to the service.

In the evening, we were entertained by the Brighton Welsh Choir and their special guest musician Catherine Sign, a flautist of international reputation. They entertained us for over an hour with a variety of songs, many of which were well known. Our thanks go to the choir for giving us such a good evening.

In conclusion I must thank Headquarters for the valuable assistance which we receive from them and of course, Susan Harrison and her staff at Ovingdean who have always been most helpful in working with the Committee to organise these reunions. We are indeed most grateful to them.

I am sure that Tom Hart would like me to give special thanks to the Assistant Hon Secretary Beryl Gardner who makes certain that the AGM runs like clockwork and Mary Stenning who is always ready to help, she can put her hand to anything. Thank you all so much.

Thank you Paul James, Trevor Richardson and PBK for such a lovely dinner. It was cooked and served to your very high standard and was enjoyed by all.

Many thanks to Tom Hart and Bill Griffiths for the sterling work done on our behalf throughout the year.

The next ex-Prisoner of War Reunion will be held on the weekend of April 14th-16th 2000. Anyone wishing to attend must make their bookings through the usual channels.

Life & Times of Ovingdean

by Lynne Thomas



What's up doc? Ted Yeaman and his Viking Easter bunny helmet.

The Easter Weekend was very wet, but fortunately there was a lot going on in the house to keep people occupied. On Friday the residents, visitors and staff got together to decorate Easter bonnets which were judged that evening. The winner was Ted Yeaman who transformed a Viking helmet into an Easter bunny. 'Clem' Clements also did well with his Chindit hat.

The house was full in the second week of April for the ex-Prisoners of War Reunion. The culmination of the weekend's activities was a concert by the Brighton Welsh Male Voice Choir who were in good voice especially since some of them had sung at Wales' last minute victory against Scotland that afternoon. The performance was a great success.

The next night saw a return visit from the Partytime Productions theatre company with their new show *Easter Bonnet*. Three performers sang and danced their way through this spoof of a 1930s musical with lightning costume changes and a chance for the audience to sing along to some old favourites.

The Alternative Therapy Night is a relatively new activity at Ovingdean which takes advantage of the skills that staff and volunteers have in aromatherapy, reflexology and other therapies. It takes place about once a month and is fast becoming one of the most popular evenings in the house.

The bar is now fully established in the main Lounge and it adds a lot to the atmosphere there in the afternoons and evenings. The dances and live entertainment are more enjoyable when drinks are available at the same time.

The weather continues to be unpredictable here on the coast, but there are now more sunny than rainy days, so maybe summer is on the way and we can start enjoying some of the lovely parks and gardens of Sussex. We were lucky to have wonderful weather on May 5th when a coach party went to the Open Day at Frogmore.



John Trent, Russ and Mary Crombie with Ben Gillam by The Duchess of Kent's Mausoleum.

Widows' week

April 16th-23rd

by Mrs Vivien Jerome

Seven widows turned up for this week, but what we lost in quantity was made up in quality.

It was a most enjoyable and relaxing week, outings to Eastbourne, Chichester and a memorable tour of the beautiful old St Mary's House, Bramber, small but full of the most interesting history. A theatre trip to *No No Nanette* brought back many happy memories to most of us. The aromatherapy and reflexology evening and the glass engraving afternoon were two of the highlights of our visit.

We all thank Lynne Thomas for arranging such an interesting and varied programme and all the staff for making us so welcome and looking after us so well.



St Dunstan's Walkers on Vanbrugh's Grand Bridge which spans Blenheim Lake created by Capability Brown.

Flanders – Flood or Mud?

St Dunstan's Walking Holiday April 22nd-28th
by Ray Hazan

It was not quite Noah's flood, nor the mud of Flanders, but mud and rain did seem to feature in this year's walking holiday. But these paled into damp and clinging insignificance compared to the more positive aspects of the trip.

The Walking Group wanted a change of scenery after three very successful years in Stratford-upon-Avon. The Oxford Moat House offered us a good rate, was geographically central and had green areas nearby for guide dogs. After some initial changing of rooms, the ten walking partnerships were comfortably settled and soon exchanging news over dinner. The Welsh contingent was represented by Norman and Mary Hopkins, Trevor Tatchell and Alan Price, Stan Tutton and Peter Westbrook, while London was not far behind with Mike Tetley and George Male, George and Catherine Johnston, Bill and Betty Weisblatt, Ray and Robbie Hazan. Ted and Beryl John, Tom Roddy and Jennie ensured the North was not omitted. We welcomed two newcomers, John and Elisabeth Walbrugh.

It is the local Ramblers Association who kindly organise the walks, additionally providing leaders and escorts. We were delighted to welcome Peter

Barbour, their Area Secretary and Wendy Lines, their programmes Coordinator, both of whom had worked hard to prepare the way for our visit. Fortunately, Wendy had met us the previous year and so knew all our fads and fancies!

A most pleasant and helpful addition to the group this year was our coach driver from Ovingdean, Kevin Warren. Kevin is a professional coach driver who has only been with St Dunstan's a short while and after his sojourn with us, we hope it will be a long while! Our Brighton coach proved a real asset with its facilities to provide hot and cold drinks at the end of the day's walk and a comfortable seat in which to nod off on the journey back to the hotel after a day's exertions!

The weather in April is very unpredictable these days. It varied from constant drizzle on the first day, to warm sunshine the next. Underfoot had been softened by previous 'damp spells' and so many of the paths and fields were hard work as the mud strove to suck boots and shoes off your feet.

But this adversity was offset by the wonderful countryside, which was Oxfordshire and its

neighbouring counties, where we also walked. We passed through villages, some totally unspoilt by modern buildings or cars. Historic houses, thatched cottages, distant views across valleys and everywhere the lush green of the vegetation as a constant backdrop. It is good to know that these areas of quiet beauty still exist – we Londoners get a very warped view!

One whole day's walk was mainly through the grounds of Blenheim Palace. The building and its estate were donated to the Duke of Marlborough by a grateful nation. Our leader Geoff was a mine of information that day as we gratefully strolled along mud-free tarmac paths! The Palace itself is very ornate on the outside. A statue of the Duke atop a Nelson-like column overlooks the grounds in which trees have been planted representing the formations of troops at the battle. Geoff further entranced us when he showed us a pheasant's egg, slightly broken by a fox's tongue, which had licked out the contents. He pointed out bird calls, trees, plants and his affirmation of 'Oak before the Ash means a splash' and 'Ash before the Oak means a soak' meant we got wet whichever way round!

The peace and solitude of the countryside was broken only by the chatter between walkers and their escorts. Most of the Ramblers were retired and came from a multitude of backgrounds and jobs. There were short and long distance walkers (100 miles in 22 hours), but all with the common link of the love of their surroundings and eagerness to share and help.

We much appreciated a visit from our friends Ray, Betty and Yvonne of the Stratford Ramblers, who obviously had not been punished enough by us last year! It was a delight to meet up with them again. Another set of friends was St Dunstaner John Harris and his wife Pat who joined his fellow physiotherapists for lunch one day. Close to home was St Dunstan's Chief Executive Gerard Frost. He lives near one of our lunchtime stops and was able to join us for some liquid refreshment.

A couple of incidents spring to mind; there is no need today for the simple means of communication between front and back of the party by word of mouth, hand signals, heliograph or semaphore flags, when you have a mobile telephone. But one major factor is to have the other person's telephone number! Thus when our party separated, the two halves were totally incommunicado and these natty mobiles were as useless as a handful of mud!



Commencing the day's walk at Blenheim Palace.

But they proved their worth when a passing car bumped into our coach on a narrow minor road miles from anywhere on our final day. Police could be summoned, school pick-ups warned, garages primed, etc. We are still debating whether it was a wise or foolish move for the lady driver to choose a bus with seven blind witnesses on board!

Our five days of walking seemed to pass more quickly than ever before. Due to the 'bump', the group had 50 minutes to transform themselves from mud brown (we went through the worst patch of Flanders that afternoon) to best bib and tucker for our final dinner. Both Peter and Wendy were invited in order that we could express our sincere gratitude to them and all the Ramblers who had either led or escorted us throughout the week.

