

# St Dunstan's Review

February 2000



*Ted Yeaman recites one Day of Christmas.*

*Bert Wood and John Trent lead Simon Garland and the boys from the gym in a burst of song.*



*Just Gilbert! Mr Stanley is dressed for mischief.*



*Elsie Aldred as a flapper.*



*French Peter Surridge.*



*Pirate Winnie Edwards.*



*Dr Alf Waters was on call.*

CONTENTS

TWO FOR ONE  
EXTENDED

3

NEW TELEPHONE  
NUMBER AT HQ

3

ACTIVITIES WEEK

4

CARD COMPETITION

5

PIN OF  
REMEMBRANCE

7

ST DUNSTAN'S IN  
THE BEGINNING

7

CLUB CONTACTS

8

JIM'S PROGRESS

11

Cover pictures:

A selection of pictures  
from Christmas and New  
Year celebrations at  
Ovingdean. Full details  
on page ten.

## From the Chairman



By now, the Christmas and New Year festivities are perhaps just a faded memory! Ahead lies a new cycle of seasons and events. St Dunstan's looks back on 85 years of helping and encouraging those blinded as a result of service. But there is no time to rest on our laurels and we must ever look to the future.

You will all have received a letter offering an additional free sojourn at Ovingdean until the end of March. Our improved financial status has and is enabling us to reassess the benefits we are able to offer St Dunstaners, widows, widowers and their families. At the same time, I am sure you will understand that we can only release the brakes sensibly so that we can fulfil our lifelong commitment to you with confidence.

This year will no doubt bring new challenges to us all. Let us confront and solve them with common sense and optimism.

Captain Michael Gordon-Lennox, RN



## NOTICE BOARD



### STAFF CHANGES AT HQ

Richard Barnes left St Dunstan's on December 23rd 1999. He joined the staff as Chief Accountant in 1994. We wish him well in the future.

Peter Rutland joined the staff at HQ on January 4th in the position of Head of IT (Information Technology). This covers the directing and management of all IT within the business side of St Dunstan's. Peter has been involved in the field of computing for the past 20 years. His last post was IT Director for the Unwins Wine Group.

### TWO FOR ONE STAY AT OIVINGDEAN EXTENDED

We are pleased to announce that the two weeks for the price of one stay at Ovingdean will be continued from April 1st onwards for another year. In addition, the scheme will be extended to include Nursing and Residential care, though in this latter case, we regret that wives/carers/friends cannot be accommodated on the same wing.

### REUNION DATES 2000

Brighton (I)	Wednesday, April 5th
Norwich	Wednesday, April 12th
Liverpool	Wednesday, May 3rd
Birmingham	Wednesday, May 10th
Exeter	Wednesday, May 17th
Nottingham	Wednesday, May 31st
Cardiff	Wednesday, June 7th
Newcastle	Tuesday, June 13th
Leeds	Wednesday, June 14th
Shaftesbury	Wednesday, June 21st
Edinburgh	Wednesday, June 28th
Brighton (II)	Wednesday, September 13th
London	Wednesday, September 27th

### NEW CODE AND TELEPHONE NUMBER FOR ST DUNSTAN'S HQ

Please note our new phone number which is:

**020 7723 5021**

You can still contact us on the old number but only until April 21st 2000. It is important to you that you make a note of the change.

St Dunstan's Headquarters 020 7723 5021

### OTHER CHANGES AS FROM APRIL 22nd

There are six places where area codes and local numbers are changing so you will need to alter your telephone book if you have friends or families in the following areas:

CITY	NEW AREA CODE	NEW LOCAL NUMBER
Cardiff (01222)	029	20XX XXXX
Coventry (01203)	024	76XX XXXX
London (0171)	020	7XXX XXXX
London (0181)	020	8XXX XXXX
Portsmouth (01705)	023	92XX XXXX
Southampton (01703)	023	80XX XXXX

### ANGLERS WANTED

Last year was St Dunstan's Fishing Club's first year without a trip, due to family commitments and clashing dates. Hopefully this will be resolved in 2000. At the moment we are anticipating a trip in May or June and Bognor Regis is being investigated with regard to accommodation and boat hire. If all goes well transport will be available from St Dunstan's Ovingdean. With this in mind, we would like to invite any new St Dunstaners and Gubbay Trust beneficiaries who are interested in sea angling to join us. For further details please contact the Chairman, Fred Bentley on 01273 302548.

### DEADLINES FOR FUTURE ISSUES

The final date for submitting items for the April Review is February 28th.

The final date for submitting items for the May Review is March 27th.

## ACTIVITIES WEEK 2000

Due to popular demand the Activities Weekend for 2000 has been extended to one week. It will run from Friday, June 23rd to Sunday, July 2nd 2000. This will enable participants to take part in a greater number of activities and will allow more time for relaxation, leisurely and social pursuits such as shopping.

You are encouraged to stay for the whole week's activities, or, if you have other commitments, for any part of the week.

The finalised programme is yet to be confirmed, but it will include activities such as:

Skiing, abseiling, climbing, sailing, windsurfing, walking, assault course, horse riding and much more.

If anyone is interested in joining in The Activities Week of the Millennium, contact Grant Cooper, Sports & Recreation Supervisor at Ovingdean on 01273 307811 ext 3100 now!

## GOLF DATES

St Dunstan's Golf Club has scheduled the following meetings for this year:

April 15th-16th  
May 20th-21st  
June 16th-17th St Dunstan's Invitation Shield  
July 15th-16th  
August 19th-20th  
September 16th-17th

A re-match at RAF Coltishall is being planned for September 1st-3rd and a match at RAF Chivenor pitting St Dunstan's against teams from the Royal Marines, Army and Air Force is also being negotiated for March 17th-19th.

Anyone wishing to join St Dunstan's Golf Club should contact Iain Millard on 01273 589446 or Club Secretary Mel Sayers via Ovingdean.

