

St Dunstan's Review

September 1999



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Cover picture:

Described as "scary", the 40ft Wall was one of the challenges of the Activity Weekend. St Dunstaner Steve Pendleton removed his prosthetic leg to make the climb.

From the Chairman



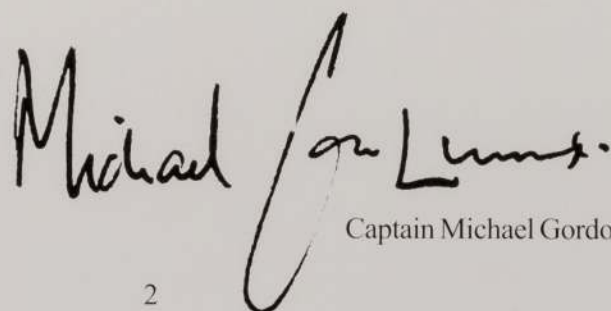
On behalf of St Dunstan's I would like to congratulate Neil Swan on receiving the Institute of Charity Fundraising Managers' award for the best Professional Fundraiser of the year. Our President, Colin Beaumont-Edmonds gave a wonderful introductory speech at the ceremony. Not only has Neil attracted considerable funds for the charity, thereby improving our financial health, but has contributed much to raising awareness of St Dunstan's through the various campaigns. We are indeed fortunate to have him on our staff.

The world's oldest military tattoo, the Royal Tournament, came to an end for the last time on August 2nd. The arena provided a showcase for Service life from the colour and pageantry of ceremonial occasions to the defence of the realm by land, sea and in the air.

Outside the arena, between the commercial stands, was the opportunity for the ex-Service charities to exhibit their work. St Dunstan's has done this for the past six years. This is one more way in which St Dunstan's is raising its profile.

If proof were needed, then those of you who paraded in the Royal Tournament arena in 1995 will bear witness to the standing ovation, curtailed only by the commentator, which was received by the St Dunstan's contingent.

It is sad the country can no longer spare the resources to maintain this particular tradition.


Captain Michael Gordon-Lennox, RN



NOTICE BOARD



LAST REMINDER FOR CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR 1999/2000

Because of the likely demand for accommodation at Ovingdean for this period it has been split into:

Christmas December 22nd-29th 1999
New Year December 29th 1999-January 5th 2000

It may not be possible for people to have Christmas and New Year if there is substantial demand; you can always have the week preceding Christmas plus Christmas or New Year plus an extra week.

All applications for Christmas and New Year need to be with your Welfare Officer by September 10th 1999. Selection will be made according to your personal circumstances and you will be notified by the end of September whether you have been successful in your application.

BRITISH LEGION ON-LINE

The Royal British Legion can be found on the world wide web at www.britishlegion.org.uk.

LEAR IN MANCHESTER

The Royal Exchange Theatre, Manchester demonstrates where flattery takes you with an audio described performance of *King Lear* on September 25th at 2.00pm. For details call the box office on 0161 833 9833.

COBOLT ON THE WEB

Cobolt Systems, who produce talking gadgets such as calendar alarm clocks, calculators, bathroom scales and the Parrot Organiser, have set up a website to demonstrate their wares.

Browsers logging on to www.cobolt.co.uk will be able to read through details of all Cobolt products. The site also includes product news, sound files and on-line order forms.

DEADLINES FOR FUTURE ISSUES

The final date for submitting items for publication in the November *Review* is September 24th.
The final date for submitting items for publication in the December *Review* is October 25th.



CHRISTMAS CARDS FOR SALE

St Dunstan's Christmas card is available once more, sporting the familiar torch-badge in a frame with curved corners. Measuring 100x140mm it has a foil finish and comes in assorted red, green and blue.

Inside it bears the legend "With best wishes for Christmas and the New Year." The cards (with envelope) cost 25p each and can be ordered from the Public Relations department at Headquarters.

BLITHE SPIRIT

An audio described performance of Noel Coward's *Blithe Spirit* will be staged at the Northcott Theatre, Exeter on September 16th at 7.30pm. For details call the box office on 01392 493493.

THAT RENAISSANCE FEELING

The Victoria and Albert Museum will be holding a touch tour entitled *The Late Italian Renaissance* on September 30th at 11.00am and again at 2.00pm. Call 0171 938 8638. Disabled people and one carer are admitted free.

Neil Swan is named professional fundraiser of the year

St Dunstan's wins top fundraising award

Pictures © Jacky Chapman



Jane Davis of The Guardian presents Neil Swan with the ICFM & Professional Fundraising award for fundraiser of the year. **Below right:** St Dunstan's President Colin Beaumont-Edmonds and his wife Joyce congratulate Neil on his success.

Tri-service triumph



St Dunstan's was not the only charity campaigning for Servicemen and women to fare well at the ICFM & Professional Fundraising Awards. Neil Swan had the opportunity to congratulate The Royal British Legion's Special Appeals Manager Zoe Wood and Chaseley Trust General Manager Peter Salter.

The Legion won an award for last year's Little Remembrance Cross campaign and Chaseley Trust, which runs a home for physically disabled Servicemen in Eastbourne, won an award for Most Effective Major Gift Fundraising.

On Tuesday, July 13th, Neil Swan received this year's Institute of Charity Fundraising Managers award for the top professional fundraiser. The annual awards ceremony took place at the NEC Birmingham.