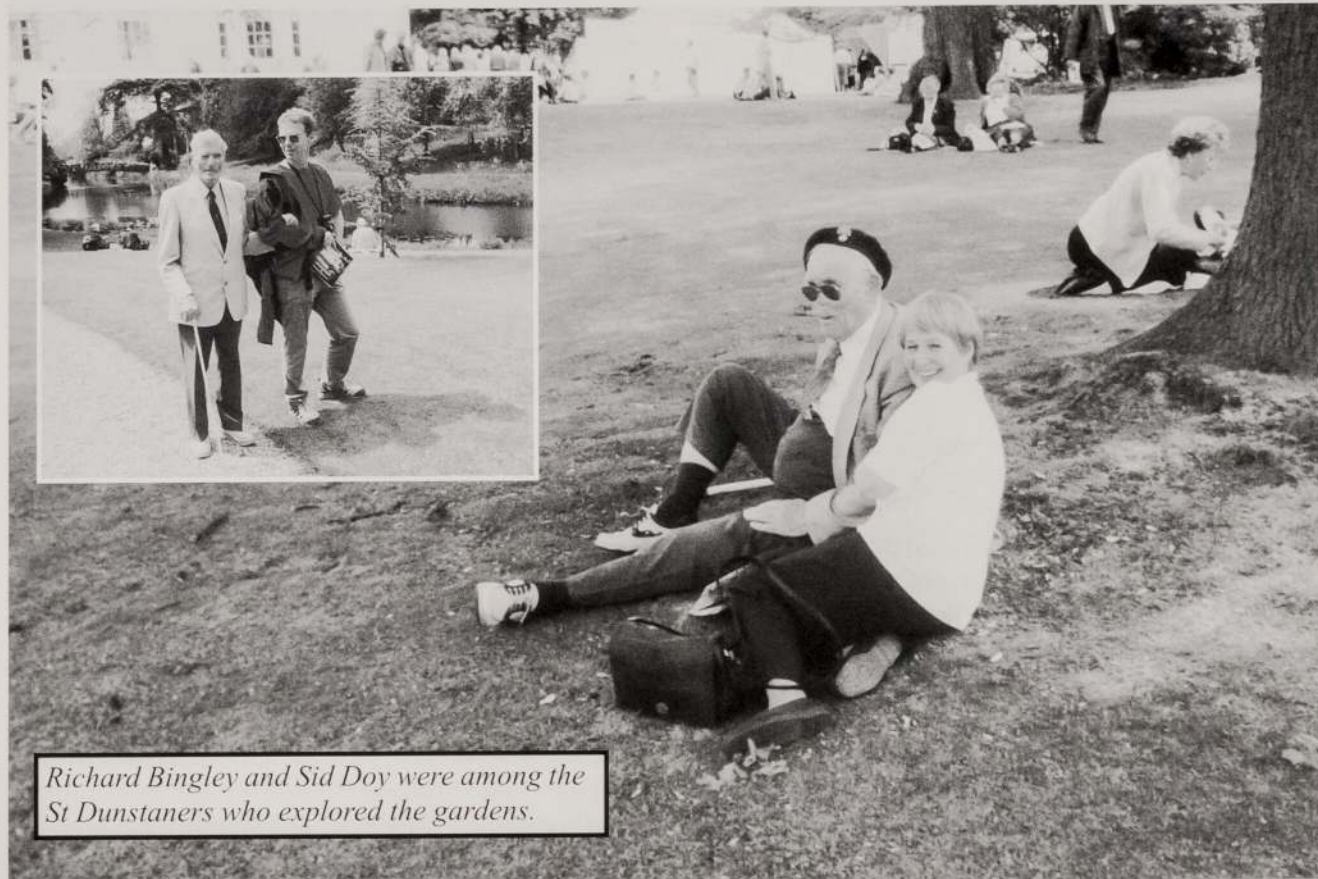
One first time couple were heard to say how they wish they had come on the walks sooner. So, if you are interested, please keep an eye on the *Review* for details of next year's event, which will take place again towards the end of April. Please contact the PR department now if you would like details when they become available.



Stan Tutton studies the train he has just ridden on.

Fair weather falls at Frogmore

by Neil Swan, Head of Fund Raising



Richard Bingley and Sid Doy were among the St Dunstaners who explored the gardens.

St Dunstan's day at Frogmore took place on May 5th. The weather started out fine with some sunshine and this must surely have influenced a good many people to attend such an exclusive event.

The Fund Raising department sold just under 2,500 tickets and included in this number were 18 organised coach parties from as far afield as Birmingham, Bristol and Hastings. Members of the general public started to queue up well before the 10am opening time, so the day began with a continual stream of cars and people as soon as the gates had opened. The Public Relations stand was set out for all to see at the main garden entrance with many people making on the spot donations or taking literature away for further perusal.

It was a magnificent and privileged setting where everything looked superb, from the green liveried gatekeepers and Royal staff to the discreetly pitched white administrative tents and the sea of well

manicured lawns. Most of those attending were in full summer attire and determined to take advantage of the unique and tranquil situation on offer. Even the inbound jets for Heathrow passed unnoticed, as Frogmore is a very special and absorbing venue.

The Royal Mausoleum provided a sombre but remarkable insight into the work of the very best Victorian craftsmen. It was noteworthy for its cool interior and for its richness of display, whether the murals or the many lovely different shades of marble used in the construction. The Royal Burial Ground is situated adjacent to the Mausoleum and all the tombstones are in the form of large rectangular slabs and an identification plan nearby made recognition easy since there are 25 individual burial sites.

The gardens are perhaps more informal in their composition and layout and they consist largely of shrubs, the most colourful on St Dunstan's day being the flaming yellow azaleas, deep purple rhododendrons and a complete carpet of bluebells in one area.



Enjoying a well-deserved rest on the lawns.



Paul and Phyllis Walker crossing an ornate bridge that led up to the Royal Mausoleum.

We are grateful to the Royal Collection Enterprises, the Crown Estates and finally to the weather for making it a truly unforgettable day.

I hope that any St Dunstaners, wives or widows, who visited Frogmore on the day, enjoyed the occasion. In addition to the tickets sold before the event, a further 700 tickets were sold at the gate on the day. The event at Frogmore certainly helped to make St Dunstan's widely visible to the general public.



Crowds gathered to see the Royal Mausoleum.

THIRD YEAR OF SUCCESS

The department has just completed its third successful year raising funds for the Charity. I am sure you will be interested to know that, once again, we have exceeded our target. The amount raised this year is nearly £8.5 million (up £2 million on last year). As a result of this public generosity, many of the benefits that had to be withheld, when St Dunstan's went through such a difficult time in 1994, are now starting to be restored. I am extremely grateful to all members of the fund raising team for working so very hard during the year to make this possible. I am also most grateful to all those in the St Dunstan's family who assisted us in one way or another.

CHARITY MATCH DONATION



Every year the Football Association holds a Charity Shield match. The Royal Navy gives its donation to the King George's Fund for Sailors. As a result St Dunstan's was fortunate to receive £3,000. Royal Marine St Dunstan Julian Stevens and John Gale accepted a cheque from Lt Cdr Jim Danks, RN of the RN Football Association.

QUIZ

- Q1 Which busy bee became an OBE in 1969?
- Q2 This *Top Hat* star made the best of her legs in 1942 *Chicago* and was London's *Mame* in 1969?
- Q3 Which Italian family saddled up their business to enter the fashion trade?
- Q4 One might expect the wife of this American President to fly away home. Can you name her?
- Q5 Where was the *Eagle* on July 20th 1969?

THE MILLENNIUM BUG

HOME CHECK

WHAT IS THE MILLENNIUM BUG?

In a nutshell, it's when a micro-chip doesn't know what year it is. You see, as far as people are concerned the new century begins in the year 2000. But a computer chip in your video, or on your burglar alarm or your fax machine might get the wrong idea and read the year 2000 as the year 1900.

This means appliances which use dates are vulnerable to the Bug. Is that a worry? It shouldn't be, the vast majority of appliances will work as normal. The very worst that can happen is that some of them may get confused over the date.

WHAT ISN'T AFFECTED

Very few household appliances are affected by the Bug. That's because it only affects some computer and electronic systems which include dates in their function. With the vast majority of products you have nothing to worry about. All of the items listed below have been confirmed by manufacturers or retailers not to be affected by the Bug.

Appliances

Vacuum Cleaners, Clocks, Lamps, Space Heaters, Fans, Telephones, Watches (with no date), Mobile Phones, Power Tools, Light Meters, Kitchen Hardware – cookers, washing machines etc.

Household Systems

Air Conditioning, Central Heating, Garage Doors, Light Timers, Smoke Alarms, Thermostats, Water Heating.

Garden

Lawn Mowers, Hedge Trimmers, Rotovators, Barbecues, Swimming Pool Equipment, Greenhouse Heaters.

Transport

Cars, Vans, Campervans, Caravans, Trailers, Motorbikes.

WHAT MAY BE AFFECTED?

A small number of domestic appliances have date/time functions. Although the Millennium Bug is unlikely to stop these working it may confuse some timing devices. Here's a list of items which may be affected and some advice on how to deal with it.

Video Recorders (VCRs)

Most machines will not be affected because they have been pre-programmed to recognise the year 2000. Those few that may be affected will be able to work normally when manually controlled. The only problem could be with time-recorded programmes as they may not recognise the year change. If the display or timer has a year setting, the VCR may be affected. However the chances are still slim, as most manufacturers anticipated any possible problems.

