

St Dunstan's Review

August 1999



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Cover picture:
St Dunstaner Craig
Neller with the Alan
Logan Trophy for Best
Blind Golfer.

From the Chairman



Sixty years ago next month, a war, which was to change your lives radically, was declared. It brought out the worst in some people. But it also brought out the best in many more. Most of you have risen to the challenge and have been able to keep handicap where it belongs – under your thumb. May you continue to inspire all whom you meet.

I am pleased to announce that from September, we shall be returning to 11 issues of the *Review* per year. There will be no edition in January, due to the Christmas holidays. This will enable readers to be kept more up to date with family news, current and future events. It is your magazine, so please do contribute items you consider will be of interest, help or amusement to others.

The Activity Weekend held at Ovingdean during the first weekend in July was an opportunity for the participants to extend their capabilities, discover new experiences and prove to themselves that visual handicap need not present itself as a barrier. Hopefully, they will continue to pursue these activities both at home and at Ovingdean.

Captain Michael Gordon-Lennox, RN



NOTICE BOARD



CHARGES TO HOLIDAY GUESTS

by Lynne Thomas

Holiday guests at Ovingdean are reminded that they will be asked to pay for entrance fees, lunches or teas taken during visits outside Ovingdean.

Transport is free, as are packed lunches or picnics ordered in lieu of meals. Holiday guests will be informed of any additional expense when they sign up for trips. The member of staff in charge of the outing will collect the money. This does not apply to the Widows' weeks.

REVIEW RETURNS TO MONTHLY PUBLICATION

St Dunstan's Review returns to a monthly frequency (with the exception of January) as of this issue.

Those who receive tape and disk editions should note that wallets need to be returned by the 20th of the preceding month so that the next issue can be sent out on time.

The *Review* is also available in braille and in large print format. Contact the Public Relations department at HQ for details.

TACTILE PAVING

Brighton & Hove Environmental Services have installed a strip of tactile paving that spans the length of the under-cliff from the bottom of the St Dunstan's Ovingdean steps to the sea wall. This means any long cane user walking along the under-cliff can locate St Dunstan's steps. Any comments from people using this path would be welcomed by the Rehabilitation and Training department.

HANDRAIL RETURNS

Visitors to Ovingdean should also please note that the handrail immediately on the left as you enter the dining-room from the hall, has been put back.

CELEBRATING 85 YEARS OF ST DUNSTAN'S

Next year St Dunstan's celebrates 85 years of existence and achievement. It is also the start of a new millennium. Would you like to mark these events in some way? If so, how would you like to celebrate these occasions? Please contact Ray Hazan at HQ, preferably in writing, with your suggestions and ideas as soon as possible.

CALLING ALL DUNKIRK OR BEF VETERANS

The Dunkirk Veterans Association have announced that June 3rd-5th 2000 will be the last time they commemorate the event in France. It is hoped to organise a St Dunstan's contingent reunion, though a programme has not yet been finalised.

If you are interested in receiving more details, please contact either Tom Hart on 01304 612771 or Ray Hazan on 0171 723 5021.

FAREWELL LUCY

Lucy Roberts, Senior Rehabilitation Officer in the Rehabilitation & Training department left St Dunstan's on July 16th. She is going to work for Voluntary Services Overseas in Sri Lanka. Lucy will be a great loss to the department and to St Dunstan's as a whole. Her professionalism, good humour and experience will be missed by us all and I know that I can speak for all the department to wish her every happiness and success in her new venture. Good luck Lucy - Bon voyage!

Lesley Styche

Head of Rehabilitation & Training

CALLING ALL SILVER SURFERS

The United Nations has decreed that 1999 is the International Year of Older Persons. Accordingly they have established a website to promote the occasion. Point your web browser to www.iyop.org/.

DEADLINES FOR FUTURE ISSUES

The final date for submitting items for publication in the October *Review* is August 27th.
The final date for submitting items for publication in the November *Review* is September 24th.

HER MAJESTY THE QUEEN

On the occasion of Her Majesty The Queen's Official birthday Captain Michael Gordon-Lennox sent the following message of congratulations:

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

Mrs Deborah Bean, Chief Correspondence Officer sent the following reply:

"The Queen was pleased to receive your kind message of loyal greetings sent on behalf of the Council and Members of St Dunstan's on the occasion of Her Majesty's Official Birthday.

The Queen thanks you for your thoughtfulness and warmly reciprocates your good wishes."

FREE DIRECTORY ENQUIRIES

BT offers a free directory enquiry service to blind and partially sighted people. To access this service dial 195 and ask for the registration department. Once registered, an individual PIN number is issued, which people must quote when using the service. For callers who are unable to make a note of the requested phone number there is an additional free service to connect them to the number they are requesting. Callers should make it clear that they wish to be connected to their requested phone number at the start of their call to 195 Directory Enquiries.

NEW £20 NOTE

A new edition of the £20 bank note was issued by the Bank of England on June 22nd. The new note is the same size but features the composer Sir Edward Elgar in place of Michael Faraday.

