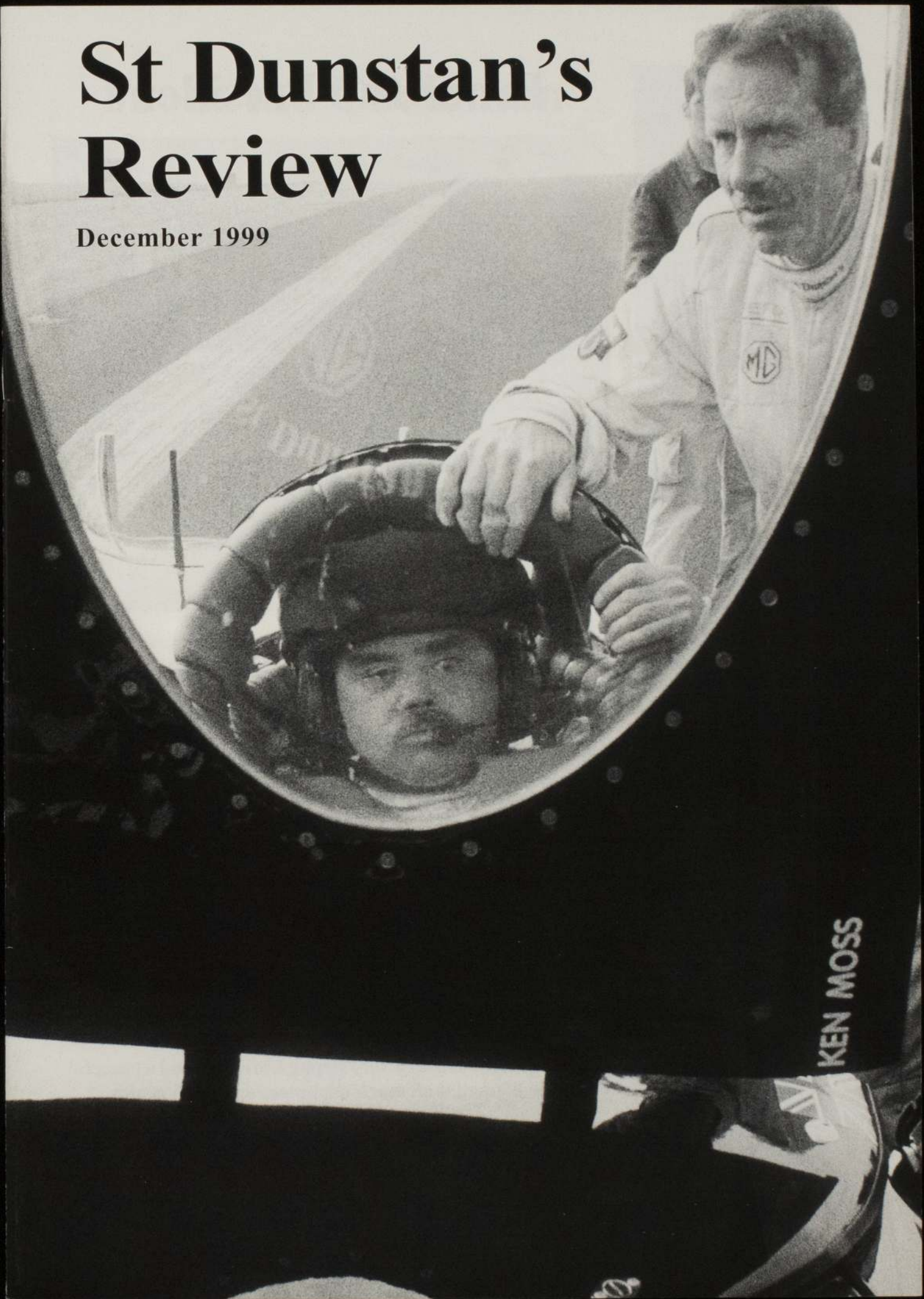


St Dunstan's Review

December 1999



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Cover picture:

Ken Moss confers with
rally driver Tony Pond
before embarking on a
ground breaking drive.
Full story on page nine.

From the President



Christmas is a time when the family gets together. My wife Joyce and I will be with our daughter in Bath. We do hope that all members of the St Dunstan's family will be able to enjoy a delightful time together.

Now we look forward to the 21st century; a glimpse back reminds us of the peaceful years that started the 20th century, the appalling losses that came from two World Wars in the first half. During the last fifty years, there have been incredible advances in technology and rapid travel, making almost every event a global one. We, the older generation, wonder what the future has in store for us all.

Let us remember that the year will be 2000 Anno Domini, and pray that it will be a peaceful year to begin the century.

Joyce and I wish you all a very Happy Christmas and a peaceful New Year blessed with much happiness and good health.