Our President Colin Beaumont-Edmonds, MC, introduced Neil before a crowd of 1,500 charity fundraisers, hushed out of interested respect for Colin and the name of St Dunstan's. Colin went on to describe how Neil had been recruited for his business skills and acumen, his knowledge of technology and previous experience. He thanked Neil on behalf of St Dunstaners for it was largely as a result of a successful fund raising campaign and public generosity that St Dunstan's was able to restore some of the benefits withdrawn in the early 1990's. It was a moving speech, which received a standing ovation! Neil said, "I was dumb struck, I thought I had been entered for a prize concerning direct mailing, so this was totally unexpected."

Neil is a qualified osteopath and continues to run a practice with the help of his wife, Victoria, and three colleagues. He joined the staff of St Dunstan's in 1995 having started his fund raising career at the British School of Osteopathy. Neil also spent several years as osteopath for a number of World Rally Championship teams including Formula One Champion Nigel Mansell in 1988.

The Fund Raising department has had three very successful years, each breaking new records. It deals with many thousands of letters and donations a week during the campaign periods. A database of over 310,000 donors bears witness. The numbers climb steadily – long may that continue!



Alf's medals rooted out by Family Tree

by Roger Waters

Whilst researching our family tree, I discovered my late grandfather's First World War medals. Grandfather served in the South Staffordshire Regiment during the First World War. Written on the edge of the medals was grandfather's name and army number followed by the letters "K.L.POOL". Unfortunately these letters did not mean anything to me.

I later discovered that "K.L.POOL" means Kings Liverpool Regiment. But my grandfather served in the South Staffordshire Regiment and lived in Wolverhampton!?!

Research into my grandfather's First World War history had temporarily come to a halt.

This prompted me to ask my mother what happened to my father's Second World War medals. She told me how my father had received some medals in the post in 1947 and that he had thrown them away. Having been totally blinded, he felt that medals were of little use to him, anyway there were more important things to attend to, as he started to build a new life in Norfolk with his family.

My research into our family's history had not gone too well. Grandfather's medals having a mystery inscription and my father having no medals. Then one night on BBC Essex, our local radio station, I heard their guest speaker, Mr Neil Storey, a Military Medal Expert. He answered listeners' questions and invited people to write in if they needed help.

This was my opportunity to resolve the mystery inscription on Grandfather's medals and to find out if it was possible to get replacement medals for my father.

In response to my letter Mr Neil Storey telephoned me at home. He felt that my father should have his medals replaced. He had contacted our local branch of SSAFA (Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen and Families Association Forces Help) who would pay for the medals and present them at their Open Garden Day in Tendering, Essex on May 23rd.

From my father's Army pay book Neil Storey identified the medals my father was entitled to receive.



Picture courtesy of Essex County Newspapers

Medals restored, St Dunstaner Alf Waters passes inspection by his great-grandson Kieran.

They are the 1935-45 Medal, The Africa Star, The Italian Star, The Defence Medal and The World War Two Medal, all to be mounted on a bar.

The day of the medal presentation was a pleasant summer's day and the gardens were magnificent. All our family were there, also the local press, as the presentation had attracted a lot of local media attention.

My father was presented with the medals by the Lord Lieutenant of Essex. After the ceremony Neil Storey explained to my father what the colours of each medal ribbon meant. That Sunday was a very special day for my father and all our family.

My father will be one of many representing St Dunstan's on Remembrance Sunday at the Cenotaph in London again this year, he will wear his "new" medals for the first time.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Letters to the Editor are always welcome.

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



"To Live In The Hearts Of Those We Love Is Not To Die." The resting place of British Servicemen.

From: Mrs Emma Daborn, Barnstaple, Devon

I had always wanted to see my brother Fred's resting place. He was in the 2nd/6th Queen's Royal Regiment and was killed in January 1945 after six years in the army. I mentioned to my son that I would like to visit and John contacted my daughter June who got busy on the telephone!! My sister Rosie and my niece Julie, with June and myself flew to Italy to visit Forli. I was told that everyone spoke English, they did not!

Julie was in charge of the money and she and June had Italian phrase books, but June found herself lapsing into French. Because of the language problem we had a good many laughs. One night porter at the hotel spoke English and the taxi driver, who was contacted by a friend of a friend in Italy, spoke very good English and he took us to the War Cemetery at Forli. It was beautiful.

The War Graves Commission do a wonderful job. Two gardeners were there and in total there were 768 memorials, two unknown. It was so peaceful. Every third memorial stone had a rose planted and in front of my brother Fred's stone was a large bunch of primroses growing. On the bottom of his stone were the words "To Live In The Hearts Of Those We Love Is Not To Die".

I was very touched by those words. I am so glad I made the trip. It was lovely.

The War Graves Commission really care for these cemeteries and I do thank them. So many young lives!

Some St Dunstaners will remember my husband Tom Daborn, he was shot and blinded at Rimini near Forli.

Mrs Thelma Bugbee, Harefield, Middlesex

I would like to thank everybody for my lovely week's holiday at Ovingdean. It was nice meeting everyone I knew five years ago. Also, having arthritic knees, I thought the bar downstairs in the lounge was much better. I enjoyed having a drink and a chat with everybody. Thank you all.

POET'S CORNER

A BLIND MAN TO HIS WIFE

by Mrs Mary Whitley

I cannot see your smiling face
The love-light shining from your eye
I cannot see the laugh lines
However much I try.

I can remember how you looked
On the day you took my name
So beautiful to me, my love
You'll always be the same.

I cannot see the silver threads
Shining amongst the gold
To me you always will be young
I can't see you growing old.