## NEW ACTIVITIES CO-ORDINATOR

Lyn Neville joined St Dunstan's in December as our new Activities Coordinator at Ovingdean.

## PUBLIC RELATIONS FAX LINE

Fax messages can now be sent to the Public Relations department on 020 7224 9616.

## WIDOWS' WEEKS

The dates for this year's Widows' Weeks at St Dunstan's Ovingdean can now be confirmed as:

I April 6th-13th  
II July 13th-20th  
III October 12th-19th

## DOLPHIN DROP-IN DAYS

Janis Sharp has arranged the following dates for Dolphin Computer Access Ltd to hold their Drop-In Days at Ovingdean. It is a good opportunity to solve any existing problems you may have with any of their products or to learn about their computer access technology if you are thinking of buying.

Tuesday, April 25th  
Tuesday, June 27th  
Tuesday, November 7th

## SHIRTS AVAILABLE TO ALL

A new all cotton polo shirt can be ordered from the PR department. It is available in blue with a left-hand yellow chest logo or white with a blue logo, both come in medium, large and XL sizes. The polo shirts cost £8.00 each.

St Dunstan's t-shirt, white with small blue left-hand logo, is available in large and XL. It is made from 100 per cent cotton and costs £4.00. T-shirts with the old large blue badge are still available in medium.

St Dunstan's sweatshirts are blue with a left-hand yellow chest logo and priced £8.50. Available sizes are large and XL. All of these items can be ordered by mail or telephone (0171 723 5021) from the Public Relations department at Headquarters. Please add £2.00 to your order to cover p&p.

## THE POPPY UMBRELLA

The Poppy Umbrella - or Rembella - was conceived in response to a wet Remembrance Service at the Menin Gate Memorial. It can be used in all seasons.

The umbrella features a bright red and black poppy design, fitted to a quality frame with a lightweight wooden handle. It costs £17 plus £3 p&p and can be ordered from Mrs Linda Barley at St Dunstan's Ovingdean, Greenways, Ovingdean, Brighton BN2 7BS or ring 01273 307811.

## ST DUNSTAN'S OIVINGDEAN CHRISTMAS CARD COMPETITION

A special competition has been declared for the Millennium Year and the 85th Anniversary Year of St Dunstan's. You are invited to design and/or make a Christmas card with the joint theme of the 85th Anniversary Year and the Millennium Year 2000.

Entry is open to everyone and the winning designs will be used by St Dunstaners and staff at Ovingdean for Christmas/ New Year 2000/2001.

A bottle of Champagne will be presented to the winning designers.

All entries should be sent to Lesley Styche, Head of Rehabilitation and Training at St Dunstan's Ovingdean, Greenways, Ovingdean, Brighton BN2 7BS. Closing date is September 30th.

## FA CUP FINAL TICKET DRAW

The FA Cup Final will take place at Wembley on Saturday, May 20th. It is possible that St Dunstan's will be allocated tickets. Any St Dunstaner wishing to go should send their name and address to Carole Woodgate in the Welfare Department by April 19th.

## WAR WIDOW'S RAIL CARD

This card, which gives a discount of approximately one third on rail fares, is available for those in receipt of a War Widow's pension and who are under the age of 60. A card may also be applied for dependants in full-time education who are over 16. In order to obtain a rail card, please send the following to RBL (Rail Cards), 48 Pall Mall, London, SW1:

- Cheque or postal order, payable to The Royal British Legion, for £2.50 per card applied for.
- Passport photograph for each applicant.
- National Insurance number.
- Details (name, rank, Service) of late husband.

Please note that widows over 60 are eligible for senior citizens cards and children under 16 would travel on the accompanying adult's card.

## CAMP AT HMS SULTAN 2000

The camp at HMS *Sultan* will be held from July 28th-August 5th. Contact Elspeth Grant on 01799 522874 as soon as possible, not later than May 8th.

## VOLUNTEER REFLEXOLOGIST AT OIVINGDEAN

Mrs Louise Eaton, a qualified practitioner, registered with the Association of Reflexologists is available for consultation at Ovingdean. Consultations can be booked via the Lounge Desk and are available on Tuesdays, all day Wednesdays and Friday mornings

Reflexology is the natural therapy based upon pressure massage on specific points of the feet or hands, which are directly related to the body's organs. It relaxes tension, relieves stress and is used for both acute and chronic conditions.

## HOW DOES REFLEXOLOGY WORK?

To carry out a Reflexology treatment, accurate directed pressure is applied to the feet or hands to stimulate various reflex points. Each reflex point corresponds to a part of the body; for example, the big toe corresponds to the head. The whole of the body is mapped out on the feet.

## WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS?

Reflexology does not aim to cure. Instead, it helps the body to maintain its natural balance by activating its own healing powers. It helps to induce relaxation and often leaves a feeling of well-being and harmony. Reflexology is a safe, preventative therapy.

## CONSULTATIONS

Consultations normally take an hour. The patient just removes their shoes and socks for treatment. If the patient has any foot disorders or injuries the therapist can work on their hands.

## SENSORY GARDENS IN OLDHAM

Sensory gardens have been developed in three of Oldham's parks. They are at Werneth Park, Stoneleigh Park and the Brownhill Countryside Centre, Dobcross. Each garden offers level or ramped access and includes fragrant shrubs, climbing plants, and water features. For further details ring 0161 911 5065.

## THANK YOU FOR CHRISTMAS GREETINGS

Members of staff throughout the country, both serving and retired, wish to thank all St Dunstaners, beneficiaries of the Diana Gubbay Trust, widows, widowers and their families for their cards and kind wishes received over the Christmas period. They reiterate their wishes for a healthy and happy 2000.

## OBITUARIES:

### Frederick Jayne Stewart

We regret to announce the death on December 31st of Mr Frederick Stewart. He worked part time for St Dunstan's from the Second War until his retirement making prostheses.