Colin Beaumont-Edmonds, MC

From the Chairman



I have never ceased to be amazed by the achievements of the members of our St Dunstan's family. I was privileged to witness, for myself, Ken Moss breaking the two land speed records for a blind person driving firstly accompanied at 154mph, and then amazingly, on his own, at 131mph. This is truly proof, if it were needed, that given the right backup, visually handicapped people can achieve as much, and sometimes more, than their able-bodied counterparts. I find his courage, after all he has gone through, almost defies belief.

Each one of the 886 issues of the *Review* published since our foundation has told stories of achievement. As we approach St Dunstan's 85th year and the new millennium, may you continue to inspire each other and those about you.

Jenny and I wish you a most Happy Christmas and all that you could hope for in the year ahead.

Captain Michael Gordon-Lennox, RN

CHRISTMAS GREETINGS

All staff at Headquarters, Ovingdean and around the country wish the members of the St Dunstan's family a very Happy Christmas. We trust everyone will enjoy good health and much happiness during the coming year.

BACK IN FEBRUARY

St Dunstan's *Review* will be back in February 2000. Any letters, suggestions and submissions for publication are always welcome.

The *Review* is published monthly in print, braille, tape, disk and large print formats. If you require any specific variation, contact the Public Relations department.

DEADLINES FOR FUTURE ISSUES

The final date for submitting items for the February *Review* is January 7th 2000.

The final date for submitting items for the March *Review* is January 28th 2000.

The final date for submitting items for the April *Review* is February 28th 2000.



NOTICE BOARD



WHAT'S ON NEXT CENTURY

These are just some of the events and activities that make up St Dunstan's 2000 calendar. Details of other meetings will appear in future issues. For some Club events participants should note that arrival and departure dates are one day before and after those published. Bookings for accommodation at St Dunstan's Ovingdean should be made through your Welfare Officer.

BBS Archery Championship	February 19th-26th
Computer Club	March 16th-17th
Amateur Radio Society	March 17th-19th
Bowling Club	March 24th-31st
Dutch Memorial Laying of Flowers at Ovingdean	April 11th
Brighton Reunion (I)	April (to be confirmed)
Norwich Reunion	April (to be confirmed)
Widows' Week (I)	April (to be confirmed)
Ex-POW Reunion	April 14th-16th
Walking Holiday	April (to be confirmed)
Liverpool Reunion	May (to be confirmed)
Birmingham Reunion	May (to be confirmed)
Handless Reunion	May 10th-16th
Exeter Reunion	May (to be confirmed)
London Reunion	May (to be confirmed)
Nottingham Reunion	May (to be confirmed)
Cardiff Reunion	June 7th (to be confirmed)
Archery	June 11th-17th
Newcastle Reunion	June (to be confirmed)

Leeds Reunion	June (to be confirmed)
Shaftesbury Reunion	June (to be confirmed)
Edinburgh Reunion	June (to be confirmed)
Action Week	June 23rd-July 2nd
Widows' Week (II)	July (to be confirmed)
HMS <i>Sultan</i>	July 28th-August 5th
Archery	August 27th- September 2nd
Ladies' Reunion	September 8th-11th
Brighton Reunion (II)	September (to be confirmed)
Braille Rally	September 17th
International War Blinded Congress	September 23rd-27th
Physiotherapy Weekend	September 29th- October 1st
Computer Club	October 5th-6th
Amateur Radio Society	October 6th-8th
Widows' Week (III)	October (to be confirmed)
Bowling Club	November 3rd-10th
Remembrance Sunday	November 12th

VIP MOVIE REVIEWS

Blindspots, a website produced by a blind filmgoer, is reviewing movies with a visually impaired audience in mind. Films are rated on a scale of one to ten. A movie scoring one is impossible to follow even with the best-sighted assistant, while a ten score means that a blind person can follow and enjoy the film without any sighted assistance. *Blindspots* can be found at <http://www.vashti.net/blind/>.

ADDITIONS TO ST DUNSTAN'S TRANSPORT POLICY

The term 'beneficiaries' below applies to St Dunstaners, their wives/husbands and children, widows/widowers, escorts and beneficiaries of the Diana Gubbay Trust for the Blind.

The following additions to St Dunstan's transport policy will come into effect from January 6th 2000. Beneficiaries travelling to Ovingdean by rail and using a disabled railcard may claim a refund of their fare. The Transport department will arrange for them to be met at the station for ferrying to Ovingdean. The refund can be claimed from the Cashier at Ovingdean on production of the rail tickets or an official receipt, which is obtainable at the time of purchase.

NB A pamphlet *Rail Travel for Disabled Passengers*, which includes the Disabled Persons Railcard Application Form, is available at most staffed railway stations or telephone 0191 269 0303. A railcard currently costs £14.

Those travelling by private car to Ovingdean may claim a mileage allowance of 17p per mile. This is refundable from the cashier at Ovingdean.

CAMP AT HMS SULTAN 2000

The camp at HMS *Sultan* will take place next year from Friday, July 28th 2000 until the morning of Saturday, August 5th 2000. I do hope that all those who enjoyed camp this year and also in other years will come again. There is a danger that if the number of campers falls any lower the camp may have to come to a close. Please tell other St Dunstaners and encourage them to come and to contact Elspeth Grant, High Acre, Catmere End, Saffron Walden CB11 4XG or preferably by telephone on 01799 522874 as soon as possible and not later than May 8th 2000.