Mary is the wife of Tom Whitley

AUGUST QUIZ ANSWERS

1) Christopher Wren built the Royal Naval College on the site of Henry VIII's birth; 2) Sir Francis Drake laid his cloak over the puddles in Creek Road; 3) *The Cutty Sark*; 4) Sir Francis Chichester; 5) The Greenwich Meridian.

Welcome to St Dunstan's

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

Mr Hugh Ellis of Ditchling, East Sussex, now aged 91, served in the Royal Air Force from 1938 to 1946. He served in the UK, France and South Africa before retiring as a Flight Lieutenant. A chartered accountant, he established a firm which still deals with clients working in art, literature and politics.

Mr Douglas Kneale of Framwellgate Moor, Durham, now aged 78, served in the Royal Air Force from 1939 to 1946. He was a tail gunner serving in Iceland on Sunderland flying boats. After leaving the RAF he became a publican. His interests include painting, gardening and bowls. He and his wife Eileen have a son and twin daughters.

Mr Jaroslav Muzika of Hillingdon, Middlesex, now aged 84 served in the Czech Air Force in 1940 and then in the Royal Air Force from 1941 to 1968 when he retired as Squadron Leader. He served in the UK, Rhodesia and Cyprus and was awarded the Air Force Cross in 1953. He has a son Frank and daughter Hannah.

Mr David Poyner of Sale, Manchester served in the Royal Navy from 1976 to 1979 on HMS *Fisgard*, *Caledonia*, *Collingwood*, *Fearless* and *Achilles*. Now aged 42, he became a Health & Safety Instructor after leaving the Navy.

Mr Anthony Bowyer of Rushden, Northamptonshire, now aged 59, served in the Royal Navy from 1955 to 1967. As an Able Seaman he served with two future chairmen of St Dunstan's - Admiral of the Fleet Sir Henry Leach then Captain of HMS *Dunkirk* and later with Captain Gordon-Lennox on HMS *Ganges*. After leaving the Royal Navy he worked as a bricklayer. Mr Bowyer and his wife Helen have a daughter Kim and son David.

Mr Johnathan Rhea of Acomb, York served in the Royal Navy from 1991 to 1996. As a Marine Engineer Mechanic he served on HMS *Jupiter*, *Scylla* and *Invincible* in the Falklands, Mediterranean and UK. Whilst on the HMS *Scylla* in the Falklands the engine blew up and although the deck was flooded by scalding steam Mr Rhea stayed at his post to effect necessary repairs. He has a daughter Lucy and son Ben.



Topping

Author: Peter Topping

Reader: Robert Ashby

Duration: 9 hours 36 minutes

Catalogue Number: 8154

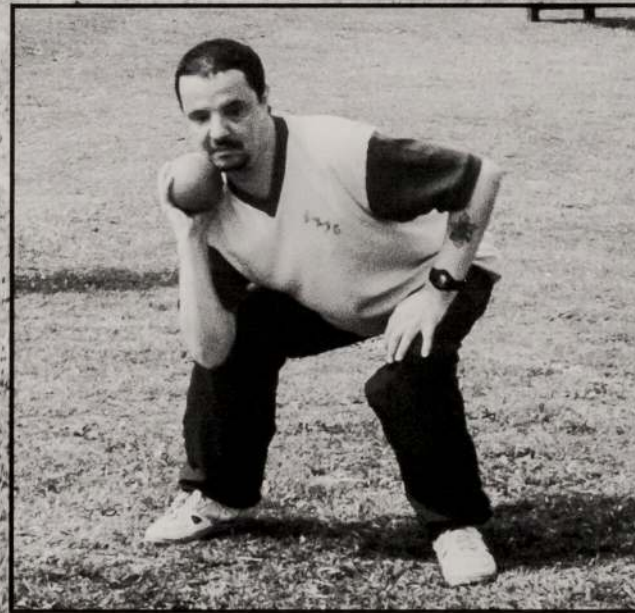
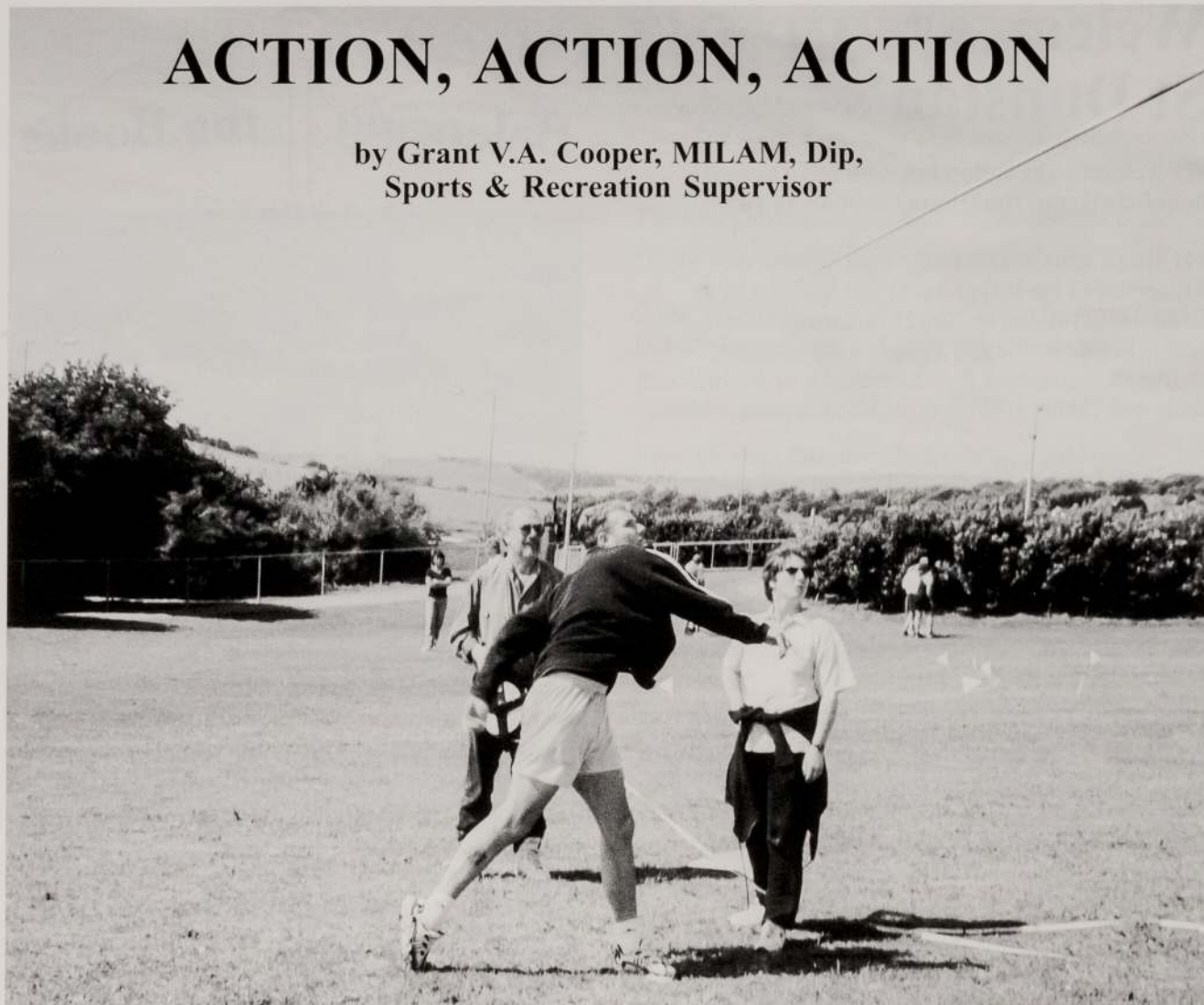
If media coverage is anything to go by, public interest in the "moors murderers" Brady and Hindley has never flagged in over 30 years. Even so, I find myself wondering what persuaded Peter Topping to write yet another book on the subject except for financial gain. Nor can I really understand why, when he became Chief of Manchester CID 20-odd years after the crimes were committed, he decided to expend further police time and resources over and above those that had led to the conviction of the guilty pair. I'm afraid "To give peace of mind to the parents of the victims" does not strike the chord of complete sincerity in my suspicious mind. Not least because there are allegedly bodies still to be found, and, laudable as such a motive may be, it certainly wouldn't have loosened the purse strings if I'd been the person holding them.