CRIME CRACKING CASSETTE

A cassette edition of *Your Practical Guide to Crime Prevention* features tips for general home security and personal safety. Each section includes telephone numbers for more help and advice. To order a copy, write to Home Office, Public Relations Branch, Room 151, 50 Queen Anne's Gate, London SW1H 9AT.

LOOKING TOWARDS THE FUTURE

I am seeking the views of St Dunstaners, widows and Gubbay Trust beneficiaries with regard to the future of the charity in the next century. If anyone is interested in receiving a tape with background information, will they please contact Ray Hazan at HQ.

BOWLING IN NOVEMBER

The next St Dunstan's Bowling Tournament at Ovingdean will be held November 5th to 12th. Anyone wishing to participate should contact Rita Pryor on 01273 582523.

ANNEXE ROOF REPLACEMENT

Following lengthy discussions with the Town Planners, formal agreement has been received to proceed with the Ansell Wing Refurbishment project, which includes the swimming pool roof. A pre-constructional draft programme has been produced, indicating that construction work is unlikely before the end of this year, which, in particular will avoid the effects of inclement weather down here by the seaside. It is hoped that more detailed information will be available for the next *Review*.

M.G. Hordell
Facilities Manager

DERBY SWEEPSTAKE WINNERS

This year's Derby Sweepstake winner had a horse to swear by. Oath came in first, winning Mr Tom Adams of Kingsteignton, Newton Abbot, Devon a prize of £171.60. Mrs Ivy Carr came second with Dalipour and won £68.64. Third prize of £34.32 went to Mrs Vivian Jerome who had Beat All.

Mr Roy Armstrong, Mr Henry Price, Mrs Emma Daborn, Mr Charles Coston, Mr John McDermott, Mr Charles Cummings, Colonel John MacLaren, Mr John Lilley, Mrs Moira Barstow, Mr John Harris, Mrs Dorothy Jacobs, Mr Frederick Davies and Mr Tom Lukes all received a £5.28 share of the Starters' Prize.

FEELS LIKE A THOUSAND YEARS

Historian Frances Ward gives a lively armchair tour of the past thousand years in Royal Greenwich on September 19th. *Greenwich and the Millennium* is one of National Maritime Museum's touch tours. Tickets for the event are £4 (group bookings £3.60 per person), though carers are admitted free. For details call 0181 312 6608.

THELMA IN LONDON



Thelma Sadler, representative of St Dunstan's New Zealand recently visited the UK. She is pictured with St Dunstan's President Colin Beaumont-Edmonds and former Welfare Superintendent Cynthia Mosely.

Her late husband Robert, who was blinded while serving in Egypt, was St Dunstan's Honorary Representative in New Zealand from 1980 until his death in 1991.

WHEN IN ROME ...



Attending a function in Rome, as a guest of the Italian War Blind, Ray Hazan was presented to the Pope.

HAVE YOU MADE A WILL?

When a person dies, any property and effects (known as "the estate") owned by the deceased passes to others, whether or not there is a valid Will. Without a Will, a person is said to have died 'intestate' and, subject to certain statutory provisions, the net assets after payment of all liabilities, taxes and duties are divided amongst the next of kin in fixed proportions, as laid down by the law governing intestacy. If the deceased has no living relative or relative that can be traced, the estate may end up as Government funds.

Experience indicates, unfortunately, that the absence of a Will often causes all sorts of upsets, problems, trouble and expense to those who are left behind. When intestacy law is applied, its provisions may not be in line with the wishes which the deceased may have had during his or her lifetime. If the estate is large, the deceased may well have preferred it being shared amongst family and friends rather than having it dispersed to one or two relatives as determined by the laws of intestacy.

St Dunstan's must be seen to be above the criticism of 'intermeddling' in any way and in every and all

respects when dealing with other people's affairs.

This applies particularly with regard to the making of a Will, a Codicil or obtaining Probate. Undue influence over a person can result in a Will being declared null and void. St Dunstan's clearly has no wish to cause any anxiety to anyone at any time.

We consider that the making of a Will is so important that St Dunstan's is prepared to help towards the legal costs of an independent solicitor for either making a Will or changing an existing Will by Codicil.

If you would like further information on Wills or would like to discuss the matter in confidence, then please either write to Mrs Eileen Mobsby, Wills and Trusts Coordinator at St Dunstan's, Greenways, Ovingdean, Brighton BN2 7BS or telephone her on 01273 307811 ext 3211. She will be pleased to assist you.

Remember that if you die before making a Will, your personal wishes may not be carried out as you might have intended. If you have not made a Will, why not do so now?



St Dunstaner John Lilley with Roger Rees-Evans and team manager Harry Healey with their archery trophies.

ARCHERS IN FRANCE

by John Lilley

The first European Archery Championships were held in Bordeaux, France on May 7th-9th 1999. A team of seven visually impaired archers from all over the country were selected by British Blind Sport to shoot for the United Kingdom in Bordeaux. Two of these archers were St Dunstaners John Lilley and Norman Perry. With them were personal spotters, two coaches, team manager and a French interpreter.

We were met at Bordeaux airport by some of the French archers and organisers, who took us to the sports complex accommodation at Blanquefort.