You can test the machine yourself. Read the user manual for guidance on time settings, as you would when you bought the machine then:

Set date & time to 31/12/1999 at 23:58.

Wait 2 minutes for time to turn to 01/01/2000 00:00.

You should use the same test to check that the VCR passes from February 28th to 29th 2000.

If successful, your video should be fine.

If it fails, you should contact your retailer or manufacturer to check the model and ask for guidance. Action 2000 are compiling a manufacturers' list of products that may or may not be affected by the Bug. You'll find this list on Action 2000's web site at <http://www.bug2000.co.uk> or the Action 2000 action line on 0845 601 2000.

Burglar Alarms

Most burglar alarms are unlikely to be affected as they store dates by day and month only, so there is no date stored to go wrong. However, if there is a year display or you are in any doubt, it's worth checking with your maintenance company to see whether your alarm has a year counter. Odds are it won't so there's no need for concern. If it does, make sure that the company can guarantee your system will function properly in the next century.

Do not check the alarm system yourself.

Your first point of contact should be the company who installed your system. Alternatively, call NACOSS (National Approved Council for Security

Systems) on 01628 637 512. They can provide you with a list of their recognised installation and maintenance firms.

Fax Machines

These all have date functions, but very few models will fail to recognise the year 2000. Rest assured that your fax machine will continue to send and receive faxes, although the transmission date may be incorrect. Most machines can be reset manually by simply referring to the user manual, and using the same test described under VCRs. If you experience any difficulties, contact the retailer or manufacturer for further guidance.

Answer Phones/Digital Cameras/ Camcorders/ Videophones/Watches

These items may use time and date as a display or record. Again, these should continue to work as normal, although the wrong time and dates may be displayed or recorded.

The time/date can usually be reset quite simply by referring to the user guide. If you experience difficulty, the first port of call is the retailer. If they cannot help, they should be able to guide you to who can.

MORE INFO ABOUT THE BUG

Electronic Goods Bought Abroad

Because these were bought overseas any guidance in the UK may not be accurate. However, you may get some indication from the information given above. If you have any doubts you should check back to whoever sold you the item or the original manufacturers.

Retailers

First of all, ask the people where you bought your appliance. Chances are they've already taken steps to find out how the Millennium Bug affects goods that they have supplied. If so, they'll be able to answer all your question.

Manufacturers

It needn't be a problem if the retailer can't help. Many manufacturers provide clear statements on which of their products may be affected. And often a direct approach to a customer helpline can tell you all you need - particularly if you quote the model number of the item in question.

WHAT ABOUT MY INSURANCE?

Household Insurance

It's unlikely that your policy will cover individual

products which malfunction because of the Bug. So, for example, if your video starts to play up because it doesn't recognise which year it's in, you won't be able to claim for a new one. On the other hand if something going wrong results in further damage to your home you should be covered. So if your alarm stopped working and burglars break in, you'll still be covered for theft. Always check for any exclusion clauses when reviewing or renewing your policy, as you can change policies if necessary.

THE MILLENNIUM BUG AND YOUR PC

How Do I Test It?

The simplest way is to see if your PC's clock and BIOS work properly when the date changes to January 1st 2000.

Close all applications before testing.

Set the system's date to 31/12/1999.

Set the system's time to 23:58:00.

Switch the PC off.

Wait for your fake "midnight" to pass.

Switch the PC back on.

Check that the date is now 01/01/2000.

If your PC fails this test:

Manually set the date to 01/01/2000 with the DOS DATE command or the Date/Time facility in the Control Panel Windows based systems. Then switch the PC off, then on again after a few seconds.

If the PC still fails, contact the manufacturer or retailer for advice. Make sure you can provide them with your PC's model name, serial number, date of purchase and the BIOS manufacturer, version and date which appear on the screen when you first switch on your PC.

Check your PC recognises that the year 2000 is a leap year:

Repeat the test above, setting the date to 28/02/2000.

Let midnight pass and turn the PC on again. Has the date changed to 29/02/2000?

Double-check by testing whether the PC changes from 29/02/2000 to 01/03/2000 in the same way.

What If You Don't Know How To Test?

Contact the retailer or PC manufacturer. Give them your PC's model name, serial number (which should be on the back of the computer) and date of purchase.

Note the BIOS manufacturer, version and date which can be found on screen when you switch on your PC.

This information should enable your retailer or manufacturer to identify what needs to be done to your PC to make it millennium-ready.

If you are unable to contact your retailer or manufacturer because they are no longer trading contact a local computer specialist.

STAYING FREE OF THE BUG

However much work you do to get your PC ready for the millennium, there's still a risk. Your programs and data could be affected by files imported from the internet, e-mail or floppy disk.

You need to stay alert to potential problems when putting new programs on your PC (especially Freeware and Shareware). Also be careful when using your old spreadsheets that might have been created using two-digit year dates.

"Good housekeeping" is important - regularly back-up your data files on tape or floppy disk, and keep a paper record of important business information before and after January 1st 2000.

If you use your home PC to do work for your employer, be especially careful that any Millennium Bug problems are not introduced onto their systems from yours. You could unwittingly compromise your employer's year 2000 programme.

Don't use your PC for work until you are absolutely certain it's free of problems, and you have the evidence to prove it.

In any case, you should ask your employer for advice and possibly help. You never know, they may even pay for your home PC to be upgraded or replaced.

BUYING NEW PRODUCTS

Are you thinking about buying an electronic product but worried it might be affected by the Bug? You don't have to be. Just take these two simple steps.

Ask the retailer or mail-order supplier whether the goods are millennium compliant.

Make sure that they can prove it.

For added security, get the retailer to endorse the invoice or till receipt to say "Goods are guaranteed to recognise the year 2000 and that it is a leap year."

Some retailers are already beginning to display signs indicating products are year 2000 compliant.

If you decide to buy a new computer, remember to ask about the hardware, operating system and all software.

WHAT HELP IS AVAILABLE?

The Action 2000 web site at www.bug2000.co.uk.
The Action 2000 action line on 0845 601 2000.



Council Member Mr David Knowles, CBE with St Dunstan's member Ron Cattell at the Brighton reunion.

Reunion Round-up

This year's reunions started with the first Brighton reunion at Ovingdean on April 7th. Mr David Knowles, CBE was the member of St Dunstan's council presiding and 40 St Dunstaners, 19 widows and two beneficiaries of the Gubbay Trust attended.

St Dunstan's President Mr Colin Beaumont-Edmonds, MC presided at Norwich on April 14th. Six St Dunstaners, nine widows and four beneficiaries of the Gubbay Trust gathered at the Hotel Jarvis Norwich.

At Liverpool on April 21st, Ray Hazan was the member of St Dunstan's council presiding. Twenty-one St Dunstaners, ten widows and five beneficiaries of the Gubbay Trust gathered at the Gladstone Hotel.

Six St Dunstaners, seven widows and seven beneficiaries of the Gubbay Trust attended the Birmingham reunion on April 28th at the Strathallan Hotel. Mr David Knowles, CBE was the member of St Dunstan's council presiding.

WINGED VICTORY SCULPTOR REMEMBERED



Julian Phelps Allan.

Sculptor Julian Phelps Allan, OBE, FRBS who carved Winged Victory the imposing monumental statue above St Dunstan's chapel at Ovingdean died on January 31st 1996, aged 103.

Julian Phelps Allan was a fine artist who won many awards for her work, including the Gold Medal of The Royal Academy (1925). Her work can be found in private homes, public gardens, schools, colleges, art galleries, concert halls, churches, cemeteries (she carved tombstones, including Mrs Emily Pankhurst's), convents and monasteries in various parts of England and Scotland, and they portray a wide variety of subjects.

In 1938 she wrote "I am now working on what will be a 20ft figure for the new St Dunstan's Convalescent Home which is being built outside Brighton. This is a "Winged Victory" holding the insignia of St Dunstan's. It is rather an adventure, especially as no one knows whether the floor of my studio will hold it!"

In 1974, she was registered blind and before the end of her long life she became very deaf. In spite of her disabilities, she remained gloriously alive, being blessed with many friends, interests and concerns.



Winged Victory.

CD, Compliance or Crash?

Computer Club Meeting April 14th-15th

It was a small but select band of computer enthusiasts who met in the new training centres IT department. We were 'taken under the wing' of our IT locum Martin Elliot who was standing in for Janis Sharp.

Martin has a range of experience in both management and computer systems. In the short time he has had with St Dunstan's, he has developed a real understanding of both the needs and special requirements of those who have passed through the department. The group threw him a load of questions from manic modems to 2000 compliance. Martin fielded all with skill!

His talents were of further use that evening at the buffet supper in ensuring glasses were rarely empty! It was a most pleasant evening.