It's not that the book is uninteresting or poorly written though, oh no, quite the contrary, it's quite absorbing in fact, for it not only relates an interesting story but it also reveals much about the author himself. There is his tenacity in following each lead, for instance, and his extraordinary patience with Hindley before she decided to confess (though what precise value one can place on the confession I cannot conceive). He shows the same brand of patience with Brady too, as the latter attempts to lead him a merry dance, lying, evading and exhibiting the obvious sickness of his brain.

But there is gullibility here too which an ex-Serviceman who has been "mucked about by experts" finds almost impossible to believe, especially in a senior police officer. The bottom line, I suppose, is that I don't quite see the purpose of this book if it is not merely to take advantage of the public's morbid fascination with Brady and Hindley's evil acts. It definitely does nothing to break my faith in capital punishment.

ACTION, ACTION, ACTION

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



Top: Mark Maddock impresses bystanders with his javelin throw. **Left:** Colin "Woody" Oakes goes over the top. **Above:** Alan Goldthorpe summons his strength for the shot-put.

The weekend's activities commenced on July 2nd in the new Lounge Bar with hearty greetings and enthusiastic banter from members old and new. Twenty brave souls had arrived at Ovingdean to face the physically demanding weekend's activities.

After the initial welcome our guests were placed into teams for the Question of Sport Quiz.

An early Saturday morning start saw the sun shining as we all gathered at Reception, many apprehensive of what was in store.

Unfortunately, due to inclement weather, the paragliding had to be cancelled for the second year running.

Roll-call found one person missing - "Vincent van" Laviollette had banged his head during the night, almost removing his ear. Twenty-six stitches later and the ear was re-attached, but sadly Derry was unable to take any further part in the activities.

A cheerful group of 20 participants and helpers arrived at Pickwell Outdoor Pursuits Centre, where we were taken excellent care of by Ted Stevens and his team.

A military style assault course, climbing and abseiling were eagerly pursued by one and all. The only complaint was the lack of time to enjoy further activities that Ted had up his sleeve.

Hopefully next year we will make a full day of it.

Congratulations must go out to Steve Pendleton for a brave and speedy climb on the artificial wall and to Ray Hazan for the fastest abseil - in fact he was dropped about 20ft and dangling just a few feet from the ground. Robbie looked on in horror as Ray regained his composure and stepped confidently to terra-firma.

Many thanks to Johnathan Clark for the use of his wonderful grounds at Bolney and to Ted and his team for voluntarily giving up their time to provide such an exciting morning's activities.