Mr Stewart trained in dental surgery in Dundee, qualifying in 1922 at the age of 17 years! He went to Philadelphia and was awarded a Doctorate at the University. He practised in Mayfair until the outbreak of War. He then became a dental officer with the Royal Air Force ending as Squadron Leader at Uxbridge. During this time he developed an interest and expertise in making artificial eyes, noses, ears and hands out of dental plastic.

Prior to the War, artificial eyes were obtained from Germany, so this particular skill was invaluable. As the result of the loss of supplies due to hostilities, the RAF provided Fred with a laboratory in Uxbridge so that he could make prostheses for injured airmen.

After the war, he practised from his home at 13 Beckenham Grove, Shortlands and for 25 years worked part time for St Dunstan's. Some of his St Dunstaner patients included our President Colin Beaumont-Edmonds, MC, the late Jimmy Wright and Beryl Sleigh. Gwen Obern received an artificial hand, which she still has! Mr Stewart retired in 1970.

We extend our sympathies to his widow, Barbara, nephew Charles and all members of the family.

### James Fairgrieve

James Macdonald Fairgrieve of Stamford, Lincolnshire died on November 12th. A member of the Scottish National Institute for the War Blinded, he trained alongside St Dunstan's physiotherapists at Park Crescent. Our sympathy goes to his widow Joan, a former VAD at St Dunstan's.

### Sir John Wilson, CBE, DCL

Sir John Wilson died on November 23rd, aged 80. Blinded as a 12-year-old, he obtained degrees in law and sociology. Subsequently he became one of the world's foremost campaigners for the blind. He helped found several organisations dedicated to the prevention of blindness, in particular the Royal Commonwealth Society for the Blind, now known as Sight Savers International. Our sympathy goes to Lady Wilson and all members of the family.

## PETER'S SILVER JUBILEE

Night Nursing Auxiliary Peter Wiltshire has been caring for St Dunstaners for 25 years. A presentation was made in appreciation of his dedication.



## STAFF RETIREMENTS

The following members of St Dunstan's staff retired in 1999. We wish them all the best in their new life.

### FAREWELL ISOBEL

St Dunstan's Welfare Officer for Northern Ireland Isobel Rountree retired last year after a decade with the organisation.

### OPHTHALMIC SURGEON RETIRES

Mr David Ingram, Ophthalmic Surgeon retired in November last year after 16 years with St Dunstan's.



### FROM BEHIND THE WHEEL



Ron Silverthorne who has been with the Transport Department at St Dunstan's Ovingdean for eight years retired in September last year.

### CHAIRMAN DON

Don Planner of Poole, Dorset was elected Chairman of the Lychett Upton Branch of The Royal British Legion on November 15th.

### STAR TURN

Angela Browning became teenage popstar Billie when *Stars in Their Eyes* returned to television recently. Angela is the granddaughter of Dennis Endacott of Churchdown, Gloucester.

### SECOND SIGHT

A detective coming to terms with impending blindness provided the background to the BBC television thriller *Second Sight* last month. The show was devised by Paula Milne, daughter of late St Dunstaner Alan Milne. Further stories are promised for later in the year.

## PIN ON A POPPY

The act of Remembrance is normally associated with November 11th and the occasional ceremony, sad funeral or occasional television programme during the rest of the year. For one woman this is not enough - Sue Cox has a passionate interest in the Great War. Indeed her home in Wiltshire was used as a tiny shop and café for the troops in training during this conflict. Sue also has property on the battlefields of the Somme. During her many visits to France, she has been involved in the rescue of memorials and the maintenance of Lochnagar Crater. Sue is delighted to share her enthusiasm with any visitors less acquainted with the area. Whilst enjoying a welcome cup of good English tea in the small café at the South African Memorial Park at Delville Wood (the only place where real tea can be purchased) a conversation with a friend, Janet Fairgrieves, started a new venture. Thus the Poppy Pin was born.

On arriving home, Sue carefully drew her design of a single red poppy with three tiny leaves and stalk on a white background. It has a gilt edge and the single word "Remembering" curving around the base of the

circle, in gold. It measures 2cm in diameter. This was despatched to the manufacturers for approval and within five weeks the finished pins were awaiting sale. The café at Delville Wood was a first choice and with Janet's willing agreement, a display board was made with the legend that a proportion from each sale was to be given to St Dunstan's. Her local regimental museum agreed to take a quantity and various other individuals also welcomed the chance to sell the pins.

The first sales were made in early October last year and to date 420 have been sold resulting in two donations to St Dunstan's. Such has been the response that a further order was placed and these pins are now ready.

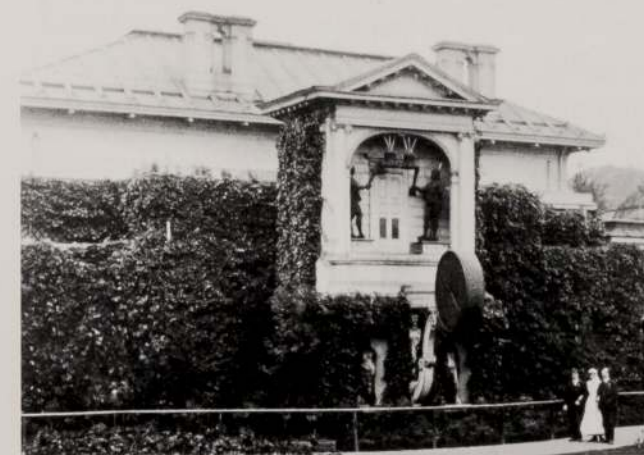
To order your pin just write to Sue Cox, Fovant Elm, Tisbury Road, Fovant, Salisbury, Wiltshire, SP3 5JY enclosing a cheque or postal order made out to her for £2.50 and it will be sent by return post.