The following day began on a disappointing note when we learnt that Martin had been involved in a road accident that morning. He has since recovered. Everyone chipped in with their bit of knowledge thus fulfilling what these gatherings are all about - helping and encouraging each other.

Our thanks to the Training department, to Adrian in the bar, to PBK and all staff at Ovingdean who helped make our stay comfortable and the meeting manageable!

The next meeting takes place at Ovingdean on Thursday and Friday, October 7th-8th. Please book in via your Welfare Officer. If you have any computer queries, contact either Ray Hazan or Janis Sharp.

BLIND FAITH

Geoff Hilton-Barber sets off on a great adventure, to sail single-handed from his home port of Durban across the Southern Indian Ocean to Fremantle. Quite a feat in itself, but Geoff has additional worries - he is blind



Geoffrey on deck.

Geoffrey Hilton-Barber has worked for 23 years in blind welfare, the last 16 as Director of the National Society for the Blind in Durban. A keen sportsman, he has represented South Africa twice in blind track athletics at international events for the disabled, and run over 30 marathons. He started sailing in 1975 when failing eyesight forced him to give up his other love, sport parachuting.

Tuesday, December 16th 1997

A beautiful, but absolutely windless day and I was drifting idly on a gently rolling sea. Decision time: motor sail or take it easy? I needed to conserve my precious stocks of diesel, but I didn't like drifting around when I should be looking for westerlies further south.

Day off, I finally decided - it was a public holiday back home in South Africa, after all, and I had chores piling up. The tails of my new reefing lines and main halyard were too long and were difficult to keep tidy round the base of the mast. Keeping a tidy ship was particularly important to me and it was time they were shortened and rewhipped. Plan the job and take up the right tools. Music up loud, shirt off, beer, knife and whipping twine in pockets - let's really enjoy this lovely day. Sitting with my back to the mast, beer clamped between my knees and Frank Sinatra's *My Way* drifting up through the

saloon hatch, I felt life couldn't be better. Africa was over 1,000 miles behind me and I now felt that *Abacus* and I were at last free of the land and truly at home out here with the birds, the wind and the waves.

How are you going to manage alone and blind in the middle of the ocean? my friends had often asked me during working parties. Have to wait and see, I could only reply - but I knew that it wouldn't be easy.

The first week had been pretty tough going, but now, as I swallowed my first mouthful of beer, I decided I was coping fairly well.

My reverie was abruptly shattered by the loud whooshing sound of a whale-blowing close by off the port beam. I nearly jumped out of my skin. I realised that there was something else around not only bigger than me, but probably a lot bigger than my boat as well, and I wasn't as solitary as I had thought.

I think it was then that I knew why I was doing this trip and I felt really good about it at last. The idea of a solo passage had been growing on me for many years and the path had not been an easy one. For many years I had had to content myself with crewing on my own boat with others always at the helm and navigating, while I had to be told the course and the wind direction - if I really wanted to know.

I knew I would need a lot of support for such a venture and still had to be sure in my own mind that I was taking on something that was possible.

With mounting interest I'd watched two separate attempts by blind sailors to cross the North Atlantic from Newport to England and was disappointed to hear that both had had electronics failure that turned them back. Maybe, just maybe, if I had the right equipment and enough back-ups, I could make an ocean crossing myself. The technology was there, I had a good boat if I was personally up to it, why not?

Which ocean? I wanted to leave from my home port of Durban; I needed a destination which was sympathetic

to yachtsmen with adequate communications and support services, a relatively shipping-free, uncomplicated route; I did not particularly want a tradewind weather pattern; I was rather drawn by the challenge of a Southern Ocean crossing, so Durban-Fremantle in Western Australia it was.

To get deep-sea experience, I crewed on a 36ft sloop, *Kildonan*, on her return trip from Rio to Cape Town and I confess that there were times on that trip when I thought I was mad even to consider solo sailing.

Kildonan had no self-steering and, with only four of us on board, I had to do my fair share of helming in cold, dirty Atlantic weather. But I learned a lot from that 37-day trip and arrived home even more interested than before in planning my own voyage.

My boat, *Abacus*, is a 33ft International Offshore Rule design which I completed from a hull and deck. Her sisterships are all fractionally rigged, pretty quick and fairly tender racing boats, but *Abacus* has a more conservative layout. A heavier, deeper keel (she draws 2m), masthead cutter rig and a 28hp engine has turned her into a fast, well mannered and easy to sail cruiser.

With lots of good gear on board, some of which might be considered 'overkill', she sailed on her own for 99 per cent of the trip and, with the exception of the wind generator, which decided to abandon ship in a fit of pique, nothing, but nothing broke.

While I believed that I could actually fool around at the mast and stumble around on the foredeck as well as anybody else, reliable self-steering gear and instruments that could talk to me were vital. When the first Autohelm audio compass was developed for blind sailors, my sailing took on a new lease of life.

I could now steer accurately and often a lot better than my friends, especially at night, when a swinging, badly lit compass card is enough to tax any sighted helmsman. From the audio compass to the talking multi-data repeater was then just a matter of time - and the mysteries of navigation unfolded before me.

I already had an absolutely standard set of Autohelm ST50 instruments aboard *Abacus* and Peter Long,

design engineer of the Seataalk system, helped me set up the system I needed.

A multi-data repeater, linked to a basic speech synthesiser and waterproof speaker gave me all the data I needed at the push of a button. The pièce de résistance as far as I was concerned was to be able to access my Global Positioning System (GPS) and input and use various waypoints with the same audio output via the multi.

I used no charts at all - only Go and No Go waypoints on my GPS. With the addition of the ST7000 self-steering, I was virtually on my way.

With lots of spares and provisions on board, we cleared Durban at mid-day on Monday, December 1st. Many well-wishers turned up at the marina to see me off and at least six other yachts escorted me out of the harbour.

Much could I write about that day! My wife, Carol, took the

helm while leaving the moorings and transferred to another yacht in mid-harbour. *Abacus* was then on autopilot under motor and double-reefed main. I was on the VHF and should have been under sedation.

Ken Smith, my close friend and project manager, guided me by radio out to sea and into the teeth of a steadily strengthening north-easter which had kicked up quite a sea.

I would have loved to put that sea on my port quarter and to have streaked off due south to take full advantage of the strong Mozambique current, but the weather forecast put a stop to that. A 40-knot south westerly would be with us some 16 hours later and I had to be across the current by then or take a real battering.

So we reached straight across the current and took only 12 hours to cover the first 75 miles with the north-easter peaking at 37 knots. *Abacus* went like a bird on staysail and two reefs, while I sat in the companionway under the shelter of my new sprayhood, listening to my instruments and occasionally adjusting the autopilot to ease our way across the waves.

I was on a real high that night - off at last and going like

I used no charts at all - only Go and No Go waypoints



Geoffrey Hilton-Barber's *Abacus*.

a train. Putting on a tape at midnight, I cracked my first beer, had a sandwich for supper and exchanged some banter with Bulldog Bernie Hall on yacht *Nicky 2*, the last of the fleet that had left Durban with me.

He rode shotgun until noon next day and then turned back, leaving me feeling rather alone and a little subdued. I hadn't slept yet and came off the high of the previous night with rather a bump. The easterly had dropped right off and a large oily swell kept us wallowing around for hours until nightfall, when a rather frightening electrical storm followed by heavy rain and a strong south-easter drove me off to the east. Heaving to at 03.00, I fell asleep across my keyboard while trying to send my first e-mail.

We had broken up the voyage into three basic legs, the first of which was to sail a course of 128°T to my initial waypoint at 36°S 40°E which would set me up to pass between the Walter Shoal and the Melville Bank - two places I badly wanted to avoid.

Heading gradually south after that to 38°S to skirt another shallowish area and back up to 37°S to pass north of Amsterdam Island, the second leg would set me up for the approach to the western Australian coast. The final leg would take me on a course of 32°T from 37°S 110°E to 32°S 114°E. I would then be met on that latitude between 114° and 115°E for a guided approach to Fremantle.

Did it all go according to plan? Pretty nearly. I had a few strong south-easterlies on the first leg which

were the last winds I needed. I lost three days and saw a bit more ocean than we had planned, but nothing bad happened and I settled down to the voyage and living alone.

I had several visits from dolphins, the weather was beautifully mild and I spent many hours sitting in the cockpit at night, just soaking up the atmosphere.

After rounding the Walter Shoal I had wonderful weather. While becoming steadily colder, the winds now blew constantly from behind, seldom on the beam and never on the nose. Although the wind changed quite often in strength and direction, I only had one blow of over 40 knots for most of the stretch from 40° to 85°E - a cruising man's dream.

I thought I was having rather a textbook crossing at that stage - everything was working according to plan, regular communications with Ken and Carol and I was really enjoying myself. Christmas Day was lonely, but I made up for it with a major party the next day when I motor sailed through the night with a tape on loud and a few beers...