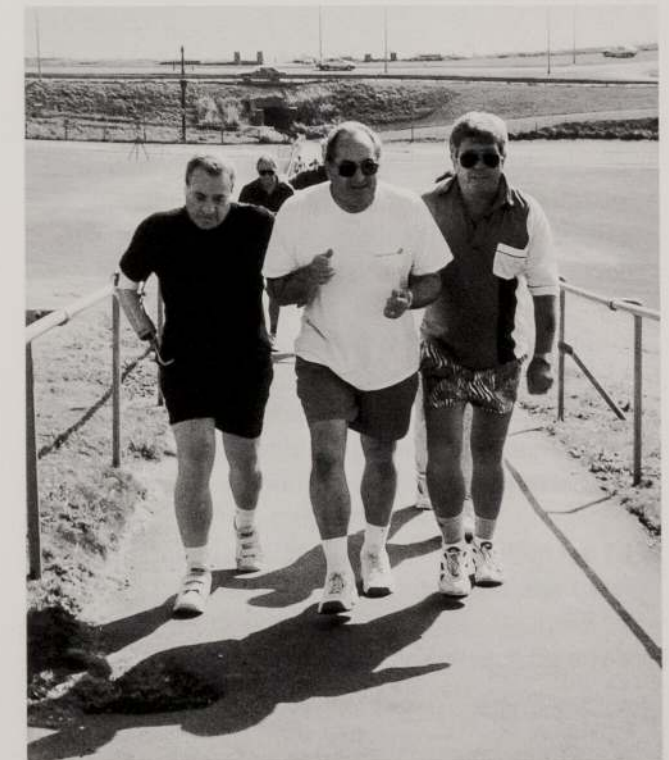
At the same time another group were trotting around Rottingdean village on horseback.

Saturday afternoon involved more team building exercises in the form of the Sports Olympiad. Rifle



Above: Susan Harrison gets soaked by Bill Lyth.

Below: Team effort! The Dons completing the 1,000 metres.



shooting, archery, javelin, discus, shot, golf and a 1,000 metres team run were all competed for in true St Dunstan's style.

A Caribbean Evening rounded the night off with a one-woman steel band, bar-b-que and fancy dress, won by Colin Davies.

On Sunday morning the weather was still good and we hadn't lost anyone else as groups headed for the

dry slope skiing, the local golf course and windsurfing and sailing on Hove Lagoon.

Several of the late night partygoers, comforting sore heads, pleaded with Grant to allow them to participate in the less active sport of golf, but their fate was already sealed as their places had been booked on the ski slope.

Colin "Woody" Oakes and his dog, Cookie, were naturals on the piste as was Alan Goldthorpe, decked out in all the gear.

The afternoon was filled with laughter as teams endeavoured to transport buckets of water from one destination to the next, soaking everyone within distance of the throbbing fire hose. Flying downhill on caterpillar toboggans with buckets of water between the legs, sprinting down the elasticated bungee run, were but a few of the stances in the *It's a Wet and Wild Knockout*.

On completion, having towelled down and changed, teams made their way to the Green Room for refreshments and prize-giving.

Many thanks to all those who attended and a very big thank you to all the helpers who gave up their time to assist in this year's event.

It is hoped that next year's Activities Club will be held over a week and participants will be able to partake in all, or part of the week's activities. This will enable more time on individual events and will allow greater leisure time.

Why not include the Activities Week in the special offer of two weeks for the price of one?

See you all next year.

RESULTS

Question of Sport

1st	You Need Hands
2nd	Rhodes Runners
3rd	The Dons
4th	Pendleton's Plodders

Olympiad

1st	The Dons	48 points
2nd	Rhodes Runners	38 points
3rd	Pendleton's Plodders	32 points
4th	You Need Hands	22 points

It's a Knockout

1st	The Dons	41 points
2nd	Rhodes Runners	37 points
equal	You need Hands	31 points
3rd	Rhodes Runners	31 points

Olympiad Individual Winners

Archery	Chris Ottewell
Golf	Don Planner
Shooting	Matt Rhodes
Discus	Mike Tumilson
Shot	Chris Ottewell
Javelin	Chris Ottewell
1,000 Metres	Mark Maddock
Team	The Dons

Team Sports Personality

The Dons	Colin Davies
You Need Hands	Alan Goldthorpe
Pendleton's Plodders	Steve Pendleton
Rhodes Runners	Martin Shail

Speed Wobble Trophy

Steve Pendleton

Sports Person of the Year

Chris Ottewell

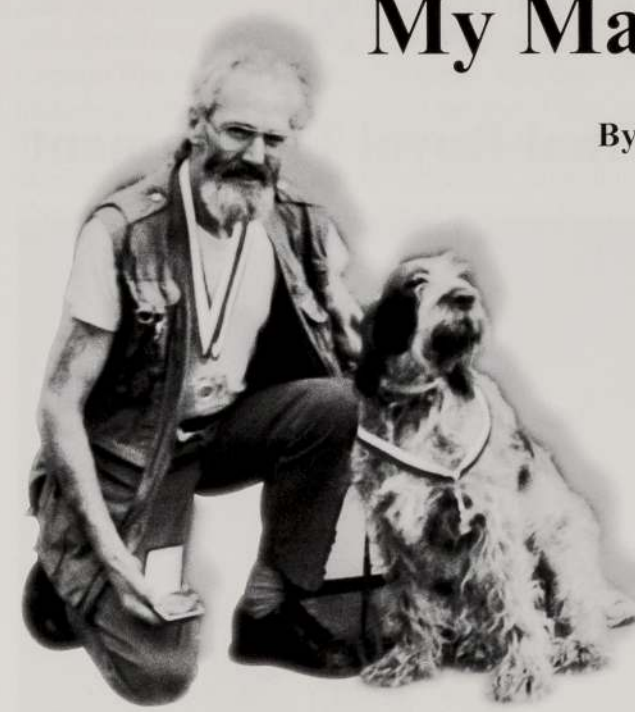
Special award to Phil Dobson for effort above and beyond the call of duty in the 1,000 metres.