## How St Dunstan's Got Its Name

This month commemorates the 85th anniversary of the founding of St Dunstan's. It was in the early days of February 1915 that the first two blinded soldiers were taken in at a hostel for blinded soldiers

and sailors in Bayswater Hill, London. Sir Arthur Pearson had already asked American banker Otto Kahn for the use of the house in Regent's Park, but it was not quite ready, hence the 'temporary' hostel. On March 26th 1915, the first 16 'St Dunstaners' did move into Regent's Park and many more would follow. By the end of the war, St Dunstan's had 1,500 names on its books.



The historic clock that gave us our name in the grounds of St Dunstan's, Regent's Park.

It was in the 1830's that the Marquess of Hertford re-built a clock, which he had purchased from the church St Dunstan's-in-the-West in Fleet Street, in the grounds of his house in Regent's Park. Thus the house derived its name 'St Dunstan's' from the clock. In turn, our organisation was named after our Regent's Park training centre.

An interesting and co-incidental fact is that, Henry Hucks Gibbs, first Baron Aldenham had purchased the house from the Marquess of Hertford. Henry Gibbs is the great-great-grandfather of our Chairman's wife, Jenny Gordon-Lennox.

## St Dunstan's Clubs and Activities

The following is a synopsis of Club and Activity groups. It lists contact numbers, when and where they meet, plus any subscription. Membership is open to all, but please contact the names given for further details.

### Walking

*Contact details* Ray Hazan at HQ  
020 7723 5021  
*Venue/dates* April/Countrywide/1 week  
*Subscription* None. Pay own accommodation & travel  
*Membership* 9  
*Equipment* Walking boots/shoes  
*Comments* 5 daily walks of 8 miles

### Computer

*Contact details* Ray Hazan at HQ  
020 7723 5021  
or Janis Sharp at Ovingdean  
01273 307811  
*Venue/dates* March & October/  
Ovingdean/2 days  
*Subscription* None  
*Membership* 6  
*Comments* Exchange information and experiences. Some outside speakers and equipment demos.

### Fishing

*Contact details* Fred Bentley  
01273 302548  
*Venue/dates* Countrywide  
*Subscription* £5  
*Membership* 8  
*Equipment* Individual responsibility  
*Comments* Pay own travel and accommodation

### Golf

*Contact details* John Stevens  
01223 360838  
*Venue/dates* Summer/various venues  
*Subscription* £20  
*Membership* 12  
*Equipment* By individual/ loan available

### Brighton Bowling

*Contact details* Iain Millard  
01273 580331  
*Venue/dates* Winter/monthly/Ovingdean  
*Venue/dates* Summer/various locations in Sussex & Surrey  
*Subscription* None  
*Membership* 14  
*Equipment* Some woods available for loan  
*Comments* St Dunstaners and Gubbay beneficiaries in Sussex area only

### Archery

*Contact details* Roger Evans  
01792 812212  
*Venue/dates* February, June & September/  
Ovingdean/1 week  
*Subscription* £20  
*Membership* 13  
*Equipment* Some loan bows available

### Activity Week

*Contact details* Grant Cooper & Linda Stringer  
01273 307811  
*Venue/dates* June/Ovingdean/1 week or part of  
*Subscription* None  
*Comments* Must be physically active  
Wide variety of sports and activities

### Ex-Prisoner of War Reunion

*Contact details* Tom Hart  
01304 612771  
*Venue/dates* April/Ovingdean/Weekend  
*Subscription* £5 (voluntary)  
*Membership* 30  
*Comments* Must be ex-POW

### Camp HMS Sultan

*Contact details* Elspeth Grant  
01799 522874  
*Venue/dates* July-August/HMS Sultan  
(Gosport)/1 week  
*Subscription* £70  
*Membership* 25  
*Comments* Men only

### Masonic

*Contact details* Ron Freer  
01273 303626  
*Venue/dates* March-April/Ovingdean/Weekend  
*Subscription* None  
*Membership* 12  
*Comments* Must be subscribing members of a Lodge

### Bowling

*Contact details* Bob & Joan Osborne  
01273 302115  
*Venue/dates* Mar & Nov/Ovingdean/1 week  
*Subscription* None  
*Membership* 25  
*Equipment* Limited number of loan woods available

### Brighton Club

*Contact details* Bob & Joan Osborne  
01273 302115  
*Venue/dates* Weekly/Wednesday afternoons/  
Ovingdean  
*Subscription* None  
*Membership* 20  
*Comments* Open to any visitors at Ovingdean  
Social activities

### Bridge

*Contact details* Reg Goding, 2 Chailey Avenue,  
Rottingdean, W. Sussex BN2 7GH  
*Venue/dates* Twice monthly/Ovingdean/afternoon  
*Subscription* £2  
*Membership* 24  
*Comments* Some away matches

### Amateur Radio

*Contact details* Ted John  
0151 638 5514  
*Venue/dates* March & Oct/Ovingdean/Weekend  
*Subscription* £2-5  
*Membership* 20  
*Equipment* Loan equipment available from RAIBC  
*Comments* Tuition for RAE from RAIBC

### Generation 3

*Contact details* Ray Hazan at HQ  
020 7723 5021  
*Venue/dates* September/Various/Weekend  
*Subscription* No subscription. Accommodation and travel by individual  
*Membership* 6  
*Comments* Social/activity get-together  
For post 1945 members

## A STRANGE COINCIDENCE

By Colin Beaumont-Edmonds

I had accepted an invitation to move the vote of thanks at the October meeting of The East Devon Luncheon Club; the speaker was to be Howard Franklyn, who is sometimes known as Baron Howard de Cattaro, for his ancestors came from a European aristocratic family.

The title of his talk was *The Royal Connection*, for he had served the Royal Family for over 30 years.

In 1918 his grandmother was a royal refugee from Montenegro, Yugoslavia whose daughter married a Yorkshireman who bred horses. Their son was not very interested in the family business. After working in various other places, he eventually settled down as a very successful florist, soon finding himself "By Appointment" to the Royal Family.