Battle commenced at the sports stadium at 8am in gorgeous sunshine. The teams taking part were from the United Kingdom, France, Switzerland, Spain, Belgium, Italy, Portugal and Germany.

During lunch the adjudicators studied the score sheets to see who was going to be eliminated. When the shoot started again, the United Kingdom team still had six archers in the competition, Norman Perry and Howard Burgess were eliminated as the afternoon wore on. By 6pm three UK archers were still in the finals with three French archers.

After an exciting final, Roger Rees-Evans from Wales won the B1 trophy. St Dunstaner John Lilley came 2nd in the B2 category, being beaten by just 5 points by the Paris champion. The UK team took the team trophy which was presented to John Lilley by the Mayor of Blanquefort.

In the evening we sat down to a gala dinner with the rest of the European teams and celebrated on Bordeaux wine.

Before we left the next morning, the French archers gave us a bottle of wine each and then took us all to a local vineyard to sample the wine. We were then taken to Bordeaux Airport for the flight home thinking it was a job well done!!

PS While in Bordeaux I managed to have a two hour meeting with officials from all the countries involved in the shoot. This was to sort out the ground rules for archery competitions in the future.

The UK will be hosting the 2nd European Archery Championships. This is a good milestone in visually impaired archery towards a World Championship Tournament and Paralympics.



Ron and John, winners of the RUC Pairs.

Bows drawn at Sandhurst

by Bert Wood

The highlight of June archery came with a match against an Army team on the hallowed ground of Officer Training at RMA Sandhurst. Susan Harrison accompanied us on this venture and was made Lady Paramount by the Army.

On this extremely cold day, she retired to the coach and returned swathed in a pink blanket.

The match then took place in front of the cricket pavilion. At the far side of the field Ghurkas were training and at the far right came the rattle of machine guns and other nasty weapons gave voice too.

The General dropped in by helicopter to see what was going on in case he needed us one day. The Army archers gained their first victory over St Dunstan's and this on their first homeground match. Well done Army! We'll get you next time.

RESULTS

The Dacre Trophy	Leslie George
Curly Wagstaff Trophy	Sid Doy
Household Cup	Army won at Sandhurst
RUC Pairs Trophy	John Lilley & Ron Cattell
Greenways Salver	St Dunstan's Archery Club

Balancing the Books

by Ted Bunting

Flashman at the Charge

Author: George MacDonald Fraser

Reader: Christopher Scott

Duration: 12 hours 15 minutes

Catalogue Number: 8119

Anyone with prior acquaintance of the Flashman novels will be well aware how the Victorian public supposedly gained the false impression that the bully of *Tom Brown's Schooldays* had become an exceptionally fine officer and gentleman and the very epitome of what is brave and noble. Well this book shows how his reputation is further enhanced when, amongst other things, he becomes one of the six hundred who not only knew "someone had blundered" at the charge of the Light Brigade but also had no option other than to do as he was told. It's a fanciful tale as ever, in which fantastic events carry "Flashy" along into situations which invariably involve heavy drinking, boisterous bedsports with a succession of females, and frequent periods of cowardly panic, though always in a framework of sound historical fact. The ingenious conception of creating a hero from a craven coward allows the whole family of Flashman stories to be a swashbuckling adventure and a source of merriment at the same time.

Unfortunately, *Flashman at the Charge* is not the pick of the litter; I found it uncharacteristically sluggish sometimes, and at others the long passages of dull description were really quite boring. I'm not saying I didn't enjoy the book at all, you understand, the loveable rotter will always remain one of my firm favourites, but if this had been my first taste of "bold" Harry Flashman I might never have wanted another.

50 YEARS AGO

In the May Council Elections of 1949 St Dunstaner J. Leeman, the Council House Tenants' candidate had polled an equal number of votes as his opponent, the Ratepayers' candidate. An on the spot draw put the Ratepayers' candidate in office but a by-election two months later saw our St Dunstaner firmly elected.

Life & Times of Ovingdean

by Lynne Thomas

In May we were lucky enough to have another visit from the Age Exchange Reminiscence Theatre Group, the most famous and best group of their kind in the country. They write their own plays, based on the experiences of elderly people that they interview. Their latest play, *Once Upon a Lifetime* is the life story of an 83 year old woman called Elsie. It stirred a lot of memories for the audience and everyone, young and old, thought it was a wonderful show.

BOWLING BY THE SEA

A few St Dunstaners are becoming expert ten-pin bowlers, thanks to a league which has started in the brand new bowling alley at the Marina. They go every Tuesday morning and sometimes compete against other disabled groups. It's a lot of fun for everyone who goes.

WE MEET AGAIN

In June there were some interesting outings which were popular with residents and visitors. The Central Band of the RAF performed an open-air concert at Shoreham Airport, featuring a wide selection of music. Dame Vera Lynn made an appearance although she did not sing. Despite the weather being cold, the music and flasks of coffee warmed people up and everyone had a great time.

TEA DANCE

Two days later we were back at Shoreham Airport for a dance to celebrate 1999 which, amongst other things, is International Year of Older Persons. The dance was held in a lovely marquee with live music and a very good tea. It was organised by Brunswick Older Persons Project and the Adur Learning Exchange, two local organisations, which run educational and social activities for older people.