Then a big high-pressure system moved down and I had either no wind at all or very light variables. I was hove-to for two days in a south-easterly over New Year, which blew me back 60 miles, and was then becalmed again. Having consulted my weather guru, Ken, I realised that I had to go much further south to find any useful wind and headed deeper into the Southern Ocean.

As I reached 40°S everything changed. Low pressure fronts marched by with cold, hard winds that never seemed to drop much below 20 knots and were usually well over 30.

The seas got big and seemed to stay that way for the week I was there. I sailed for several days under bare poles and covered 3° in longitude on one day alone.

The probably inevitable knockdown occurred on January 7th. Fortunately I was down below at the time. We were well and truly flattened by a wave on the starboard quarter that sent me flying clear across the saloon.

We took a lot of water below with the only damage being salt water corrosion in my battery charging system which subsequently failed some three days later. This was not good news, but my wind generator was still working well and all the other

electrics were fine.

Having covered 14° of longitude in five days, I now needed to move north before I was swept too far south and east. I found it difficult sailing across the face of the waves and I think *Abacus* was a little light for the conditions.

Heaving to for a while until the next south westerly, I headed out of there as fast as possible. Ken had warned me of the approach of a front that had far too many millibars crowded together for his liking and suggested I make it up to 36°S PDQ.

I was down at over 41°S at the time and that meant sailing some 300 miles due north to get clear. I managed 200 before the front arrived. I soon had a Force 8 north-westerly with the biggest waves I have ever experienced and chose to run before them, streaming all my warps. During the worst of the blow my wind generator, which had performed valiantly until then, either threw a blade or seized a bearing, vibrated itself right of the mountings and vanished overboard.

The wind dropped to a 35-knot westerly after 24 hours and I was able to pull in my warps and set off once again. I was dog-tired and badly in need of sleep. Switching off all my instruments and lights, I climbed into my bunk, knowing I had a big problem on my hands. All was well on my good ship except that I could no longer generate electricity to feed my hungry batteries.

Fremantle was still 900 miles away and I needed a lot more electricity than I had in my batteries to get there. No problem with basic navigation I had two more GPS's with many spare batteries, which would keep me going for another ten days, but no wind instruments, communications, electric autopilot or lights? Not easy.

I contacted Ken and informed him that I needed assistance. A call was put out by the Australian Rescue Control Centre to any nearby shipping and two vessels answered and diverted to me. A Norwegian Ro-Ro stood by while the *Khosi Maru*, a Japanese fishing patrol vessel, sent her chief engineer aboard to see if he could repair my charging system. He unfortunately could not and the captain then offered to escort me north into calmer waters before continuing on his way.

I accepted with alacrity and sailed northeast for the next three days with all comms and lights off and only

switching on my instruments to check my position. I spoke to the *Khosi Maru* twice a day on hand-held VHF and my position was relayed to my concerned team in Fremantle. I had strong east-south-easterlies during this time and made good distance on a close reach. The sea was still pretty big, but nowhere near the size I'd had further south.

I was unhappy to find how quickly my battery voltages were going down, even without use, and was not sure that they would be sufficient for the last leg, following the departure of the *Khosi Maru*. Ken then arranged with the Mediterranean Shipping Company to drop off fresh batteries as well as one of our team, Roy Bowden.

The *MSC Corina* was bound for Durban from Fremantle and the captain very generously agreed to divert to meet me 300 miles southwest of Fremantle. With the *Khosi Maru* using their big duck, Roy transferred safely to *Abacus* and we sailed together to the rendezvous with Ken who was on the yacht *Enigma*.

We followed them into port and had a tremendous reception from the Fremantle Sailing Club, who were wonderful hosts and could not do enough for us.

I could not have had this great adventure without the support of Ken Smith, our team and my wife, Carol, who deserves a medal for letting me fulfil my dream.

OTHER INFORMATION EQUIPMENT

I could not have undertaken this trip without specialised technology. Some things were hard to find, while others just took time. Some were vital for me as a blind sailor; others were good to have for solo sailing.

Audio instrumentation

The talking multi-data repeaters were designed by Autohelm specifically for blind sailors. I was involved for some three years in the testing and choice of menus and we even added a continuous speech synchronisation check that stopped it all going into gobbledegook mode when we took a clout from a big wave.

The talking AVO meter for battery voltages and charge/discharge rates was an off-the-shelf unit from a Tandy store in England. I only had to have it wired to a five-position switch.

Communications

Good communications were absolutely essential. Besides standard VHF, I had an SSB and an Inmarsat C system linked to a Compaq Notebook and Dolphin Apollo speech synthesiser. The Inmarsat caused a bit of a problem. I needed a Notebook computer that could operate off 12V and could not find one. I therefore had to step up my voltage from 12 to 22OV and then back down to 18V via the standard charger.

While the SSB gave me only intermittent contact, the Inmarsat always worked and I could send and receive e-mail messages any time I chose. The system also automatically transmitted my position, course and speed every six hours to the Altec Defence Systems base in Cape Town and our team tracked me all the way.

Navigation

Probably a year was spent gathering information relative to the trip. The result was a route with seven waypoints along it that we were able to feed into the GPS systems on board. These were numbered 1-7. A second set of No-Go waypoints were numbered such that 11-19 were points we did not want to venture near between waypoints 1 and 2, 21-29 likewise between waypoint 2 and 3 and so on. All this navigational information was committed to memory as well as taped on cassette with spare copies that became the route bible. I had three backups to my GPS on separate power systems.

Self-steering

I used a Windpilot Pacific and the Autohelm ST7000 - two magnificent units which worked faultlessly without complaint, even in winds of 55 knots and pretty big seas.

Talking barometer

I tried for years to acquire audio output from a digital barometer without success. I then relied solely on my weather forecasts from Ken and found them more than adequate. Had I lost communication with base, I am not convinced that an audio barometer could really have helped me tactically.

SUPPORT TEAM

I was fortunate to have a team of four friends who helped tirelessly towards getting me and *Abacus* ready by the deadline. Ken Smith, the project manager took charge of comms and weather forecasting after my departure and the others manned computers in different parts of South Africa to reduce the risk of loss of communications.

With the exception of the specific audio equipment already mentioned, *Abacus* had no really special gear. She was simply fitted out with good equipment that does the job, doesn't break and is easy to operate - surely any yachtsman's aim?

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Pictures by Roy Dunster.

SAILING OPPORTUNITIES

The Jubilee Sailing Trust invites visually impaired people to join the crew of the *Lord Nelson*, a square-rigger sailing ship. The vessel has been purpose built to enable all crew members to take full and equal roles in helping to sail the ship.

For details contact the Jubilee Sailing Trust, Jubilee Yard, Hazel Road, Woolston, Southampton SO19 7GB. Tel: 01703 449138. E-mail: jst@jst.org.uk. Website: <http://www.jst.org.uk>.

RYA Sailability also run a number of courses for blind people. They will be holding Blind Week '99 at Warsash Sailing Club from July 10th-17th. Nationwide 53 RYA Sailability groups offer regular sailing opportunities.

For details contact RYA Sailability, RYA House, Romsey Road, Eastleigh, Hampshire SO50 9YA. Tel: 01703 627400.

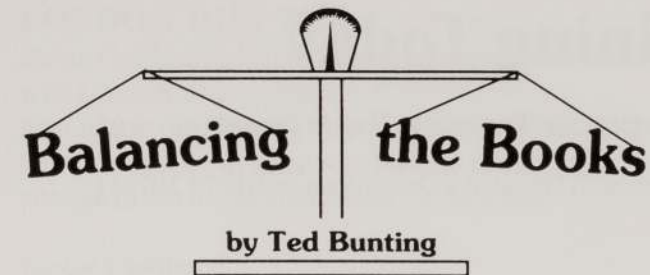
RYA have a cruise on the *Donald Searle* running September 16th-22nd. The cost is £120. For details contact Derrick Thorniley, Blind Coordinator, Croxton Cottage, 35 Tytherington Lane, Macclesfield, Cheshire SK10 2JS. Tel: 01625 574150.

LEARN HOW TO WATER SKI

The British Disabled Water Ski Association runs courses starting from £36. Based at Heron Lakes in Wraysbury, Middlesex, all equipment is provided, along with tuition. For further details contact Gwyneth Wright on 01202 573773.

SCUBA DIVE

Aquatetra, the Welsh National Disabled Diving Centre can now train visually impaired people to scuba dive using an underwater communications system. For details contract Aquatetra, Ty tan Y Graig, Cefn Brith, Cerrigydrudion, North Wales LL21 9TD. Tel: 01490 420167.