Meanwhile his family had settled in a large house in a small Shropshire village, Church Stretton, known as Tiger Hall, which had since been converted into flats.

Before thanking the speaker, I surprised the audience of over one hundred members, by telling them that, on being blinded in 1943, and joining St Dunstan's in Church Stretton, I used to make regular visits to Tiger Hall, which was then the St Dunstan's hospital.

It's a small world, isn't it?

### FIFTY YEARS AGO

Comedian Max Miller, famed for his blue book, helped the ration book last longer by distributing food parcels at St Dunstan's Ovingdean.

# CELEBRATIONS ON THE COAST

## Fancy dress, fun and figgy pudding in a festive finale to the century



Reg Goding as the Vicar of Dibley.

On December 15th there was a Christmas Knock-Out for those staying in the house, lead by Grant Cooper and his merry men. A lot of effort went into this enjoyable exercise. This was rounded off by a visit to see *Sleeping Beauty* where Iain Kerr (one of our Residential Care assistants) was a member of the cast at the Meridian Centre.

To judge the Christmas Decorations on December 17th and join the staff for Christmas lunch was our Chairman and his wife, Captain and Mrs Gordon-Lennox. Nursing-Care Floor 3 stole the prize with their 'Morning after the New Millennium Eve' scene which included live 'props' (St Dunstaners).

Saturday brought our Christmas Concert. Held in the Chapel, this was well attended, after which tea was served in the Main Lounge.

On December 21st the traditional Christmas Concert was held in the Lounge where both staff and St Dunstaners took part, compered by Simon Garland from the Personnel department. At the piano was Martin Dyke, his fingers nimbly running up and down the keyboard as he provided music for the acts.

Christmas Day commenced with a chapel service by Reverend Williams. This was followed by Father Christmas (portrayed by David Habgood, one of our Nursing Care Staff) giving out Christmas presents and sherry to all. Susan Harrison read the Christmas messages from the Chairman and the Chief

Executive. An excellent lunch, prepared and served by PBK's staff, was had by all and following the usual afternoon nap the evening brought light-hearted competition with some Christmas games.

Boxing Day afternoon was spent playing prize bingo. Tim West provided live entertainment in the evening.

Monday, December 27th, the traditional pantomime *Aladdin* drew many to the Theatre Royal. The all-star cast included *Pet Rescue's* Wendy Turner, *Minder's* Gary Webster and the one and only Mr Blobby!

The finale of our festive programme was our New Year's Eve fancy dress party, which everyone enjoyed and participated. Ernie Took (with his ever-present band) provided entertainment and judged Elsie Aldred as a flapper to be the winner. The second prize went to Reg Goding as the Vicar of Dibley. Tom Hart and Mary Frith took third prize as a Farmer and his silly old moo.

The start of the New Year was celebrated by a visit to the Viennese Concert in Worthing and was enjoyed by all.



Just remember that Mike Godden is a martial arts expert and this trick should not be tried at home.

# FIRST FOOT OF NEW MILLENNIUM

Jim Johnson started the new millennium marking the 85th anniversary of St Dunstan's with the first foot of an epic walk - from John O'Groats to Lands End. As January 1st 2000 started Jim was at the northernmost point of the United Kingdom and stepped out on the beginning of his trek south. He was the only walker out there.

Maeve Dillon, Associate Nurse at Ovingdean, joined him on the walk at Fort William, taking the West Highland route. "Jim is in good form," she said.

"There was lots of snow and incessant rain which made the going tough. It's not like Ian Botham with his car travelling just behind. He had a bit of a cold but he was averaging about 15-16 miles a day, that should improve now he is on the highways. He had reached Glasgow when I came back to St Dunstan's."

On January 24th word came that Jim had arrived in Lancaster. St Dunstaner Stan Grimsey is hoping to join Jim when he reaches Church Stretton. In the meantime we wish him all the best on his journey.

## MESSAGE FROM THE HEAD OF FUND RAISING

# We'll climb every mountain ...

On November 27th, a year of fund raising was completed by the cadets of Neston's 2375 Squadron Air Cadets. This was almost a year to the day since Ian Taylor, a civilian instructor, had received St Dunstan's fund raising letter, signed by Terry Bullingham, seeking help from the public.

Having seen the letter, the cadets decided to raise sponsorship for St Dunstan's on a gruelling Welsh 3000's challenge, where every mountain in the Snowdonia range above 3,000ft is climbed within 24 hours. The cadets successfully achieved this in just under 20 hours in early July 1999, on one of the hottest weekends of the year. In doing this, they raised a magnificent £600 for St Dunstan's.

An extra large charity cheque was presented to Billy Griffiths and his wife Alice in their home town, Blackpool. The presentation took place in the function room at the Queens Hotel, Blackpool at no cost. Special thanks are given to the owner and manageress, Pat Mancini, and all the staff for their help, on this occasion and in the past.

The cadets were warmly welcomed by Billy and Alice. Cadets Lindsay Fitch and Jan Aspen gave Alice a bouquet from the Squadron and Will McCormack presented Billy with one of the t-shirts that the cadets wore during the climb.

Billy explained to the cadets how he had been blinded and lost both forearms when he was a



prisoner of war in the Far East. He went on to say how, on his return home, St Dunstan's was there to help him in every way possible and how he was able to meet other comrades who had similar injuries and share their experiences. He added how veterans from World War I were able to help him and pass on their knowledge of coping with blindness.

We are most grateful to Ian Taylor, Colin Hill and the members of 2375 Squadron, to Pat Mancini at the Queens Hotel, and finally to Billy and Alice for accepting the donation on behalf of all St Dunstaners.

Finally, we have received many enquiries as to whether there is a video available of Ken Moss's land speed record. I am pleased to say that copies of a one-hour documentary are now available from the Fund Raising department, at no cost.