PICNIC BY THE MILL

The second week of June was very busy and the next day we went to the Jill Mill for our annual picnic. This was organised by St Dunstan's volunteer Tony James who, along with other enthusiasts, has spent years restoring the windmill. The weather was perfect, the food was delicious and the company was good.

SPECTACULAR SCULPTURE

After lunch we went to a sculpture show at the beautiful home of John Glazier. John is professional sculptor who is known to St Dunstan's in his capacity as President of the Archery Club. He creates beautiful human and animal figures, using a variety of materials, some of which are displayed in studios and others placed around the spectacular gardens and grounds of his home. Everyone who went on this trip agreed that it was a very special day out.

IF I WAS A RICH MAN

On Friday of the same week we went to see the Peacehaven Players performing *Fiddler on the Roof*. It was especially interesting because it featured care assistant Iain Kerr in the role of Avram, the bringer of news.

CLASSIC RACING

The following week the weather was once again good for a trip to Goodwood. For the classic motor racing vehicle show. Famous names like Stirling Moss were there but the real stars were the fabulous old cars.

GOOD OLD DAYS

The Victorian Evening which was held in the Green Room proved to be one of the most popular activities for a long time. It took the form of an evening entertainment featuring pianola tunes and poetry recitals. A particular hit was Shirley Jaffe, who runs the drama group here and gave exciting renditions of two popular old poems, *The Highwayman* and *The Green Eye of the Little Yellow God*.

July was another busy month with a trip to the Royal Tournament and the second Widows' Week.

GOOD LUCK DUNCAN

Reverend Duncan Lloyd-James who has been Chaplain to St Dunstan's Ovingdean moved on to a new parish near Hastings at the end of July. We wish him the best of luck in his new post.

The "Rehab Reprobates" go on the run

BEYOND THE PAIN BARRIER



At the end of their 13.1 mile run, left to right: Dave Goldsmith, Lynda Stringer, Grant Cooper, Phil Savage, Mike Godden.

It was a warm sun-drenched Sunday morning on the playing fields of Fort Hill Community School. The atmosphere was electric as club joggers warmed up for the start of the Basingstoke Half Marathon. The smell of horse liniment and sports rubs lingered heavy in the air as Dave Goldsmith, Lynda Stringer, Grant Cooper, Phil Savage and Mike Godden lined up, proudly boasting St Dunstan's T-shirt's. Ahead of them lay 13 miles of damn great hills, blood, sweat and almost tears!

"It was important not to get dragged away with the initial rush at the start and to maintain a constant speed that we were all used to," said Grant. It was Lynda, Mike and Dave's first attempt at such a distance and a two hour half marathon may have been a slightly ambitious goal.

Phil was nowhere to be seen at three miles, Dave and Mike were a couple of hundred yards in front. Lynda and Grant were bringing up the rear, steadily overtaking runners suffering from the initial rush.

At the half-way mark Lynda and Grant had overtaken a pain stricken Dave, who was being supported by his loyal companion Mike, himself suffering from a torn Achilles tendon.

The team were well within their desired time of two hours - then the hills appeared! By 10 miles they were on the verge of stopping, blisters, strains and

exhaustion were setting in and the final two miles were all uphill.

Sheer grit and determination carried Lynda and Grant over the finish line in a very respectable time of 2 hours 12 minutes, just 4 minutes behind Phil. Dave and Mike followed just a few minutes later to rapturous applause. An excellent commentary regarding St Dunstan's was delivered over the PA system.

Congratulations to all five runners who, in the true spirit of St Dunstan's, really did give their all. Many thanks to Lynda's husband, John, who raced around the course filming and photographing, giving support and encouragement to the team.

All this exertion was part of the team's preparation for next year's London Marathon. They were at it again on July 11th when they ran in the Rottingdean Windmill 15 miles.

At the London Marathon they will be joined by Pete Walker, Andy Mahoney, Mark Maddock, and possibly Don Planner. Their aim is to raise money for the newly formed Activities Club.



A DIAMOND PAIR

Ernest and Gwendoline Hannant celebrated 60 years of marriage during a recent stay at St Dunstan's Ovingdean. We offer our heartiest congratulations.

REAL PUTTERS FOR TEE



Just some of the golfers who were playing for the St Dunstan's Invitation Shield at Rusper in June.



Kevin Warren hits the turf straight down the middle.

There were six teams contesting the 1999 St Dunstan's Invitation Shield which was held at Rusper Golf Club in Sussex on June 19th. Apart from St Dunstan's stalwart team of Des Chandler, Iain Millard, Phil Dobson and Craig Neller, teams from British Aerospace, Courage Breweries and Sweden also joined the fray. The ante was upped by two teams from Rusper Golf Club and the ever-present escorts.

Around 60 players took their clubs out on the green and a penalty for losing balls in the water helped swell the coffers. Last year the shield was won by a team from RAF Coltishall, this year it was won quite distinctly by the host, Rusper Golf Club.

The Golf Club's funds benefited from the patronage of Alan Logan of Logan Golf International who donated over £1,000 of prizes for a special draw. Further thanks are due to him for his support on the day.