In Pale Battalions

Author: *Robert Goddard*

Reader: Marilyn Findley

Duration: 13 hours 46 minutes

Catalogue Number: 7890

This is a splendid novel I have no hesitation in commending. The pale battalions of the title are the legions of white crosses on the Continent, which stand to attention in geometrical precision to testify to the lunacy of world leaders and the criminal incompetence of their generals. But the book is not a war story, not directly anyway, although much of it does centre on events during the First World War. But neither is it a romance, a life story, nor a crime novel in the "whodunnit" sense. I'm more inclined to call it a mystery myself, and a jolly good one too! It is certainly a quest for truth, though I must qualify this by saying that the mysteries are manifold and not merely single. The book put me in mind of the old childhood game of "pass the parcel" where one layer of wrapping is peeled away only to reveal another beneath it. Thinking of explanations and solutions as one invariably does as one reads mysteries, this one reveals the answer to one riddle only to pose a more intriguing one as a result. Always, there is another question to be satisfied! I'd call it great fun if the whole story was not dramatic and at times quite sinister. I can say though, that without seeming to have any particular political or philosophical axe to grind, the author has nevertheless managed to produce a book which is stimulating, interesting and thoroughly provoking all at the same time. When I add that it is exciting and entertaining too, who, I ask, could possibly ask for more?

FIFTY YEARS AGO

William Shakspeare was awarded an MBE in the King's Birthday Honours List. The St Dunstaner was feted for services to the British Legion in Sheldon.

Colonel Mike Ansell won the Banksian Award at the Chelsea Flower Show for an exhibition of gerbera, flowers like huge daisies which had long wiry stems.

Welcome to St Dunstan's

We welcome the following and hope he will settle down happily as a member of our family.

Mr Percival Skinner of Sprowston, Norwich, Norfolk became a St Dunstaner on April 12th. Now aged 79 he joined the East Surrey Regiment as a boy soldier in 1937. He transferred to the Royal Artillery the following year. Mr Skinner was blown up in a Bren gun carrier in Burma in 1943 and received head wounds and was temporarily blinded. His sight returned and he continued to serve until 1953. After his discharge he worked as a long-distance driver for ten years. Mr Skinner and his wife Dorothy have three daughters.

We welcome the following who have become beneficiaries of the Diana Gubbay Trust:

Mr Wesley Kilpin joined the Royal Air Force in 1941 and was a Rear Gunner on Lancasters.

Mr David Bird joined the Royal Army Medical Corps in 1966 and served as a Private.

Mr Nigel Mayo served with the Royal Air Force in Egypt, France, Holland and Germany.

Mr Alexander Thomas joined the Highland Light Infantry and was blown up in North Africa and was also taken Prisoner of War in Italy.

Mr Stephen Riddall joined the Royal Navy and served on various ships in the Gulf, Ireland and The Falklands.

Mr George Tytler served with the Royal Navy as a leading Signaller and saw service in many parts of the world including the Ganges, Pembroke, Atlantic and the Indian Ocean.

Mr Walter Harse served in the Royal Air Force as a Leading Aircraftman from 1940 to 1943.

Major Malcolm Meerendonk MBE enlisted into the Royal Fusiliers. He was commissioned into the Indian Army where he served in a number of different Gurkha units and later with the Royal Army Education Corps.

Rehab & Training Today

News update from the Rehabilitation & Training Department

The Rehabilitation & Training department can be contacted at St Dunstan's Ovingdean on 01273 307811.

Phew! Doesn't time fly when you're having fun? In five very short months the Rehabilitation & Training Team have achieved a great deal.

We have developed the IT department and this will make the training more comfortable and accessible to all, including wheelchair users. A new resource area provides information to St Dunstaners and Gubbay Trust beneficiaries, families and friends, etc on eye conditions, new equipment, gadgets and so on.

Workshops are proving to be a success, with introductions to glass engraving, wood-turning, pottery, etc. These will be going on throughout the year.

These are but a few of the developments, so if you would like any information on training to maintain and improve your independence and quality of life, contact the Rehabilitation & Training Team, or pop in for a chat anytime.

Lesley Styche
Head of Rehabilitation & Training
ext 3226

SPORTS & RECREATION DEPARTMENT

The Gymnasium has now been fitted with another Powerjog walking/running machine, donated by the Childwick Trust. This will enable two users to exercise simultaneously and reduce waiting time. This is an updated model of the one we already have, but can be programmed to include automatic hill running.

HEALTH AND FITNESS AT OIVINGDEAN

by **John Stevens**
I was invited to Ovingdean for a health and fitness assessment which was advertised in the *Review*.

I would like to take this opportunity to give readers a flavour of what to expect when they take up this excellent offer, after all it is essential that when our mobility is affected we do not allow ourselves to

vegetate. It is not good for our physical or mental well being to lead a sedentary life.

We all benefit from the facilities in the gymnasium at Ovingdean but when we leave there is a void. Grant Cooper has recognised this and has devised an exercise programme for use at home. Within the three days I was given instruction on basic anatomy, nothing technical just where particular muscles are and their function, the need to warm these muscles before exercise by a series of stretches and to cool down and stretch after exercise.

The fitness assessment was carried out by Dave Goldsmith. Without going into too much detail, a series of measurements were taken - weight, heart rate and blood pressure etc. The assessment ensures that you do not have any difficulty exercising.

The cardiovascular equipment (this exercises the heart and lungs) and exercise bike is extremely stable and easy to use. It comes with a talking heart rate monitor which gives an update every thirty seconds or on demand which ensures that you do not overwork yourself. You are given instruction on the training intensity, target zone and training zone. All this is set to music which does seem to relax you but perhaps individual tastes differ and I am sure the same benefits would be derived if there was no music.

After you leave with your personalised fitness programme I believe it is intended to monitor you at home, this is to ensure that maximum results are being achieved and the programme adjusted as you progress.

My sincere thanks to Grant and his team. I left feeling relaxed and good about what I had achieved.

If anyone is interested in coming to Ovingdean to take part in this course, which is suitable for all ages, please contact Grant Cooper.

ACTIVELY AVAILABLE

There are still some places available on the Activities Weekend. This was a great success last year so book now to avoid disappointment. Dates are July 2nd-4th.

LONDON RUN 2000

David Goldsmith, Mike Godden and myself, together with Lynda Stringer (Training Coordinator) are planning to run in next year's London Marathon so if there is anyone out there who feels fit and strong enough to run in the Marathon give me a call.

Grant Cooper
Sports & Recreation Supervisor
ext 3219

ROVI ROUND-UP

We have acquired a number of new items of equipment over the past few months to give all St Dunstaners, Gubbay Trust beneficiaries and trainees the opportunity to try them out. You may find something that is useful for you or someone you are working with. We have a TV sound receiver, which only takes up a little space and gives you all the programmes without the expense of a TV licence. The Easi-play cassette player, as its name suggests, is easy to operate, with colour contrasted yellow buttons on a black background. The money for these items was raised by Stan Grimsey, when he battled with the elements last Autumn on the sponsored Windmill Walk. The items are available to be experimented with in the Green Room.

We also have a machine which produces tactile maps by raising dark lines on a sheet of special A4 paper - a very useful piece of equipment for many tasks.

We are in the process of building up our selection of pocket memos, diaries, etc. So if you are interested in knowing more then call us!

TANDEM RIDE - June 20th

St Dunstaner Martin McCrorie and Lucy are going to cycle in the British Heart Foundation's cycle ride from London to Brighton, on a tandem. Other members of staff are also riding on that day. Afterwards we will hopefully have some sort of beach gathering.

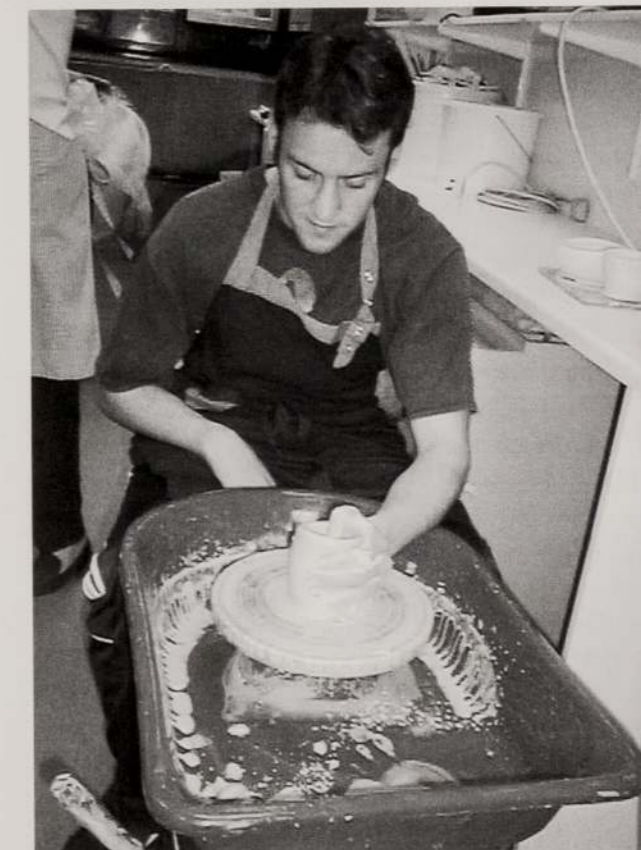
On the training side of things, we have been providing awareness training for all PBK staff over the last few weeks, which has been useful for all involved, including ourselves. The regular induction training continues for new staff.