SIR MAURICE HATTER

Congratulations to Sir Maurice Hatter, who received his knighthood in November. He is the uncle of Jean Hatter of Clapham, London, daughter of the late St Dunstaner David Hatter.

LYNNE THOMAS

Lynne Thomas left St Dunstan's on November 22nd. She joined the staff at Ovingdean as Activities Co-ordinator in 1997 and has moved to the RNIB as a Leisure Link Project Co-ordinator.

WHEELCHAIR USE AT OIVINGDEAN AND HOME

Those of you who use wheelchairs at home and who book into Ovingdean should try to bring your own with you. If this is not possible, for any reason, then please speak to your Welfare Officer who will try and arrange for a loan chair at Ovingdean.

Those wanting to stay in holiday accommodation at Ovingdean are advised that they should either use self-propelled chairs or be accompanied by a spouse or carer who can take them about. We regret there are no carers on the holiday wings who can perform this task.

If you do not use a wheelchair at home, but feel you need one at Ovingdean for whatever reason, then please consult your Welfare Officer first.

We regret that St Dunstan's Ovingdean cannot accept any liability for injury or discomfort sustained when using loaned wheelchairs while at our centre.

If you need a wheelchair at home, then please speak to your GP who will advise you how best to obtain one.

WALKING HOLIDAY 2000

If anyone is interested in receiving details about this venture, which is likely to take place towards the end of April next year, will they please contact the PR department. The five daily walks are short, nor are they all obligatory. It is a fun week, so please feel free to join in!

PRINTED MATERIAL WANTED

If anyone has any print books, magazines or comics they no longer require, then St Dunstaner Patrick Murphy would appreciate them in aid of deprived children in Malaysia and the Philippines. Patrick specifically requests NO cheques or cash, please.

Please send any material to Mr P. Murphy, 31 Lincoln Street, Norwich, Norfolk NR2 3JY.

DO YOU REMEMBER?

Mrs Potts of Hampshire is asking if anybody remembers her uncle. He was Royal Engineer Leonard Bury who died on August 19th 1943 on the River Kwai Bridge. If you have any information please contact her on 01730 827374.

FLOWERS FOR A FRIEND

It is now possible to send a gift of flowers with the accompanying message in a format that can be read by a blind person. A florist has taken advice from the Royal National Institute for the Blind on producing messages in large print, braille or cassette.

This service is available from Flower Vogue at 41 Head Street, Colchester, Essex CO1 1NH. Tel: 01206 564832. Website: <http://www.flower-vogue.co.uk>. Bouquets can be delivered throughout the UK from £9.99 to £30.

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 each order to cover p&p.

LANCASTER BOMBS YORKSHIRE

In the autumn of 1944, an unknown aircraft bombed a remote area of the Yorkshire Wolds, killing a farmer's cow! The Observer Post at Bubwith plotted the offending aircraft as 'hostile', but over at Observer Post 4, Cawood, 17 year old John Booth was certain it was a Lancaster on sound and plotted it as such, much to the anger of the Bubwith Observer.

John later met a crewman from Lancaster N for Nan (550 Squadron). Returning from an abortive raid it got into difficulties and dropped its payload. John discovered that the crew had baled out safely. The skipper ditched the aeroplane in the sea, confident that the bombing would be blamed on the enemy!

The incident features on a cassette tape of John's book *Wartime Tales of a Yorkshire Tyke*. The three-hour tape costs £12.95 and is available via the Public Relations department at Headquarters.

CHRISTMAS CARDS FOR SALE

St Dunstan's Christmas cards are still available. It sports the familiar torch-badge in a frame with curved corners. Measuring 100x140mm it has a foil finish and they come in red, green and blue. Inside it reads "With best wishes for Christmas and the New Year." The cards cost 25p each, (which includes p&p). They are available to all from the Public Relations department at Headquarters.

MOBILE PHONE OFFER

A mobile phone package has been devised with visually impaired people in mind. Queen Alexandra College (QAC) and Vodafone have devised a package around the Nokia 5110 mobile phone handset.

The QAC offer provides the Nokia 5110 for £9.99 (normal price £19.99), free connection, Vodafone accessories at half price and free delivery. All-important information can be provided in braille, large print or on tape. This includes information about the package and how to buy, key parts of the user guide and monthly bills.

The Nokia 5110 weighs 170g, has large keys with varying shapes for easy identification by touch and provides easy access to functions via the "Nokia Navi key." A wide range of accessories such as hands-free kits, leather cases and chargers can be added. The phone has four tariff options with monthly line rental ranging from £14.99 to £40. Peak rates apply from 08.00 to 19.00, Monday to Friday.

For further details call 0800 101112, or e-mail esales@vodafone-retail.co.uk, quoting Queen Alexandra College Offer. The sales agent needs to be told which bill format (braille, tape or large print) is required at time of purchase.