# WELCOME

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

**Mr Robert Watson** of Sunderland, Tyne & Wear, became a St Dunstaner on December 2nd. Known as Tony, Mr Watson served in the Royal Navy from 1978 to 1987 on HMS *Coventry*, HMS *Cygnets*, minesweepers and other ships in Northern Ireland, the UK and the Far East. During this time he was a keen rugby player and represented the Service. Now aged 38, he swims, practises yoga and is a member of his local MS Society. Mr Watson and his wife Karen have two daughters Tegan and Rhiana.

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

**Mr Herbert Brantingham** of Newlands, Pershore, Worcestershire served in the Royal Air Force from 1940 to 1946. A Corporal Foreman of Trades he assisted in the building of runways in Iceland and North Africa. After VE day he built the hospital foundations at El Adem near Tobruk. Returning to civilian life he worked as resident stage manager at the *Prince of Wales* Theatre in Cardiff before moving to London where he ran a theatrical store. He also built stage sets for seven London theatres and ATV. Now aged 90, he has a keen interest in bowls and golf. Mr Brantingham has two daughters Carol and Jean.

**Mr Mark Brewin** of Gately, Cheadle, Cheshire, now aged 25, served as an instructor in the Army Cadet Force, Cheshire Regiment from 1993 to 1998. He works for BUPA as a computer programme designer.

**Mr Philip Browning** of Southwick, Sussex, now aged 70, served in the Royal Artillery from 1947 to 1949 at Dover and Canterbury. He later became a printer, qualifying as a master printer before his retirement. In the past he enjoyed golf, sailing and boxing.

**Mr William Burrows** of Luton, Bedfordshire served in the Royal Air Force from 1948 to 1950. He served as an electrical assistant at RAF Odiham,

Accrington and Beauleigh. In civilian life he worked in engineering for firms such as Fairey Aviation and Vauxhall. Now aged 69, Mr Burrows enjoys fishing, bowling, dominoes and attending motor racing. He and his wife Norma have three daughters Rosalind, Jennifer and Sally-Ann and six grandchildren.

**Mr William Hayes** of Wallasey, Merseyside served in the Merchant Navy from 1935 to 1945 on the North Atlantic convoys. He was a prisoner of war during this time.

**Mr Gordon Humphrey** of Coldean, Brighton, East Sussex served in the Royal Air Force from 1941 to 1948. During this time, he joined the Ministry of Aircraft Production and worked on the development of turbines for the Whittle jet engine. He later transferred to the Home Guard as a member of the Bomb Disposal Company. In civilian life he worked for Alan West Engineering retiring in 1983 as Manager of Production Engineering in their electrical section. Mr Humphrey and his wife Frances have four sons, ten grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren. Now aged 79, he was interested in gardening and fishing.

**Mr John Langridge** of Berkeley, Gloucestershire served in the Royal Army Service Corps from 1952 to 1955. Posted to Egypt he joined 16 Independent Airborne Brigade and served as an ambulance driver in 63 Airborne Company and the Ambulance section. Qualifying as a parachutist he returned to the UK. After leaving the army he returned to farming, later turning his hand to HGV repairs before retiring in 1980. Now aged 64, he is a keen radio ham and enjoys music. Mr Langridge and his wife Connie have four children, Gail, David, Barbara and Richard, ten grandchildren and one great-grandchild.

**Mr David Marshall** of Chanterhill, Enniskillen, Northern Ireland enlisted in 1988, serving with 4 Royal Irish. Aged 39, Mr Marshall and his wife Ann have two children Emma and Keith.

**Mr Harold Middleton** of Beaminster, Dorset served in the Royal Army Medical Corps from 1938 to 1942, the Essex Regiment from 1942 to 1943 and

finally the Royal Army Service Corps from 1943 to 1946. He served in the UK, France, Germany and the Middle East where he was blown up and thrown from a truck. Now aged 78, he is a keen radio ham. Mr Middleton is married to Pat.

**Mr Sidney Morgan** of Crediton, Devon served in the Royal Armoured Corps from 1939 to 1946. Avoiding capture at Tobruk he fought at El Alamein, Sicily, Italy and Normandy. He left the service as a WOII. After the war he returned to Aga Cookers and was a member of Allied Iron Founders.

**Mr Reginald Mustchin** of Romney Marsh, Kent served in the Royal Artillery from 1939 to 1946. A member of the TA he originally joined 31st Battalion Royal Engineers before re-badging into the Royal Artillery. After the war he became a publicity officer and worked in advertising before becoming a publican. A keen painter, he has taken up woodcarving. Mr Mustchin's father and brother both worked for St Dunstan's. He is married to Mary.

**Mrs Anne Nimmins** of Consett, Co Durham served in the Royal Air Force from 1942 to 1946. Posted to several locations in England and Wales, which included a tour of duty on balloons in Tyneside. After the war she and her sister ran a hairdressers for 30 years. Mrs Nimmins, now aged 76, enjoys sewing and knitting. She and her husband Thomas have a daughter

**Mr Alan Nicholls** of Bewdley, Worcestershire served in the Royal Air Force from 1944 to 1970. He served as a cleric in Egypt at the end of the war before completing tours in the UK, Germany, Singapore and Bahrain. He retired from the RAF as a Sergeant and then worked as a clerk in the transport department of the Midland's Electricity Board. Now aged 81, his interests included sequence dancing and bridge. He and his wife have six children, 12 grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

**Mr Gary Ogden** of Hartcliffe, Bristol, now aged 40, served in the Royal Artillery from 1976 to 1980. A member of the 7th Regiment Royal Horse Artillery, he served in Germany, Northern Ireland and the UK. He then worked as a HGV driver before setting up his own company specialising in damp proofing and timber preservation. He later became a publican.

**Mr Reginald Packman** of Hailsham, East Sussex served in the Royal Army Medical Corps from 1939 to 1946, serving in Egypt and Saudi Arabia as part of the British Locust Mission. As well as providing medical support the team provided weapons training for bodyguards protecting the Saudi Royal Family. After the war, he worked for the Liverpool & Victoria Insurance Company until his retirement in 1981. Now aged 81, Mr Packman used to play football, golf and bowls but remains a keen walker. He and his wife Jean have a son and a daughter and four grandchildren.