The Alan Logan Trophy for Best Blind Player was won by St Dunstaner Craig Neller. He was presented with his award by Sue Davies of Logan Golf. Other prizes were presented by Susan Harrison, General Manager of St Dunstan's Ovingdean.

The members of St Dunstan's Golf Club expressed their gratitude to everyone who had supported their game during the week and on previous occasions.

Earlier in the week Chris Weatherstone of Weatherstone Properties organised a pay as you play event which attracted over 100 people. St Dunstaner Dave Morris came third that day with 39 points on stableford, just one point behind the second rank. The overall winning team had 127 points, a mere 31 ahead of St Dunstan's team comprising Des Chandler, Iain Millard, David Morris and Phil Dobson.

Following an excellent dinner, a raffle and auction were held. As a result of the day's events, some £5000 was raised towards the provision of golf buggies for St Dunstan's Golf Club. All St Dunstaners present expressed their thanks to Chris and all who took part for their generosity.



Iain Millard putters about at Rusper.

An anniversary to remember?



Des Chandler ponders the past.

It is a lazy Saturday in flaming June. Des Chandler is sitting out on the patio at Rusper Golf Club near Crawley in Sussex. A pint of beer on the table, he's in jovial mood though his face stings a bit where he caught the sun while out on the course. A straw hat, having gone for a walk with the escorts team, has just been returned to him.

"I've just realised today is my anniversary," says Des and in the face of such a remark it's tempting to offer congratulations, to cheer the event - except the statement has a touch of melancholy. As it turns out the event in question isn't cause for celebration.

"It's 21 years since I was blinded," adds Des. "Twenty-one years in the dark."

June 1978 was a different world. Then he was a Sapper with the Rhodesian Engineers and life was full of all the expectations a 20-year-old soldier might perceive. Then everything changed! A landmine explosion took his sight, damaged his hearing, like the mark of Cain the powder burns still scar his face.

For a moment it seems that he is contemplating what might have been if he had not been caught by that fateful booby-trap, but then Des seems surprised that he could forget something like that. And then the thought is cast aside once more, the jokes resume, there's a chuckle about the action on the putting green and for the time being at least all that matters is the 19th hole.

MESSAGE FROM THE HEAD OF FUND RAISING

A crew cut out for fund raising

by Neil Swan

This month, on a more light-hearted note, back in London we are still surrounded by faces who joined us on a temporary basis last autumn to assist with the 1998 Autumn Campaign and whom we cannot get rid of!! Denise Morgan is the terror of the department's IT network when not entertaining us all with her latest salsa routine; Greville Malet, who was Chief Frogger (Frogmore House Day) and who is now Putter-in-Chief for St Dunstan's (assisting St Dunstan's Golf Club), regales the department with old soldiers' tales from not a 100 years ago and teaches comprehensive naval history; whilst Andrew McKie (cod, chips and beans, please) continues to stress-test computer keyboards as an aside to identifying potential new St Dunstaners and harrying MPs to pledge their support to St Dunstan's.

Jo Castleton (yes, of the same fame!), our resident actress, "rests" at St Dunstan's in between national billboard campaigns and obscure theatrical performances in Israel and the Orkney Isles, whilst Mary Orr Deas is aiming to complete her St Dunstan's experience by the year 2000 by working in every department in Headquarters (will she move on to Brighton next?) in between double-entering donations from the public in a valiant but vain attempt to double the funds actually raised!

I must also mention that the old lags (permanent staff - Carole, Linda, Maureen, Merle and Pat) are surviving life in the fast lane, when not taking extremely well-timed holidays (normally as something critical is about to take place!) and in between debates about the ideal office temperature (there isn't one!!). As our readers will surely understand, their weight of work is colossal, the pressure is unrelenting and there is never sufficient time in the day for all they are expected to do!

The above illustrates the organic growth of the department but in reality reflects the degree to which the profile of St Dunstan's has risen in the eyes of the public over the last three years. For now, however, this is a dull but necessary part of the year. Records have to be sorted and tidied up before the autumn

(and boy, have they grown!), the auditors have been "welcomed" and bid farewell to, a steady stream of telephone call enquiries from the public about St Dunstan's have to be answered, new ideas for fund raising explored and some audacious, if not whacky, sponsored events coordinated.

These include the indomitable John Greaves who at 77 intends to do a sponsored tandem freefall parachute jump from 12,000 feet whilst this edition goes to print and the team from 63 Training Support Squadron who intend to break the record for drinking half a pint in each of 17 public houses. The record stands at 2hrs 20 minutes, which may seem slow - until you realise that the total distance involved between all 17 pubs is 62 miles!! Their original plans for this on a nine-seater bicycle have been revised in the light of police advice on the current drink driving laws!!



The photograph shows a very generous team of "volunteers", whose head shaving antics at the *Fox and Hounds* public house, Warminster, raised the princely sum of £1,010. It remains unknown how far into opening hours it was before this event started! Our many thanks go out to Mrs Skerritt and all those involved in raising such a magnificent sum for St Dunstan's.

PS All the staff assure me that I too am riddled with peculiar mannerisms, faults, bad habits, never stick to my diets, spend too long on the phone, etc etc!!!! (I don't know what they mean - Neil Swan).