BEAUTY TIPS

Leading make-up artist Jenny Jordan has got together with Action for Blind People to produce a leaflet with tips and advice for those who feel nervous about the idea of applying make-up. Available free, in tape or large print, it can be obtained from the Information and Advice department at Action for Blind People on 0171 732 8771.

VI MUSIC

A mail order company, VI Music, have produced a free catalogue of CDs and tapes on cassette. It can be ordered on 0870 241 1329.

RON LAYS DOWN THE GAUNTLET

On Wednesday, October 20th Ron Cattell, a regular gymnasium user at Ovingdean, was set the challenge of rowing 10,000 metres on the Concept II rowing machine. With much encouragement from the gymnasium staff, and anyone else who happened to be passing by, Ron achieved this in a mere one hour and eight minutes. A remarkable feat for someone 81 years of age. Congratulations Ron!

If anyone else, young or old, would like to take on this challenge and try to beat Ron's rowing record please contact Grant Cooper in the Sports and Recreation Department at St Dunstan's Ovingdean on 01273 307811 extension 3219.



FIRST CLASSIC WALK OF THE MILLENNIUM IN AID OF ST DUNSTAN'S

Ovingdean lift attendant Jim Johnson is planning an epic walk in aid of St Dunstan's. He writes:

"In response to your appeal for ways of marking St Dunstan's 85 year old operation, I thought I might lay out the details of a walk I am pleased to undertake as an individual representing St Dunstan's. The walk will be from John O'Groats to Lands End taking a total time of 56 days. That is, 50 days

walking at an average of 17 miles a day with a spread of six days spaced out for rest. It will begin at John O'Groats precisely at the first stroke of January 1st 2000 and with luck a St Dunstan's employee will be the first walker to start the 'walker's classic' in the new millennium."

We wish Jim the best of luck and look forward to publishing a progress report in the February issue.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Letters to the Editor are always welcome. Send a letter, tape or disk to The Public Relations Department, 12-14 Harcourt Street, London W1A 4XB. E-mail: st.dunstans@btinternet.com

From: Terry Walker, Portsmouth

Back in the building again and treading familiar corridors. Each bringing a change of atmosphere impregnated with long ago memories. Pushing open sentinel swing doors where the past haunts me.

How long this time? Just a week but it takes less than a few seconds to realise that all the words so painfully wrung out in the opening chapter are gone forever. No Mary at the lounge desk, not even the chicken head posture from the leader of the Mafia, as they were known. Joe Henry and the rest of the merry men are here, here for those receptive to their presence.

Today, one may catch a glimpse of a survivor from yesterday passing silently down the corridor, perhaps moving towards the handicraft department. Mary and Lenie stand ready, teacher caring, with velvet ears. But it's home, it's full of warmth for everyone, for the new eager faces, for those with time to sit and talk and for those wishing to take things easy. Friendly banter ringing the walls from people moving to and fro. Today one may hear the clink of glass or the peal of handbells, interrupted with laughter, argument and happy voices.

Yes, it's still the same after all!

UNRAVELLING THE WEB

by Ray Hazan

Some of the mysteries of the World Wide Web were unravelled during the Computer Club meeting held at Ovingdean on October 8th-9th. A newcomer was Brad, assistant to Janis Sharp, who specialises in hardware and systems. He was able to field many queries on a range of topics including back-up devices, accessing newsgroups, group e-mailing, but not which lottery numbers were coming up on Saturday!

In the evening a most pleasant buffet supper was held in the Winter Garden, culminating in the telling of jokes, thus relieving the talk of shop.

On the second day, we were pleased to welcome Jackie Clifton and Daniel de Azevedo. Jackie trained at the Royal College of Music before her sight failed. She formed Musicians in Focus to help those visually handicapped interested in the subject. With a synthesiser, i.e. a keyboard, a laptop computer with a screen reader, she used a program called Cakewalk6 to create music, gradually adding one instrument upon another until a full band sound had been created. This is all saved to computer disk and can be played back like a CD.

Snippets gleaned over the two days included the

availability of tutorial cassettes from the Disability Advice and Welfare Network (DAWN) based at St Helen's, Merseyside. There are two volumes of tapes: *An introduction to Windows and Computing for Beginners* on four cassettes and *MS Word* on six cassettes.

Each set is available at £14 for members of DAWN and £20 for non-members (membership is £10 per annum). Please telephone freephone 0800 0730171 for further details. DAWN also have a home visiting service at a cost of around £50 per day. Please also telephone them for further details.

Another cassette was prepared by Norman Hopkins describing his use of a spreadsheet to produce a database and address labels. Please contact the PR department for a copy.

There were plenty of 'Did you know's', 'I do it that way' and 'Get yourself a decent screen reader!' but it was the usual convivial, absorbing and beneficial occasion. A big thank you from us all to Janis and Brad.

The next meeting takes place at Ovingdean on Thursday and Friday, March 16th-17th 2000. All are welcome.