**Mr Charles Pay** of Maidstone, Kent served in the Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers from 1942 to 1947 in East Africa as Transport Sergeant. Leaving the Army, he joined the prison service in Maidstone where he worked for 27 years. He has held a number of key appointments in his local Royal British Legion. Now aged 77, he is interested in music and has a collection of over 500 records – mainly military bands. He is married to Gladys.

**Mr Edward Peake** of Lea, Preston, Lancashire served in the Royal Artillery from 1939 to 1946 and the Royal Armoured Corps (TA) from 1965 to 1969. He was taken prisoner at the fall of Singapore and worked on the railway. After the war he worked initially for ICI and then transferred to the Ministry of Supply, later the Atomic Energy Commission and finally British Nuclear Fuels. He and his wife Louisa have two daughters. Mr Peake, now aged 81, is Chairman and President of the Blackpool FEPOW Organisation and chairs the local Over 60's Club and Probus.

**Mr Bernard Pitcher** of Cambridge served as a Sergeant in the 2nd Battalion Royal Fusiliers from 1938 to 1946. Deployed in France as part of the BEF, he was wounded before Dunkirk and carried by four Grenadier Guardsmen to the beaches for evacuation. He returned to the Battalion in North Africa, Tunis, Solerno, Cassino and Greece. Now aged 80, Mr Pitcher worked in the construction industry. His interests include gardening, DIY and tapestry. He and his wife Dorothy have one son, two grandsons and three great-grandchildren.

**Mr Douglas Southwold** of Plymouth, Devon served as an armourer in the Royal Air Force from 1941 to 1947. After the war he returned to International Paints as a technical representative. He later joined

Devon County Council Social Services and managed a centre for disabled people in Plymouth. Now aged 78, Mr Southwold maintains an active interest in art.

**Mr James Sparks** of Saltdean, Brighton served in the Royal Air Force from 1938 to 1948. He was seconded to the Fleet Air Arm, sailing on the Russian convoys and also served in Canada and India. After leaving the RAF he spent 25 years in the Birmingham City Police Force and then joined National Westminster Bank. Now aged 78, he enjoys bowls. Mr Sparks and his wife Joy have three children, two grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

**Sergeant Mark Threadgold** of Eastbourne, East Sussex is now aged 31. He enlisted in 1984, serving with the Royal Signals in Northern Ireland, York, Cyprus and London.

**Mr Derrick Tuck** of Harborne, Birmingham served in the Royal Air Force from 1951 to 1954. After leaving the service, he worked in industry. Now aged 66, he is a guide dog owner.

**Mr John Twells** of Rugby, Warwickshire, now aged 92, served in the Royal Signals from 1940 to 1946 in North Africa, Sicily and Italy. After the war, he returned to his job as a milkman. Interested in football, he used to act as a referee.

**Mrs Peggy West** of Cambridge served in the ATS from 1941 to 1942 as part of an Ack Ack Regiment in Graystown and South Shields and later joined the Royal Observer Corps. Now aged 74, she took up bowls, winning the gold in the World Championships in Canada and silver in the UK. A keen walker she also learnt to play golf. Mrs West has three sons and a daughter and nine grandchildren.

**Reverend David Youngson** of Billingham, Cleveland served in the Royal Air Force from 1956 to 1958 as acting Corporal. He had been apprenticed in the Merchant Navy and worked in sales for Biro before being ordained as a priest in the Church of England. Now aged 62, he has been actively involved with charities and community groups. He enjoys fell walking, golf, classical music, British philately and cricket and has two sons Graeme and Andrew.



### **Suicide Trail**

*Author:* Wayne C. Lee

*Reader:* Robert Ashby

*Catalogue number:* 8169

*Duration:* 3 Hours 58 minutes.

As every aficionado of horse-flesh knows, the handsome Morgan is strong fast and adaptable, being equally willing to pull a load as to be ridden. It is the equine equivalent, if you like, of the versatile and desirable Range Rover of today.

So when, in the days when the American west was still wild and woolly, a hundred of these splendid animals were to be taken overland to California, there is little wonder they caused covetous thoughts in many others.

These others, as befits a western story, include rascally Redskins and various naughty white men who will stop at nothing to steal the priceless herd. So the stage is set for a great tale of daring-do for the drama is played out on the frequently hostile terrain of an unsettled continent. There are mountains and rivers and quicksands, all the hazards the early pioneers encountered, and the "good guys" in the story have to overcome all these with the ever-present threat of human enemies in the shadows. And not always in the shadows either; circumstances forced them to engage as help a couple of unsavoury characters you wouldn't trust further than you could spit tobacco juice, and these had to be guarded against too. And as if that wasn't enough, they had the family of a feeble-minded preacher to protect too, (especially his mighty pretty daughter).

It's all real good stuff in the true tradition of the Saturday matinee film show, every chapter brings them closer to the Californian gold fields but it brings increasing danger as well. Do the heroes win through? And does the fair damsel escape a fate worse than death? The answer was always "Yes" when Tom Mix or Hopalong Cassidy were in the cast, but in this case you must find out for yourselves. Happy listening Pard.

## **CLUB NEWS**

### **BOWLING**

We were delighted to welcome 23 bowlers, wives and helpers to the November tournament.

Everyone had to get used to the new bowling carpet, which helped to make the games interesting! We did however enjoy some excellent and skilful games.

The organisation involved in accommodating so many matches proved to be quite a complex matter but with some of the bowlers staying for two weeks, the congestion was eased somewhat.

For non-members I must explain that a match lasts for one hour and we only have one rink to use.