Welcome to St Dunstan's

We welcome the following and hope they will settle down happily as members of our family.

Mr Joseph Copas of Minister, Ramsgate, Kent became a St Dunstaner on May 10th. Now aged 79 he served in the Royal Air Force from 1942 to 1946. He was waiting for his first posting when tasked to help repair bomb damage in Wimbledon. While there he lost his right eye in a bomb explosion. After recovering he received further injuries when an Eastbourne hotel was bombed. Mr Copas then spent the rest of the war with the Canada Flying Training Command. After the war he returned to cabinet making, but also worked as a bookkeeper and in construction before retiring at the age of 68. Mr Copas and his wife Eileen have a son and daughter.

Sergeant Stephen Finlay of Waterbach, Cambridge became a St Dunstaner on June 15th. Now aged 36 he joined the Army in 1987 and served with the Adjutant General's Corps in the UK and Germany. Following the onset of multiple sclerosis he was discharged earlier this year. Sgt Finlay is married to Denise.

Mr Boyd McKinlay of Cliftonville, Margate, Kent became a St Dunstaner on June 18th. Now aged 85 he served in the Scots Guards from 1932 to 1943. His duties as a Guardsman took him to Norway and North Africa where he was wounded by shrapnel. In civilian life he worked as a messenger for National Westminster Bank in Mayfair before retiring. Mr McKinlay, who enjoys a game of bowls. He is married to Cecilia.

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

Mr Michael Lennon of Borehamwood, Hertfordshire, now aged 50, served with the Royal Air Force as a Junior Technician from 1968 to 1975.

Mr Jeffrey Mason of Holsworthy, Devon was a Lance Corporal in the Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers from 1971 to 1976. He served in Northern Ireland, Canada and Germany. Now aged 49 he is hoping to set up a consultancy dealing with the effects of disease and pollution on freshwater fish. Mr Mason and his wife Jane have four children and one foster child.

Mr Bryan Alexander of Hounslow, Middlesex, now aged 61, served with the Royal Army Service Corps in the United Kingdom and Germany from 1956 to 1958.

Mr Norman Hodgkinson of Smethwick, West Midlands, now aged 84, was a Corporal in the Royal Air Force. He served in the Middle East and the United Kingdom from 1940 to 1946. After leaving the RAF he worked as an area manager for British Relay and then as an electrical engineer.

Mr Frank Barsby of Plymouth, Devon, now aged 82, served in the Royal Air Force as a Fitter from 1940 to 1946. He continued in this trade after leaving the service, first at Riley and then at Jaguar. Mr Barsby and his wife Kathleen have a daughter Linda.

Mr Cesar Malo (formerly Maslowski) of Hythe, Kent, now aged 78, voluntarily enlisted with the Polish Forces under British Command from 1944 to 1946, serving with 2 Grenadier Battalion, 4 Polish Infantry Division. He was commissioned into the Polish Resettlement Corps in 1946 and discharged in 1948. He subsequently worked in the catering industry and also taught English as a foreign language. Mr Malo is married to Georgette.

Mr John Rogers of Truro, Cornwall, now aged 74, served on an Air Sea Rescue launch in the Royal Air Force from 1943 to 1944 when he transferred to the Army serving in the Royal Artillery as part of 23rd Indian Division in the 14th Army. After leaving the service he managed an electrical wholesale outlet. His interests include golf, bowling and amateur radio (callsign G3CIF). Mr Rogers and his wife Thelma have a son David.

Mr James Hetherington of Wakefield, West Yorkshire, now aged 74, was born in Canada. He served in the Royal Army Ordnance Corps from 1940 to 1945 retiring as a Captain following a gunshot wound to his left thigh. He was a member of the 7 Armoured Division in the Western Desert campaign until the fall of Tripoli and rejoined them in Normandy on D+7. After the war he worked in the laundry business.

Mr Kenneth Gorham of Leighton Buzzard, Bedfordshire, now aged 76, served with the Queen's Royal Regiment and then the Royal Engineers from 1942 to 1947. Later he served with the Royal Electrical & Mechanical Engineers from 1952 to 1966. In civilian life he was a superintendent with the London Ambulance Service. He is married to Stella.

Mr Stanley Appleyard of East Garforth, Leeds, now aged 80, joined the York and Lancaster Regiment serving with them from 1939 to 1946. He saw service in Norway, Iceland and the UK. After leaving the Army he worked as a delivery driver before retiring at the age of 59. Mr Appleyard and his wife Gwen have a daughter Joan.

Mr Arthur Morgan of Dinas Powys, Vale of Glamorgan, now aged 82, served with the Royal Engineers from 1939 to 1945 as a Driver in the Bomb Disposal and Field Park Bridging Regiments. After the war he worked as a sales manager in the motor trade. He and his wife Bettina have been married for 35 years.

Mr John McCallum of Ross-on-Wye, Herefordshire, now aged 75, served with the Royal Electrical & Mechanical Engineers from 1941 to 1959. He served in NW Europe, Gibraltar and the UK. After leaving the Service he worked for Brown's Motor Parts. He and his wife Annelisa have a daughter Katherine.