WIDOWS' WEEK

by Marjorie Humphrey

Another happy Widows' Week (October 28th to November 5th) was survived by a good handful of volunteers most of whom joined in the in house entertainment during their stay. In addition, there were the extra events laid on for them by Lynne, who will be sadly missed after her departure.

An extremely talented presentation of *Oliver* was on the programme for Saturday afternoon at the Worthing theatre. The show could have outperformed many professional productions.

One afternoon we were initiated into the mysteries of glass painting and making stained glass pictures. This complicated Lenie's busy life but as usual she

remained unperturbed and smiling. The activity left all participants feeling they had achieved something. Some of the party joined in the Christmas Pudding making; some joined in and helped the winning team in the Music quiz, others tried their hand at bell ringing whilst others went for Reflexology treatment and others delved into the mysteries of Aromatherapy.

All in all, it was a very varied, enjoyable and happy week of comradeship. It was further enhanced by afternoon and lunchtime outings to Horsham, Chichester and Pevensey. Of course the highlight of the week was lunch with Susan Harrison in the Winter Garden, a truly 'Cordon Bleu' affair. See you all next year!

Ray Hazan stands witness to a triumph of tenacity and technology

SPEED SOLO

Ken Moss establishes first ever land speed record for a blind man driving a car alone



Ken Moss in hospital soon after the devastating crash that blinded him.

In 1992, PC Ken Moss was involved in a very serious road accident – he was given a five per cent chance of survival. Seven years later, Ken holds two world land speed records, being the first blind person ever to travel by himself at the wheel of a car at over 130mph.

Ken was a class A police driver. On that fateful day in November 1992 he was following a stolen car. The driver, a young joy rider, caused a lorry to swerve, which in turn crashed head on into Ken's vehicle, crushing both his skull and the car. Driving was his passion and even before he left hospital, he vowed to get behind the steering wheel again and to become the fastest blind man on four wheels. Ken became a beneficiary of the Diana Gubbay Trust for the Blind in January 1993 and underwent rehabilitation training at Ovingdean.

On November 14th 1993, exactly one year to the day of his accident, Ken attempted to break the blind accompanied land speed record in a Ford Mondeo. Unfortunately sharp winds cutting across the runway prevented the attempt, but he still

managed to crack speeds of up to 120mph. Former World Champion driver, Jackie Stewart, passed on several tips to Ken. May 31st 1994 saw the second attempt by Ken in a Ford Cosworth. Weather conditions and a tyre blowout foiled the attempt.

When Neil Swan, Head of Fund Raising heard of Ken's ambition, he put to effect his previous involvement as an osteopath to the world's top drivers in the World Rally Championship and Formula One. He used this experience to attract the right partners to assist Ken. His connections included former British World Championship Rally driver, Tony Pond and Head of Man Machine Integration, scientist Dr Graham Rood at the Defence Evaluation and Research Agency (DERA). But Ken's attempt this time was to be different. He was to make it a world first – a visually handicapped person driving at record speed on his own.

The attempt involved many strands coming together, which was driven and co-ordinated by Neil Swan and by the determination of all involved enabling Ken



The police car that Ken was driving during that fateful collision.

to succeed. Above all, Ken had the support of his wife Cheryl. Tony Pond was to be Ken's trainer for three months and Scientist Paul Kellett from DERA would be responsible for designing, from scratch, a simulator and the guidance system.

After considering a number of guidance methods, including Global Satellite Positioning (GPS), laser, infra red and radar Paul and Graham decided upon a vehicle-contained Inertial Navigation System. A piece of equipment built by Watson Industries of Romsey was recommended. This equipment is used in missiles and fast jets with a good range of sophisticated software. This provided the basis with which to give a left or right tone in either side of a pair of stereo headphones, inside Ken's crash helmet, denoting any deviation from a centre line. Thus a bleep in both ears and the car was going along the desired line.

Due to the high noise levels expected from the record car, DERA had provided Ken with an Active Noise Reduction system of the type flown in Harrier and in production for the Royal Navy Sea King variants. This allows the driver to clearly hear the guidance tones and any emergency radio signals.

Additionally, DERA had designed a system to tell Ken when to change gear and, most importantly, when to start braking! Once in the cockpit of the car and wearing a crash helmet he would be totally isolated from car sounds thereby not knowing when to change gear or brake. A tactile system, which applied a vibration on his neck, similar to the rifle sight designed for our deaf/blind St Dunstaners, gave Ken the required indications.

Previous attempts at a speed record partially failed due to the lack of power in the car. It needed a big name to come up with a 'lean, mean, green machine!' The first two manufacturers approached turned the project down as it was deemed "too dangerous". Following extensive talks and presentations by Neil Swan and Tony Pond, MG finally decided to back the project. MG was generous in loaning their specially built prototype MG EXF car, which is based on the MGF sports car. It has a rear-mounted 1430cc turbo charged engine producing 330 brake horsepower. It has a very small, left hand drive cockpit with a perspex cover as on a jet aircraft. The driving seat is within a protective shell in case of an accident. On the rear of the body are two fins, resembling shark's dorsal fins, to aid stability. The car has very large racing brakes



Ken runs through last minute checks with DERA's Paul Kellett and Dr Graham Rood.