What a star! Sports Person of the Year Chris Ottewell with his array of trophies.

My Man Woody

By Cookie



What's that sound? Assistance Dog (Hearing) Cookie and his human, Colin "Woody" Oakes.

I am an Italian Spinone. That is pronounced SPIN-Own-E. You would not be able to pronounce my given name, but I am known as "Cookie". A silly name for a dog, but I suppose there are worse names. It is not polite to ask a lady how old she is so I will tell you that I will be 28 this year. The formula for conversion from dog time to human time is divide by seven.

I am a fully qualified Assistance Dog (Hearing). It is a very responsible job looking after a human that cannot hear. My ancestors were gun dogs, but I admit that I am not a very good shot, in fact I could not hit a barn door at paces. Besides barn doors are an endangered species now. It is beyond me why humans would want to shoot them anyway. I mean they are quite useful.

My human is called Woody, he is English. You might think that an Italian Hearing Dog would be more suitable for a deaf Italian and I did think that I might



have to add Old English to my vocabulary, but no, Woody cannot hear me so it makes no difference if I speak Spinone, Dachshund or Pekingese.

Why did I think I might have to learn Old English? Woody is a lot older than me, about 371 years in real time.

When I first learnt that Woody was in need of a Hearing Dog I had him investigated to find out if he was suitable, not all humans are. In Woody's kennel there were dogs, cats, rats and goldfish as well as a mate and a young pup. Far too many distractions for me to do my work properly, but we did put his name on the waiting list.

Two years later when we contacted him again, all three cats had gone including the mate and young pup. So Woody was invited to Oxford to meet me. The humans at the training centre wanted Woody to have an audiological examination (hearing test) but Woody refused because he does not like doctors. I don't blame him either, there are some vets that I would not take a human to.

One week in Yorkshire and two weeks in-house training at Woody's Kennel sorting out the minor details and I considered him worthy of adoption. After six months Woody was given the coveted Yellow Coat of fully trained status.

One thing I must say is that the humans at the Hearing Dog Centre do get a bit above themselves and have a tendency to be authoritarian. It is understandable working for and maintaining the reputation of Assistance Dogs (Hearing) but being a born-again "Hippy" this does not sit well with Woody.

THE 1939 QUIZ

The answers to this quiz all relate to the year 1939, a momentous time in more ways than one.

- 1) Who breathed the world?
- 2) What happened to Siam?
- 3) What did Sikorsky build?
- 4) What did Victoria Sackville-West join?
- 5) Who was the fastest man on water?

END OF THE RUN

Ray Hazan reports on the Final Royal Tournament



Ray meets the public! Almost 300,000 people passed through the doors at Earls Court during the Tournament.

A great 120-year tradition came to an end at Earls Court on Monday, August 2nd. During the life of the oldest and biggest military tattoo, the arena has seen a host of shows with bands of all descriptions, horses, dogs, motorbikes, armoured vehicles, colour, music, mock battles, competitions and pageantry, to name but a few. It is an opportunity for the Services to demonstrate their many roles and remind people that 1968 was the only year since 1945 when a British Serviceman has not been killed on active duty. This year's 24 performances played to packed houses with over a quarter of a million people visiting Earls Court.

The highlight of the Royal Tournament has always been the field gun race in which crews dismantle a 12 Pounder Field Gun and carriage, weighing a total of 2,088lbs, carry it across a chasm and over and under

various obstacles. It was a highly visual display of strength, fitness and team work. The crowd vented their disapproval on the last night when they were told that it would be the last time the race was ever to be run.

This year, before Her Majesty The Queen, ex-field gunners paraded in the arena. Three veterans were placed in the spotlight; a 99 year-old who had competed in the race in 1926; one who has made 100 runs and a record never to be broken by the third of having competed in a total of eight competitions.

The finale of each performance was ordinarily emotional with the strains of *Rule Britannia*, *Land of Hope and Glory* and the audience linking hands for *Auld Lang Syne* and the most enormous Union

Jack flag unfurling over the arena. But the final night was something again. Rowan Atkinson, dressed as Captain Blackadder from the TV series, had the audience in stitches as he mourned the end of the Tournament. There were the muffled drumbeats and skirl of the 100 pipers and drummers from Australia, Canada, New Zealand and South Africa. The field gun competitors, wearing black armbands, received a standing ovation. It was a very supportive audience and they were unwilling to let any of the performers go.

St Dunstan's first participated in the Royal Tournament exhibition hall in 1994. We have always been unique amongst all the charity stands in selling items made or donated by members of St Dunstan's family. This year, we were generously given just under 1,000 items to sell from knitted toys to oil paintings and crafted items in wood which raised some £6,000. I would like to take this opportunity to



It was you! This cheerful £5 winner was just one of 14 who found the key that opened the safe.

thank everyone who gave so generously in so many ways in support of St Dunstan's. We were more than indebted once again to the Metropolitan Police detachment at Earls Court for their very generous gift of £500, which they raised mostly through a special Police night and fines following a few misdemeanours (with no Tournament next year does this mean they now have to behave?).

Apart from the first year, we have always had a live demonstration in order to interest passers-by. During the 14 days of the Tournament, 60,043 words were typed in demonstrating how we are trained on the computer with speech output. It intrigued many, young and old. Visitors were encouraged to have a go at opening a safe by picking one key selected from over 100 in order to win a small cash prize. Our literature, carrier bags, posters and stickers were asked for constantly and many requests for further specific information were taken.