Drake, Nelson and whatshisname?

A young man being assessed for entrance to the Royal Navy was asked by the Admiral conducting the interview: "Who are the three greatest sailors in British history?"

The young man responded, "I didn't catch your name when I entered the room Sir, but the other two are Drake and Nelson."

QUICK QUIZ

The answers to these teasers can all be found within a short distance of each other in Royal Greenwich.

- 1) Who built a good lesson for sailors on the site of Henry VIII's birth?
- 2) Creek Road is still prone to floods. Who threw a cloak over this problem?
- 3) This dry-docked ship was a tea clipper but some might associate it with a wee dram. Can you name it?
- 4) Who took the Gypsy Moth round the world?
- 5) Pole to pole, the earth is measured from this line?

QUIZ ANSWERS

Last issue's answers were:

- Q1** Arthur Askey; **Q2** Ginger Rogers; **Q3** Gucci; **Q4** Ladybird Johnson, wife of President Lyndon; **Q5** The *Eagle* was on the Moon as Neil Armstrong made his one small step for a man ...

Reunion Round-up

The 1999 Reunion season concluded with the following events:

The Royal Chase Hotel in Shaftesbury, Dorset was host to 12 St Dunstaners, 13 widows and nine beneficiaries of the Gubbay Trust on May 11th. Lt Col Peter Irven, Head of Welfare presided.

Lieutenant-General Sir Maurice Johnston, KCB, OBE, HM Lord Lieutenant for Wiltshire was the member of St Dunstan's council presiding at the London reunion on May 20th. Seven St Dunstaners, eight widows and one beneficiary of the Gubbay Trust gathered at the Victory Club.

In Nottingham on May 26th there were four St Dunstaners, seven widows and one beneficiary of the Gubbay Trust. Ray Hazan was the member of St Dunstan's council presiding at the Forte Crest Nottingham.

On June 8th eight St Dunstaners, five widows and two beneficiaries of the Gubbay Trust gathered at the Royal Station Hotel for the Newcastle reunion. St Dunstan's Chief Executive Gerard Frost was presiding.

Mr Frost also presided at the Posthouse Leeds, Bradford on June 9th where four St Dunstaners, eight widows, one widower and one beneficiary of the Gubbay Trust gathered for the Leeds reunion.

Air Chief Marshal Sir John Gingell, GBE, KCB, KCVO was the member of St Dunstan's council presiding at Brighton on June 23rd. There were 35 St Dunstaners, 23 widows and six beneficiaries of the Gubbay Trust at St Dunstan's Ovingdean for the event.

Mr David Knowles, CBE was the member of St Dunstan's council presiding at Exeter on June 30th. There were 16 St Dunstaners, 14 widows and four beneficiaries of the Gubbay Trust present at the Forte Crest Hotel Exeter.

Mr John Walbrugh was the member of St Dunstan's council presiding in Cardiff on July 14th. There were eight St Dunstaners, four widows and one beneficiary of the Gubbay Trust present at the Posthouse Cardiff.

As usual, any suggestions or comments would be welcomed by the Head of Pensions & Admissions at St Dunstan's Headquarters.

FAMILY NEWS

BIRTH

Congratulations on the birth of:

Olivia Bushell on May 21st. She is the first great grandchild of *Reg and Eileen Goding* of Rottingdean, East Sussex.

RUBY ANNIVERSARY

Congratulations to:

Thomas and Sheila Milne of Nailsea, Bristol on May 28th.

GOLDEN ANNIVERSARIES

Congratulations to:

William and Doreen Miller of High Wycombe, Buckinghamshire on June 11th.

Eric and Gweneth Bradshaw of Northampton, Northamptonshire on July 2nd.

DIAMOND ANNIVERSARY

Congratulations to:

Ernest and Gwendoline Hannant of Hemel Hempstead, Hertfordshire on June 10th.

SPECIAL ANNIVERSARY

Congratulations to:

Samuel and Grace Keating of Exmouth, Devon who celebrated 63 years of marriage on June 6th.

ACHIEVEMENTS

Congratulations to:

Giles, son of *Ray Hazan*, who obtained a 2:1 in Psychology at University College London. Giles resumes his third year medical studies in September.

Louise Heritage who has earned a BA (Hons) degree in Textile Design and is also a Louisa Ann Ryland Scholarship Award Winner. She is the granddaughter of *Clifford and Irene Gower* of Westbury, Wiltshire.

DEATHS

We regret to announce the death of:

Mrs Amy Holmes on June 14th. She was the wife of *Arthur Holmes* of Southampton, Hampshire.

Mrs Ada Wilcock on May 13th. She was the wife of *William Wilcock* of Darwen, Lancashire.

Mrs Dorothy Hurford of Morecambe, Lancashire in February. She was the widow of *Laurence Hurford*.

Mrs Mary Todd of Shrewsbury, Shropshire on May 17th. She was the widow of *Phillip Todd*.

Mrs Marjorie Laffey of Bradford, West Yorkshire on May 20th. She was the widow of *James Laffey*.

Mrs Flora Cameron of Ruislip, Middlesex on May 22nd. She was the widow of *Robert Cameron*.