The man and machine, fully integrated.



He's done it! Stuart and Cheryl Moss are exuberant as Ken speeds into history.



Cheryl congratulates Ken.

Pictures: Sutton Pictures, Paul James, Simon Rogers



The men behind the speed attempt! Dr Rood, Paul Kellett, the MG team, the car, Tony Pond, Neil Swan and the man himself, Ken.

Right: Ken's success was toasted with Taittinger champagne.

and a parachute at the rear for the real emergency stop! In order to improve the aerodynamics, there is no radiator. This meant that the internal water system had to be changed after a few runs to maintain a correct working temperature.

Ken spent three months getting fit with Grant Cooper at Ovingdean and he also had to practise driving on a simulator. The simulation was used to measure driver performance to improve the levels of refinement. Paul carried out a hearing test in their Acoustic Laboratories to ensure that Ken could hear the signals equally in both ears and that the chosen signal frequency content was appropriate for his hearing.

Tony Pond worked with Ken and Paul worked on the guidance system, striving constantly for perfection. MG worked on the car, which had to be completely re-built; where was the longest, available and free runway? Add a helicopter, radio sets, press facilities and catering and you begin to conceive the enormity of such a project. September turned to October – would the weather hold?

It finally all came together at Boscombe Down Airfield, Wiltshire on Saturday, October 16th. It was a bright sunny day, dry with a moderate south-easterly breeze; indeed, conditions could not have been better. There was a large turnout by members of the press with their paraphernalia, including one lady with a pair of stepladders. The St Dunstan's coach, driven by Brian who had been much involved

in ferrying Ken backwards and forwards to his various engagements, acted as a mobile press office and shelter. A radio in the bus kept people in touch with what was going on.

Though ready for the off at 8am, an RAF Hercules on a mission to Australia held up the proceedings longer than anticipated, especially when a technical fault developed and the plane had to return to the apron and repeat its interruption an hour later.

It was almost nonchalantly that Ken took the first world record. He was simply going to get the feel of the 10,500ft runway driving a BMW Alpina sports car with Tony Pond beside him. As a result, he raised the record for a blind accompanied person from 147mph to 154mph. What a start!

Then came the moment, following Tony's test run in the MGF to check the systems were all functioning, that Ken was squeezed into the driving seat. Tony took to the skies in the Skyhopper helicopter to act as control in case of any emergency and Neil followed in the BMW Alpina in case of a communication failure within the helicopter. Standing to the side of the start line, one heard a sharp acceleration, a change of gear and then silence. Ken was out of earshot within seconds. It all seemed over in less than a minute.

At the start, the MGF had been pushed up to 30mph by a Range Rover, to save the clutch and because of

the MG's high gear ratio. At the far end of the runway, the official timekeepers had set up their equipment. Two beams 9m apart measured the velocity, or time taken by the car to pass through the beams. As disabled people are barred from holding a competition licence, they cannot claim an official record. But the large display panel on the roof of the timekeeper's car showed 118mph. This was a record in itself – the very first solo run by a visually handicapped person at speed.

The car was towed back to the start line, whereupon with loud applause, the press descended on Ken, who responded to the question, "How did it feel?" with a single word reply, "Slow!"

At 3pm, following another test run by Tony from further back along the runway, Ken overtook his first run reaching 131mph.

Throughout the day, keeping stars, back-up teams and press happy were the invaluable providers of food, Paul and Trevor of PBK. In turn, St Dunstan's and all involved on the day were indebted to Carnes & Brown Ltd, Matthew Clark Ltd, Taittinger Champagne Ltd, Swandean Meats Ltd, Brake Bros Frozen Foods Ltd, Bill Weir Fruits Ltd and Bass Brewers Ltd, for their generosity in donating all the food and drink.

Ken's achievement was reported in many newspapers in the north, on national and local radio and TV, plus it featured on BBC TV's *Tomorrow's World*. A documentary of the project was filmed throughout. On October 26th, the Mayor of Scarborough honoured Ken and Cheryl at a civic reception.

We are indebted to MG and DERA for having the vision to back Ken in doing something everyone thought impossible; to Tony Pond and Paul Kellett who dedicated themselves to the project; to Wynne, Ian, Alan and Rowley from MG Competitions who built the car; to Jesse and Skyhopper for the helicopter; to Sytners of Nottingham for the BMW Alpina and to Neil who saw the project through to its successful completion.

Finally, only Ken, the man, could have had the guts to do what he did. He follows a long tradition of achievement by many blind ex-Servicemen and women, each with their own Mount Everest to climb and conquer. Ken said afterwards, "I have proved, that with the right kind of backing, visually handicapped people need not be treated like second class citizens. We are just as able as ordinary people."