Lucy Roberts, Senior ROVI ext 3238
Samantha Rogers, ROVI ext 3240

CRAFT CENTRE

The Craft Workshop, is a busy place full of activities. The adjustable workbench has arrived and has been very useful for many jobs, including picture framing.

The potters wheel has been going well. First to try his hand was Martin Shail, who found it very relaxing and will be back for more in the near future. Next in line was Matthew Rhodes.



Matthew had never done any pottery before except as a six year old schoolboy. Recently a friend asked Matthew if he would make him an ashtray, which he made freehand in the design of a clown's face. He then tried to make "pinch pots" but found this difficult due to only being able to use one hand.

From this Matt was encouraged by the staff to try his hand at the potter's wheel where he found it very relaxing and thoroughly enjoyable and successful. He started off using a 2 inch ball-shaped lump of clay with which he started to control and shape into a very simple pot. "A fluke!" said Matt.

Some 20 pots later this proved not to be the case - he had a genuine talent. Pottery turned out to be a craft where Matt feels at ease with his disability as he is paralysed down the right hand side of his body and is partially sighted.

After this initial success Edward Waller adapted the wheel so Matt can continue independently with his superb designs. All this in a short six week period. Matt is aiming to design and make a dinner set. He hopes a series of similar designs will follow.

Matt said "The feelings of calmness it gives me. Now I can do it for a good two hours and feel as though a couple of minutes is all the time which has passed. How it feels as though I am being massaged on my hand. How it makes you feel so relaxed, as though I was lying on an extremely comfy bed. I think everyone should try it as I find it so relaxing and if ever I feel annoyed about something pottery calms my nerves."

During a Pottery Workshop Matt demonstrated this unique ability and encouraged people to come and try for themselves.

SELL WELL SAID THE ROCKING CHAIR

The rocking chairs are selling well at the moment and will soon be out-doing the rocking horses! All the crafts are going well and woodwork seems very popular, although the new rug weaving seems to be offering a challenge.

Lenie Hinton
Craft Supervisor
ext 3222

MYSTERY BUST

Since Sid Doy appeared in the *Review* with his papier mâché cat he has gone from strength to strength, having made various items, some useful and others decorative.

At the moment he is in the process of making a "bust", though whether it's male or female we have yet to find out.

So if, like Sid, you'd like to have a go at something different and more creative do come along and join us in the Workshop, or how about another wall hanging? The one made by Reg Goding and Ron Tingay has been very popular.

Mary Scourfield
Craft Instructor
ext 3222

PICTURE FRAMING

In the Craft Workshop we offer a wide range of picture framing facilities for St Dunstaners and Gubbay Trust beneficiaries to make square, rectangle, hexagonal and octagonal frames for pictures, tapestries, oil paintings and mirrors (not bevelled). We have a range of 20 different framing materials and a wide selection of mount boards.

We also offer the opportunity for wives, girlfriends or partners to be taught how to help if it is required, or even make their own frames.

All tooling and aprons are supplied and all of the work is supervised by a fully qualified instructor of many years experience.

WOOD-TURNING

In the Wood-turning Machine Shop we offer the chance to turn your own wooden bowls, table lamps, vases or round boxes. We will consider any items that you wish to make providing it is feasible and not too large. The materials that we use are pine, ash and African redwood.

Turning is on a one-to-one basis. The only restriction is that anyone doing wood-turning must comply with Health and Safety Regulations and wear either a full head covering (recommended) or safety glasses and mouth mask (for dust). Again, training is overseen by an instructor of many years engineering experience.

Edward Waller,
Workshop Instructor
ext 3222

COMPUTER CORNER

You do not need to be technically minded to use a computer, but it can provide total independence to read your own mail and to write what you like to whoever you like without anyone else reading your mail, bank statements or personal letters. It will even write your envelopes for you.

Use of the computer can be as simple or as complicated as you like. The computer is simply a tool, just like a pen and a piece of paper, and if used correctly can be an effective communications tool.

Learn to 'read and write' once more, simply and effectively.

Lynda Stringer, Training Coordinator ext 3235

ST DUNSTAN'S AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

March 20th 1999

by Arthur Taylor (short-wave listener)

There was a happy atmosphere in the Winter Garden at Ovingdean as Society members gathered on the morning of March 20th for their penultimate meeting in the 20th century. There was an above average attendance with ten members who were accompanied by their wives, two honorary members and the widows of three "silent keys" namely Elsie Cole, Audrey Gagan and Rose Shed who was accompanied by her sister Ethel.

Chairman Bill Shea (G4AUJ) began the proceedings by welcoming everyone to what promised to be a successful meeting. However, he had to report that three dear friends had gone "silent key" since we had last met. They were John Proctor (G3JFP), Des Thompson (G8SBU) and Honorary Life Member, King Hussein of Jordan (JY1).

With regard to King Hussein, Bill said that he had sent two messages to Jordan on behalf of the Society; one when His Majesty was on his way home from the USA and the second when the news of his death was announced. These were addressed to Prince Ra'ad and expressed the condolences of the membership to King Abdallah and all of the Jordanian Royal Family. Robin Bellerby who had been instrumental in organising the Society's visit to Jordan back in 1990 had visited the Jordanian Embassy in London where he had signed the Book of Remembrance. He then very kindly entered, on our behalf, the name of the St Dunstan's Amateur Radio Society.

Beryl John then read a letter that Bill had received in response to his messages to Jordan.

"We thank you warmly for your kind and moving words of grief over the tragic passing away of our wonderful, unique and great Leader His Majesty King Hussein.

It is an immeasurable loss to us all: his family, relatives, country, the area and indeed the whole world. He leaves a great void that can never be filled. We are all in a state of shock, as you can imagine.

Now it is for the younger generation to pick up the mantle and move forward to preserve and continue the legacy of our late king. Much work and courage will be forthcoming from our new monarch, His Majesty King Abdallah, as he, Allah willing, will follow in his father's footsteps.

Once again our gratitude for your noble feelings of sympathy, and support to the family and to Jordan in its most difficult hour."

Ra'ad Bin Zeid
The Royal Palace, Amman, Jordan

Everyone then stood in silent tribute to those dear departed members. Such occasions are always very emotional and Prince Ra'ad's moving letter seemed to add even more poignancy to the proceedings.

The meeting then got under way with a special tribute to Brian Freeman, John Houlihan and Eddie Wilson who, between them, had fitted a new rotator and reassembled the beam. They spent a good deal of their time and effort on behalf of the Society. Eddie in fact had spent the whole of one Sunday engaged on the engineering work. It was estimated that their combined efforts had saved us well in excess of £1,000 had a contractor been employed. Ray Castle and his colleagues were also thanked for their valuable help.

Discussion followed on a number of wide-ranging topics and it was good to hear that the Society is in a sound and healthy financial position.

The meeting ended just before midday, but we were all back in the Winter Garden on that same evening when 27 people sat down to an excellent cold buffet served by PBK with their usual skill and finesse. It had been a very memorable day and everyone agreed that it had been a very happy one.

During the weekend, the radio shack was a hive of activity as members made good use of the equipment at their disposal. The highlight on Sunday evening is

to join up with the schedule organised by the RNARS or perhaps better known to the fraternity as the Navy "NET". It is controlled by Bill, an ex-Royal Navy man who now resides in the USA. His call-sign is WA1HMW, but when transmitting, and perhaps just to make sure that nobody misunderstands, he always uses "WA1 Home-Made-Whisky." During this session we also picked up a caller with a unique callsign - WD1USN who, Bill Shea said, was a captain in the US Navy. He was recounting a trip that he and a party had just made to Antigua with two cases of Newcastle Brown. From the way he spoke, it was quite obvious that he was still savouring the delights of that tippie from Geordie land.

On the Monday morning people said their farewells. No doubt Ovingdean was then able to settle down to a bit of peace and quiet whilst the staff waited for the next influx of visitors. To them we say "thank you!"

It was agreed that the next meeting should be held at Ovingdean on October 8-10th. One item that will be discussed will be the manner in which the Society will celebrate the year 2000. If any member has any suggestions that they would like to put forward then Ted John will be pleased to hear from them.

CLUB NEWS

BOWLING

The National Bowling Club held their bi-annual Tournament at Ovingdean from March 5th to 12th.