The winners by category were:

#### **Totally blind singles**

Winner Tom Whitley  
Runner up Tony Parkinson

#### **Partially sighted singles**

Winner John Hopkins  
Runner up Phil Dobson

#### **Pairs**

Winners John Perfect and Iain Millard  
Runners up Jackie Pryor and Phil Dobson  
3rd Alf Waters and Boyd McKinley

#### **Triples**

Winners Bill Carthy, Tom Whitley and Jesse Mills  
Runners up Tony Parkinson, Craig Neller and John Hopkins

### **THANK YOU**

We were pleased to see Reg and Vi Bradford assisting once again and we were very grateful to Edna Cope and John Mугan for all their invaluable help throughout the tournament. Also a big thank you to the members of staff who assisted the wheelchair bowlers in their game.

Finally I would like to wish you all a happy and healthy 2000 and look forward to seeing you all at the March tournament.

**Bob Osborne**  
Chairman

## **FAMILY NEWS**

### **BIRTHS**

#### **Congratulations on the birth of:**

Harry Williams on July 25th. He is the great-grandson of Mrs Rose Lee of Merton Park, London, widow of *Henry Lee*.

Harry in October. He is the great-grandson of Mrs Jessie Blundell of Penketh, nr Warrington, Cheshire, widow of *Harry Blundell*.

Jamie Sharples on October 18th. He is the great-grandson of *Tom and Nancy Taylor* of Leyland, Preston Lancashire.

Daniel John on October 26th. He is the grandson of *Ted and Beryl John* of Wallasey, Merseyside.

Charles Pugh on December 6th. He is the grandson of Mrs Catherine Pugh of Colchester, Essex and the late *James Pugh*.

Holly Clements on December 13th. She is the first grandchild of *Chris and Sally Redman* of Enniskillen, Northern Ireland.

### **GOLDEN ANNIVERSARY**

#### **Congratulations to:**

*Bernard and Madge Boyle* of Middlesbrough, Cleveland on December 28th.

### **DIAMOND ANNIVERSARIES**

#### **Congratulations to:**

*Gwenllian and Ernest Obern* of Aberdare, Mid Glamorgan on December 23rd.

*Charles and Elsie Redford* of East Molesey, Surrey on December 23rd.

### **ACHIEVEMENTS**

#### **Congratulations to:**

Melanie Ford on graduating from Sheffield Hallam University with a BSc and BSc (Hon) in Business Information Systems. She is the granddaughter of *Ernest and Betty Ford* of Middlesbrough, Cleveland.

Michael Land on graduating with a first class degree with honours in Geography. He is the grandson of Mrs Phyllis Land of Lee on Solent, Hampshire and the late *Cecil Land*.



Paul, grandson of *Tom and Nancy Taylor* of Leyland, Lancashire on obtaining a BA Honours degree from the Central Lancs University.

## DEATHS

### We regret to announce the death of:

Mrs Joyce Tingay on January 1st. She was the wife of *Ron Tingay* of Peacehaven, East Sussex.

Mrs Phoebe Phillips on January 10th. She was the wife of *Ron Phillips* of Hawkhurst, Kent.

Mrs Zeala Nugee of Nailsworth, Gloucestershire on October 16th. She was the widow of *Rev Andrew Nugee*.

Mrs Ida Grimwood of Blackburn, Lancashire on November 22nd. She was the widow of *William Grimwood*.

Mrs Audrey Lee of Pudsey, West Yorkshire on November 24th. She was the widow of *John Lee*.

Mrs Hilda Webster of Blackheath, London on December 29th. She was the widow of *Samuel Webster*.

Mrs Mary Slee of Penrith, Cumbria on January 10th. She was the widow of *Joseph Slee*.

Mrs Joan Butler on December 6th. She was the daughter of Mrs May Harrington of Great Bricett, Ipswich, Suffolk and the late *Alfred Harrington*.

**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.**

### **Horace Foster**

*Royal Signals*

Horace Foster of Ovingdean, known as Joe, died on December 16th, aged 82. He had been a St Dunstaner since 1996. He worked as a transport clerk before enlisting in 1940. He served in the Middle East with the Royal Signals reaching the rank

of Warrant Officer before his discharge in 1946. He played football for the regiment and in later years became Secretary to Averly Football Club. Returning to civilian life, Mr Foster worked as a credit controller. Our sympathy goes to his widow Florence, sons Douglas, Patrick, Andrew and Clive, and all other members of the family.

### **Stanley Jones**

*Royal Artillery*

Stanley Rees Jones of Leighton Buzzard, Bedfordshire died on January 9th, aged 76. He had been a St Dunstaner since 1946. Originally a miner, he enlisted in 1942 and served in the Royal Artillery as a Gunner. He received gunshot wounds to the head while in Germany shortly before the war's end. After training at St Dunstan's Mr Jones worked in industry. Our sympathy goes to his widow Betty and son Michael and all other members of the family.

### **Alfred Bradley**

*Royal Army Service Corps*

Alfred George Bradley of Rosliston, nr Swadlincote, Derbyshire died on January 10th aged 81. He had been a St Dunstaner since 1945. Originally a milkman, he enlisted in 1939 and served as a driver in the Royal Army Service Corps. During this time he was wounded in Sicily. After training at St Dunstan's, where he mastered braille in record time, he joined Barclay's Bank as a telephonist, retiring in 1978. Actively involved with his local church, Mr Bradley became a lay reader and had some success with the publication of a number of religious texts. Our sympathy goes to his widow Lilian, daughters Eileen and Joan, sons David and Phillip and all other members of the family.

## **The Diana Gubbay Trust for the Blind**

### **Charles Ryan**

*Royal Army Service Corps*

Mr Charles Ryan of Liverpool, Merseyside died on November 29th, aged 83. He enlisted in 1940 with the Royal Army Service Corps and served in North Africa and Italy. He was discharged with the rank of Sergeant in 1945 and returned to his previous job as a docker. Mr Ryan was actively involved with his local Royal British Legion. Our sympathy goes to his widow Ann, their four children and all other members of the family.