Balancing the Books

by Ted Bunting

A Guilty Thing Surprised

Author: Ruth Rendell

Reader: Norma West

Catalogue number: 8266

Duration: 6 hours.

Listening to this book, I was reminded of a man who used to be on radio years ago. "If you can believe this," he used to say, "you can knit fog and plait sawdust!" Ridiculous, I think, is not overstating the case, even for a book published in 1970.

A woman's body is found in the woods, it says, and almost first on the scene is a Detective Chief Superintendent, no less, who "interviews" people who withhold as much information as they like without ever being asked the obvious questions. Such as asking the victim's husband "How come you never missed your wife during the night?" The reason for not prying too deeply, presumably, is that the husband and his wife reside at 'The Manor', they are out of the top drawer, upper crust and all that, almost gentry don't you know? I do know I've seldom heard such sickening claptrap outside confessed farce. There are servants, of course, milling around tugging their forelocks; like the cook or housekeeper, who tearfully wails to the policeman, "Why bless you, Zurr, Madam were the bestist Madam as ever were Zur." I cleaned my ears out at this point, but to no avail, the dialogue really was that bad. The gardener, asked if he had gone into the house to say he'd found the body, replies, "I hope I knows my place, Zur." The au pair, (why the childless couple need one is not explained) giggles throughout her interview like it's all good fun. She's foreign, I know, but I don't think even the Dutch consider murder a laughing matter, do they?

There are lots of other characters, needless to say, some necessary to the plot, and some just there for make-weight, to provide a bit of tittle-tattle or a drink for the great investigator. It also goes without saying that in the fullness of time the mystery is revealed. I'll not divulge the secret here, because, who knows - you may actually want to ask for the book!



St Dunstan's contingent march proudly on the last Remembrance Sunday of this century.

IN MEMORY OF FALLEN COMRADES

by Ray Hazan

As Whitehall fell silent to the chimes of Big Ben, it was as if the elements joined in the act of remembrance. The wind sighed, 'tears of moisture' fell from the sky and leaves fluttered down from the trees like the falling petals at the Festival of Remembrance at the Royal Albert Hall. The silence of the thousands of Veterans and spectators was uninterrupted as we remembered fallen comrades.

The St Dunstan's column had certainly not withered with age! Seventy-two St Dunstaners, 22 widows and two widowers plus escorts necessitated two members of the Welsh Guards to keep us in order! The Chairman, Captain Michael Gordon-Lennox, RN, escorted our President, Colin Beaumont-Edmonds, MC, whilst on his left, Member of Council Major-General Andrew Keeling pushed fellow Royal Marine Steve Nixon. Behind them came the Second War group with John Painter as left-hand marker, escorted by a fellow Dunkirk Veteran and school pal, Major-General Dare Wilson. Raymond Baxter, former Spitfire pilot and BBC commentator accompanied Paul Walker.

In the second group were those blinded as a result of incidents since 1945. Ray Hazan as front left marker handed over the St Dunstan's wreath. Graham Wright, a former member of his regiment, who had saved Ray's life following the incident in which he was blinded, accompanied him. The widows and widowers brought up the rear of the contingent.

Prince Charles, in Royal Navy uniform, took the salute on the dais as we marched back onto Horse Guards.

The organizing this year, under the command of Jeremy Hinton, went very smoothly. The contingent was back at the hotel by 12.30 and sitting down to lunch, once parched throats had been satisfied.

In his address, the Chairman started by thanking the many people involved in organizing the day. His reference to our escorts drew loud applause. A notable absentee through illness this year was Sir Harry Secombe and he was sent "our very best wishes." A vote of thanks, which proved most popular, was to our two drill escorts, CSM Carter, and Sgt Robinson; the latter's attendance for the



Walter Briggs escorted Tom Taylor.



Three generations of the Hart family on parade.



Picture: Sgt J. Liptrot, HQ London District

On the march! Broadcaster Raymond Baxter with St Dunstaner Paul Walker near The Cenotaph.



Four wives, Beryl, Jane, Mary and Beryl, stand vigil at Horse Guards.



Prince Charles took the salute.



St Dunstan's widows in reflective mood during the Remembrance Sunday parade.

second year running "must be above and beyond the call of duty!" To the staff of the Forte PostHouse Regents Park Hotel and particularly Marina Melis, the functions and events organizer, was appreciated for looking after us so well. Finally, but not least in the list of thank yous, was Jeremy Hinton and his

team and the staff from Ovingdean, some of who had been up until the small hours looking after people.

The Chairman went on to mention that Arthur Carter, escorted by Tom Lang, had carried the St Dunstan's Standard at the Royal Albert Hall the previous day. "It is entirely appropriate that our Standard should fly alongside other members of the Service community on such a memorable occasion."