There were 18 bowlers participating and we were very pleased to welcome a new bowler, Matthew Rhodes, and as he lives locally we hope that he will be able to join the Brighton Bowling Club, and take part in local matches with sighted clubs.

The Winners of the competitions were as follows:

Totally blind Singles

Winner Jackie Pryor
Runner up John Perfect

Partially sighted Singles

Winner Peter Surridge
Runner up Iain Millard

Pairs

Winners Jackie Pryor and Phil Dobson
Runners up Bob Osborne and Jesse Mills

Triples

Winners Jesse Mills, Alan Mitchell and Tom Whitley
Runners up Phil Dobson, Bill Carthy and Bob Osborne

I must congratulate Jackie Greer for the wonderful job she made of presenting the prizes. It was the first time the bowlers had received a kiss for winning. I am sure this will make the bowlers try harder to win in November!



Left: Jackie Pryor receiving first prize for total blind singles from Jackie Greer.

Right: Two of our double amputees, Bill Carthy and Bob Osborne who together with Phil Dobson were the runners up in the triples.

A small party of bowlers took part in the Weston-super-Mare Blind and Visually Handicapped Tournament in May where over 100 competitors took part. We must keep the name of St Dunstan's to the fore in the bowling fraternity.

In July, Jackie Pryor and myself have been invited to take part in the Triumph Totally Blind Tournament in Bournemouth.

The next Tournament at Ovingdean will be held on November 5th to 12th and will members contact Rita Pryor (01273 582523) if they wish to participate in our reunion which we all enjoy so much.

I would like to thank everyone who helped, callers, tea ladies, and members of St Dunstan's staff who pushed wheelchairs for those who needed them.

Best wishes to all bowlers and friends.

Bob Osborne
Chairman

FAMILY NEWS

BIRTH

Congratulations on the birth of:

Rebecca Chloe on March 31st. She is the first grandchild of *Ted and Barbara Pepper* of Boston, Lincolnshire.

RUBY ANNIVERSARIES

Congratulations to:

William and Carol Kennedy of Peterborough, Cambridgeshire on March 21st.

Charles and Shirley Daly of Epping, Essex on March 22nd.

John and Susan Lilley of Stockport, Cheshire on May 9th.

GOLDEN ANNIVERSARIES

Congratulations to:

James and Nancy Fraser of Seaton, Devon on April 16th.

Arthur and Alice Morgan of York, North Yorkshire on April 23rd.

SPECIAL ANNIVERSARY

Congratulations to:

Charles and Olive Cummings of Verwood, Dorset who celebrated 67 years of marriage on March 26th.

ACHIEVEMENTS

Congratulations to:

Sue Lilley of Stockport, wife of our archery Captain John, on winning her local Bowmen of Lyme Ladies Championship. Sue took up archery about five years ago having learned from the coaching John received and helping him out at tournaments.

DEATHS

We regret to announce the death of:

Mrs Gladys Blackwell on February 14th. She was the wife of *James Blackwell* of Dunblane, Perthshire.

Mrs Betty Freer on April 25th. She was the wife of *Ron Freer* of Saltdean, Brighton.

Mrs Anne Pallant-Cadman of South Kilvington, nr Thirsk, North Yorkshire on March 21st. She was the widow of *Leslie Cadman*.

Mrs Joyce Hiscox of Mountain Ash, Mid Glamorgan on April 10th. She was the widow of *Clifford Hiscox*.

Mrs Edith Eastwood of Middlesbrough, Cleveland on April 12th. She was the widow of *Frederick Eastwood*.

Mrs May Hawes of Walthamstow, London on April 16th. She was the widow of *George Hawes*.

Mrs Phoebe Priest of Tipton, West Midlands on May 1st. She was the widow of *Bert Priest*.

Sheila Williams on March 27th. She was the sister of *Jerry Lynch* of Horsham, West Sussex.

Mrs Nora Nixon in March. She was the mother of *Stephen Nixon* of Houghton-le-Spring, Tyne & Wear.

Our sympathy goes to their families and friends.

IN MEMORY

It is with deep regret that we have to record the deaths of the following St Dunstaners and we offer our deepest sympathy to their widows, family and friends.

Stanley Fletcher

Royal Artillery

Stanley Kavanagh Fletcher of Tooting, London died on March 18th, aged 84. He had been a St Dunstaner since 1947. Previously a tailor, he enlisted in 1940 and served in the Royal Artillery as a Lance Bombardier until November 1945. During this time he was deployed in Africa and Italy as part of the 8th Army North Africa and the 1st Air Landing of the Army Airborne Division. After training at St Dunstan's he ran a confectionery and tobacconist shop from 1948 to 1954 then worked as a capstan lathe operator until he retired in 1976. Our sympathy goes to his widow Esther, sons Colin and Stanley and all other members of the family.

Arisilia Baldasera

Green Howards

Arisilia Baldasera of Wylam Grove, Darlington, Durham died on March 23rd aged 84. He had been a St Dunstaner since 1998. He served as a Private in the Green Howards from 1940 to 1942. Before

joining the Army Mr Baldasera ran a confectioners and tobacconist business and he returned to this after his discharge, retiring in 1981. His interests included rugby, football, boxing and gardening. Our sympathy goes to his widow Elsie, sons Douglas and Michael and all members of the family.

Francis Eager

Royal Artillery

Francis Gordon Eager of Plymouth, Devon died on March 25th, aged 78. He had been a St Dunstaner since 1991. An apprentice plasterer he enlisted in the Territorial Army in 1939 and served with the Royal Artillery. Mr Eager's battery unit which formed part of the coastal defences became known as the Devon Gunners. He was discharged on medical grounds in 1944 and returned to his old firm. Before his sight deteriorated Mr Eager's hobbies included motoring and deep-sea fishing. Our sympathy goes to his daughter Wendy and all other members of the family.

Abraham Adler

Intelligence Corps

Abraham Gershon Aaron Adler of Brackley, Northamptonshire died on March 31st, aged 85. He had been a St Dunstaner since 1996. Having read Modern Languages at University, graduating with honours in German, he trained as a teacher. Mr Adler enlisted into the Intelligence Corps in 1944 serving as a Lance Corporal. While stationed in Brussels, he was caught in a V2 blast and lost his left eye. After the war he joined the Control Commission Germany as a defence interpreter. Mr Adler returned to teaching, ultimately becoming headmaster of a private school. Our sympathy goes to his daughters, son and all members of the family.

William Robinson

18th Canadian Field Coy

William Morecroft Robinson of Toronto, Canada died on April 2nd, aged 83. He had been a St Dunstaner since 1943. Originally a mining engineer Mr Robinson enlisted as a sapper in 1940 and served as a Lieutenant with 18th Canadian Field Coy. He was blinded by a land mine explosion whilst on manoeuvres in 1943. After training at St Dunstan's Mr Robinson became a labour manager with ICI until retiring in 1972. He and his wife Monica, a former VAD, maintained a home in Davenham, Northwich, Cheshire and were active

supporters of the English Speaking Union, the British Legion and Red Cross. In 1977 he became a founder member of Vale Royal Talking Newspaper. Our sympathy goes to his daughters Judith and Carol, sons Ian and Giles and all of the family.

Norman Dugdale

7th Battalion Cheshire Regiment

Norman Dugdale of Moston, Manchester died on April 4th, aged 85. He had been a St Dunstaner since 1944. Having worked as a warehouseman and shop assistant he enlisted in March 1940 and served as a Private with the 7th Battalion Cheshire Regiment. In 1944 he was wounded and went to St Dunstan's at Church Stretton. After training he worked as a telephonist at ICI and later became their Assistant Catering Manager. Our sympathy goes to his widow Elsie, son Alan and all other members of the family.

Robert Casson

Royal Marines

Robert John Casson of Birkenhead, Merseyside on April 16th, aged 75. He had been a St Dunstaner since 1997. Having started his working life as a bank messenger he enlisted with the Royal Marines in 1941. His left eye was severely damaged on a training exercise in 1942 but, after a period in hospital, he returned to his Commando and served with them throughout the invasion of Europe and the following campaign. Mr Casson was discharged in 1946 and joined the police in Merseyside. He later worked as a storekeeper but was forced to retire early as his sight deteriorated. Our sympathy goes to his son, daughter and all members of the family.

Kenneth Maple

6th Battalion Royal Norfolk Regiment

Kenneth Archibald Jennings Maple of Rushden, Northamptonshire died on April 21st, aged 83. He had been a St Dunstaner since 1988. He served with the 6th Battalion Royal Norfolk Regiment from 1940 to 1945. Mr Maple was wounded in action in Malaya and taken prisoner while hospitalised in Singapore. The privations he suffered as a Far East Prisoner of War eventually caused the loss of his sight. After his discharge Mr Maple worked as a plater, using silver, gold and zinc. His interests included bowls and swimming. Our sympathy goes to his widow Edna, daughters Alison and Diane and all of the family.