The aim of St Dunstan's presence at the Royal Tournament is to raise and perpetuate awareness of our charity. In some cases, it is a means of translating a letter received through the mail into meeting representatives face to face. With others, it is a brief explanation of the charity if they have never heard of us. For many more, it is the perpetuation of a rapport with St Dunstan's, which has existed over the previous five years.

It was extremely hot and humid this year and I am grateful to Robbie, Margaret and Simon from the PR department, to present and past members of staff, who gave their time voluntarily – Dorothy Rose, Margaret Orr Deas and Linda Hover and to St Dunstan's wife Eileen Killick.

The demise of the Royal Tournament is due to a shortage of manpower, because of current worldwide commitments and financial support. It means the end of an era. One chapter closes, but who knows what we shall open in the future?

50 YEARS AGO

Cheerful Charlie Chester and his Gang dropped into St Dunstan's at Blackpool to put on a show.

Ninety physiotherapists were in conference at Ovingdean where "Radio Doctor" Charles Hill, Secretary of The British Medical Association, was the main guest speaker.

MESSAGE FROM THE HEAD OF FUND RAISING

Early Day MPs keep us in motion

by Neil Swan



St Dunstaner Pete Walker (left) accepted a cheque on behalf of all St Dunstaners from RAF Benson who raised £1,100 at their Charity Bridge Day.

Over the last four months we have been preparing for the Autumn and Christmas Campaign which will be going out to the whole country as part of our continuing aim to bring St Dunstan's back into sharp focus with members of the general public. To date we have always managed exceptional results from a fund raising perspective. In addition to this a substantial number of ex-Servicemen and women have come to our attention as having subsequently gone blind after leaving the Services, but where their blindness was probably aggravated as a

consequence of their Service or attributable to it, eg Far East Prisoners of War.

We continue to seek support from many quarters and over the last few months 73 MPs have signed up to an Early Day Motion in the House of Commons expressing their gratitude to St Dunstan's in recognition of its continuing work caring for the needs of blinded ex-Servicemen and women. Strong support continues from the Services, with £1,500 being donated by the Royal Marines from the proceeds of their Mountbatten Festival of Music, £1,100 being raised by RAF Benson from their Charity Bridge Day and £1,300 from St Ignatius College Enfield Combined Cadet Force from a sponsored walk they completed. Also worthy of special mention, and something which will almost certainly evoke fond memories from many of our St Dunstaners, was a cheque for £1,392.21 from the Slough and District Darts League. In recent months we have received a total of 148 donations from all branches of the Services and Service Associations with a value in excess of £17,000.

As a seasonal reminder, when you receive your St Dunstan's fund raising pack, please remember that they are delivered to all homes in any given road and that we are not asking our St Dunstaners or widows(ers) for a donation.

St Dunstan's eclipsed by Blue Moon cocktails



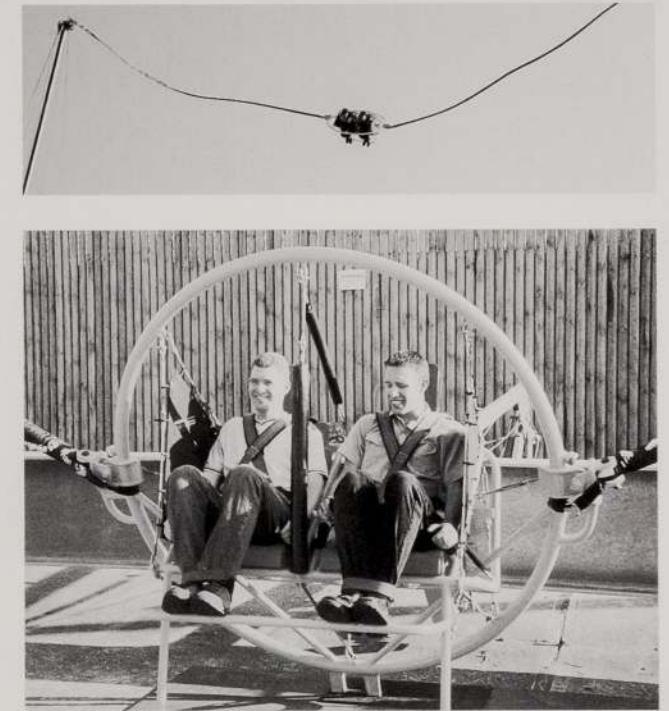
For two minutes on August 11th Britain came to a halt as it experienced its first full solar eclipse since 1927. St Dunstan's Ovingdean was no exception as a crowd gathered on the roof for the occasion. PBK lubricated the proceedings with generous helpings of a "Blue Moon" cocktail.

Members of the public filled the nearby cliffs and as the Moon

strayed into the path of the Sun the usually busy road came to a halt. Any birds singing on the seafront were hushed as a pale shadow was cast across the land.

Most St Dunstaners out on the roof were struck by the sudden chill - it had been a blazing summer's day only seconds before. Then as quickly as it started, it was over, the cool air washed away by the Sun.

Catapult kids fly high for St Dunstan's



James Bond had a gold painted Aston Martin to go with his ejector seat, but even without that kind of luxury accessory Simon and Danny had the ride of their lives.