Mrs Kate Beales of Hereford, Hereford and Worcester on June 17th. She was the widow of *Ronald Beales*.

Mrs Mary McCrea of Greenisland, Co. Antrim on June 26th. She was the widow of *Hugh McCrea*.

Mrs Rita Slade of Croydon, Surrey on July 3rd. She was the widow of *Ron Slade*.

Mrs Marjorie Birkett of Barton-on-Humber, South Humberside on July 8th. She was the widow of *Arthur Birkett*.

Mrs Winifred Jackson on May 24th. She was the mother of *John Jackson* of Chorley, Lancashire.

Our sympathy goes to their families and friends.

Mrs Patricia Nixon

In the last issue of the *Review* we inadvertently misnamed Mrs Patricia Nixon who passed away in March. Our apologies go to her son St Dunstaner Stephen Nixon and his family for this oversight.

IN MEMORY

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

George Mason

Royal Air Force

George William Mason of Woolwich, London SE18 died on May 12th, aged 62. He had been a St Dunstaner since 1989. Having enlisted in the Royal Air Force in 1954 he served as a junior technician, spending six months at Christmas Island

in support of the 1958 nuclear test. After his discharge he worked in car sales and then as a tractor driver and gardener. His interests included music and talking books. Our sympathy goes to his son Karl, daughter Alison and all of the family.

Ernest Brown

6th Battalion North Staffs

Ernest Brown of Ovingdean died on May 19th, aged 83. He had been a St Dunstaner since 1944. Having worked as a joiner he enlisted in 1940 and served as a Private with the 6th Battalion North Staffs. He was injured in 1944 by the accidental explosion of gun cotton. After training at St Dunstan's in Church Stretton he became a telephonist, retiring in 1975. Our sympathy goes to his sister Cathy and all members of the family.

Samuel Watson

6th Brigade Royal Welch Fusiliers

Samuel Watson of Walsall, Staffordshire died on May 30th, aged 78. He had been a St Dunstaner since 1966. He joined the 6th Brigade Royal Welch Fusiliers in 1944 and was serving with them in Germany when wounded by an explosion. Mr Watson worked as a dye caster before becoming a St Dunstaner. After training he worked in industry until 1980. Our sympathy goes to his daughters Margaret, Christine, Sheila, June, Sandra, Susan and Lesley and all members of the family.

Alan Evans

Durham Light Infantry

Alan Evans of Bordon, Hampshire died on May 30th, aged 76. He had been a St Dunstaner since 1997. Having started his working life at the *Daily Chronicle* in Fleet Street, Mr Evans joined the Durham Light Infantry at the age of 19. He was with them in Holland when he received gunshot wounds to his head causing the loss of his right eye. Despite this he stayed on until his discharge in February 1945. Mr Evans then went to art school where he trained in interior design. After completing his training he went to work for Selfridges. His interests included steam trains and cricket. Our sympathy goes to his daughter and all other members of the family.

Stanley Heys

Royal Army Ordnance Corps

Stanley Heys of Peacehaven, East Sussex died on June 5th, aged 82. He had been a St Dunstaner since

1942. Having worked as a window cleaner he joined the Territorial Army in March 1939 some five months before being embodied in the Royal Army Ordnance Corps. While serving with them he was wounded in 1941 and having lost his sight and left forearm went to St Dunstan's at Church Stretton. After training Mr Heys worked as a lift operator and later as a storesman. A member of St Dunstan's Amateur Radio Society, callsign G4 KJO, his hobbies also included handicrafts and leatherwork. Our sympathy goes to his widow Gwendoline and all other members of the family.

Stanley Tutton

9th Battalion Worcestershire Regiment

Stanley Verdun Tutton of Ovingdean died on June 9th, aged 83. He had been a St Dunstaner since 1943. Having worked as a power press operator he enlisted in April 1940 and served with the 9th Battalion Worcestershire Regiment. In October 1942 he was blinded by a grenade explosion at Ballantoy. His hearing was also damaged by the blast.

After training at St Dunstan's Stan joined British Airways as an assembly worker, retiring in 1980 after 36 years service. He was an avid braille reader and an ardent supporter of the camp at HMS *Daedalus* and HMS *Sultan*. He was also a regular on St Dunstan's Walking Holiday. At the annual Metro Sports athletics meeting Stan regularly excelled in the 3km walking race. In the 1987 event he won the Bill Harris Cup for the Totally Blind section and in 1997 he was awarded the Roy Smith Trophy for Achievement. Stan also used to participate in the javelin and discus throwing events. Our sympathy goes to his daughters Jeanette, Susan and Iris, son Stephen and all of the family.

The Diana Gubbay Trust for the Blind

Stanley Adcock,

Royal Air Force

Mr Stanley Herbert Adcock of Llangwm, Haverford West died on May 8th, aged 87. He joined the Royal Air Force in 1941 and served with them in Java and Singapore. Captured by Japanese forces in September 42 he was held as a prisoner of war in Changhi Gaol until 1945. After his discharge in 1946 he returned to his pre-war job on London Underground. He and his wife ran a plant nursery for 40 years. Our sympathy goes to all of his family.