At 1300 hrs on July 23rd, an apprehensive Simon Barron and Danny Longobardi, together with a whole host of well-wishers, gathered at the Peter Pan Fairground on Brighton's seafront to experience the "ride of their lives". Simon is the son of Lynda Stringer, Coordinator in the Rehab & Training Department at Ovingdean, and he had talked Danny into trying out the "Ejector Seat" in order to raise funds towards the purchase of equipment for the Sports & Recreation Department.

The Ejector Seat is a two-seater chair suspended by two 30ft bungee ropes. The bungees are attached by steel cables to the top of two 120ft high steel towers. The seat is held down by a steel hook and the cables are winched to the top of the towers, pulling the bungees tight. At the press of a button, the hook is released and the seat shoots into the air reaching a speed of 60mph in one second. It can go as high as 150ft in the air before falling at a speed of 100mph.

As it falls it twists and turns in any direction, sometimes forwards, sometimes backwards, feet-first or head-first, shooting back up into the air and down again, all the time twisting and turning, before coming to rest.

Simon and Danny climbed gingerly into the seat and were very firmly strapped in, their internal organs being pushed back and the safety harness pulled tight. Even their feet were tied down. Slowly, very slowly, the bungees were winched into position. They were held, suspended in mid-air for what seemed like an age. "Heads back" was the command and they shot up into the air. Their exclamation is unprintable here, but use your imagination! They returned to the ground, head first, before shooting back up again, with more unprintables being uttered as the ride did its worst to them. After what seemed an age, but was in fact only about two or three minutes of shooting up into the air and coming back down again, they came to rest and were slowly lowered back to the ground.

How did they feel? "Brilliant," said Simon. Danny agreed. Would they do it again? Yes!

The pair hope to have raised something in the region of £500, depending on the "top-up" donated by their employers, American Express in Brighton.

Thanks Simon and Danny - see what you can come up with next!

FAMILY NEWS

BIRTHS

Congratulations on the birth of:

Grace Clare Loska on June 16th. She is the first granddaughter of *Jozef Loska* of Ovingdean.

Eloise Victoria on July 2nd. She is the granddaughter of *Don and Sharon Planner* of Bournemouth, Dorset.

GOLDEN ANNIVERSARY

Congratulations to:

Jerry and Patricia Lynch of Horsham, West Sussex on August 20th.

ACHIEVEMENTS

Congratulations to:

Jamie Planner, son of *Don and Sharon Planner* of Bournemouth, Dorset has obtained a degree in Geography and Political Studies at Plymouth University.

Flight Lieutenant Guy Hart, B.Eng(Hon), RAeS, RAF who received his Wings at a graduation ceremony at Royal Air Force Valley on July 23rd. He is the grandson of *Tom Hart* of Sandwich, Kent.

DEATHS

We regret to announce the death of:

Mrs Evlyn Mary Blake on August 2nd. She was the wife of *Stephen Blake* of Chertsey, Surrey.

Mrs Cecilia McKinlay on August 2nd. She was the wife of *Boyd McKinlay* of Cliftonville, Margate, Kent.

Mrs Patricia Mitchell on August 6th. She was the wife of *Alan Mitchell* of Congleton, Cheshire.

Mrs Violet Stockwell of Brighton, East Sussex on July 9th. She was the widow of *Clifford Stockwell*.

Mrs Lucy Wood of Kettering, Northamptonshire on July 12th. She was the widow of *Gerald Wood*.

Mrs Vera Gwyn of Lowestoft, Suffolk on July 16th. She was the widow of *Allan Gwyn*.

Mrs Ada Eustace of Fetcham, Surrey on July 20th. She was the widow of *George Eustace*.

Mrs Kathleen McDonald of Liverpool, Merseyside on July 31st. She was the widow of *Robert McDonald*.

Mrs Marion Austin of Morcombe, Lancashire on August 7th. She was the widow of *Robert Austin*.

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.

Juliette Dooley

Women's Royal Naval Service

Mrs Juliette Eve Dooley of Timsbury, Bath, Avon died on July 24th, aged 35. She had been a St Dunstaner since 1995. Enlisting in the WRNS in 1983, she rose to the rank of Petty Officer/Writer before multiple sclerosis cut her career short. Before her discharge Mrs Dooley represented HMS *Mercury* in shooting. Her interests included sailing, reading, cooking (she qualified as a Cordon Bleu cook) and embroidery. Our sympathy goes to her husband Christopher, son Connor and all of the family.

Alan Duffy

Royal Artillery

Alan Duffy of Plymouth died on July 27th, aged 68. He had been a St Dunstaner since 1978. He joined the Royal Artillery in 1949 and was serving in Germany when he was injured. After his discharge he worked as a builder and decorator. Mr Duffy excelled at handicrafts such as model making, framing and wrought iron work. On several occasions he won first prize in handicraft competitions for war pensioners. Our sympathy goes to his daughter Pauline, son Graham and all of the family.

Alec Guyler

Royal Ulster Rifles

Alec Guyler of Stanmore, Middlesex died on July 27th, aged 79. He had been a St Dunstaner since 1945. Having worked as a fish salesman he enlisted with the Royal Ulster Rifles in 1940. During his time with them he was blown up by a mortar bomb. After training at St Dunstan's Mr Guyler worked in industry. Our sympathy goes to his daughter Una and all other members of the family.

Edgar Bull,

Royal Marines

Edgar William Bull of Southampton, Hampshire on August 3rd, aged 87. He had been a St Dunstaner since 1976. Known as John, Mr Bull joined the Royal Marines in 1929 and served as a Colour Sergeant. Having left the service in 1945 he worked as an off-licence manager for Watneys. He enjoyed gardening after his retirement. Our sympathy goes to his wife Janet and all other members of the family.