"When I spoke to you last year for the first time as Chairman, I placed a great emphasis on the ideals of our founder, Sir Arthur Pearson, and his unswerving belief that nothing was too difficult to be attempted. That the maximum independence for each and every St Dunstaner was the aim of our organisation." The Chairman referred to Reggie Perrin's ascent of Mount McKinley in 1995. "This year we had something very different but truly remarkable." He went on to describe the world land speed records achieved by Ken Moss. "But his blind ambition to gain this record was a true story of unbelievable courage and bravery as well as wonderful support from Cheryl, his long suffering wife. I only wish Sir Arthur Pearson were alive today to witness the event. He would be as proud of Ken as we all are."

The Chairman concluded by wishing everyone an enjoyable Christmas and a successful and happy millennium.



Ray Hazan, bearing the St Dunstan's wreath, with Graham Wright.

John Painter responded "to the daunting task of speaking to such a large audience with so many distinguished gentlemen and even more ladies. When I, in true military manner, was detailed to volunteer, I was told to be very brief! The first and foremost of my 'thank yous' must be to St Dunstan's itself. We St Dunstaners, who receive so much from you, are proud and privileged to be St Dunstaners and we say a big 'thank you'. We also say a big 'thank you' to all those who make St Dunstan's work." John went on to congratulate the Chairman whose careful and skilful navigation, with frequent gunfire, kept St Dunstan's on a steady course!

John went on to mention what for him was the flagship of St Dunstan's - Ovingdean. He paid tribute to the level of care, efficiency and wellbeing and thanked Susan Harrison and all her staff.

John concluded with a solemn and sincere tribute, "To those ladies, who look after us. They may be a mother, a sister, a daughter, they may be a nurse or a partner; it is more likely they will be one of the great majority - a wife. These young ladies, as we remember them, accepted the challenge and took us on. Self-pity, fear and bitterness were banished. We were steered to a better life." This drew much applause.

Thus a day of mixed emotions drew to a close. There was sadness as we remembered fallen comrades and the many St Dunstaners who had gone before us. There was the happiness of meeting up once more with friends from all around the country. We may be witnessing the passing of one millennium, but we shall not forget those who died to give us the freedom to enjoy a new millennium.



Sgt Robison with Bill Carthy.

French honour for Rev Norman



The Rev Michael Norman and his wife Nora with his award from the French government.

The French government has honoured a Cape Town St Dunstaner who was blinded during the Normandy invasion of 1944. The Diplome d'Honneur was awarded to the Rev Michael Norman, 80, by the French consul at a Bastille Day reception. Rev Norman is Chairman of St Dunstan's South Africa. The consul said the award was created recently to pay respect to a dwindling band of veterans who fought at Normandy and helped liberate France from the Nazi occupation. "We're coming to the end of the century and it is a good time to think of these people. We are what we are today thanks to them, and we should not forget them."



WEDDING BELLS FOR JASON AND PATIENCE

Jason and Patience Hobday of Wilstead, Bedford, married on September 23rd. Head of Welfare Lt Col Peter Irven attended the celebrations to offer our heartiest wishes for the future.

WELCOME

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

Mr Bernard Lewandowski of Weston-super-Mare, Somerset became a St Dunstaner on October 4th. Now aged 73, he served with Polish Forces under British Command from 1944 to 1947. Originally a farm worker from Chelmza, Poland, he was assigned to the Polish Independent Parachute Brigade Depot and joined their Motor Transport Company. He later transferred to the Polish Resettlement Corps. Having damaged his eyes in an accident during his service, he was trained by St Dunstan's as a capstan lathe operator but did not become a St Dunstaner at the time. Mr Lewandowski is married to Sylvia.

Mr Augustus White of Bartlesville, Oklahoma became a St Dunstaner on October 4th. Now aged 76, he served in 44 Royal Marine Commando from 1942 to 1946, retiring as a Captain. He served in the UK, Burma and India. Captain White was wounded by gunshot in Burma in 1943 and lost his right eye in Ceylon after suffering a shrapnel injury in September 1944. He later returned to America where he had a successful career in business.

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

Mr Eric Colman of Harrogate, North Yorkshire, now aged 69, served in the Royal Air Force from 1948 to 1950. After leaving the service he returned to his old job at National Cash Registers, before turning to teaching as a career. He is interested in fishing and horse riding. Mr Colman and his wife Ethel are both guide dog owners.

Mr Dennis Endacott of Churchdown, Gloucester served in the Royal Air Force from 1941 to 1946 and then re-enlisted in 1951, serving until 1970 when he retired as a Warrant Officer. During that time he served in India, Burma, Germany, Aden, Maldives and North Africa. Having left the service he worked for the NHS before retiring in 1977. Now aged 77, he has a son Tony and daughter Gillian.

Mr Trevor Ireland of Garn Dolbenmaen, Gwynedd served in the Royal Marine Commando from 1941 to

1946. He served in Africa, Egypt, Sicily, Italy and Normandy. Mr Ireland is a guide dog owner and worked in the stained glass industry before he retired. He is married to Kate.

Mr David James of Thurston, Bury St Edmunds, Suffolk served in the Royal Air Force for 22 years, retiring as a Sergeant in 1997. Now aged 46, he served in the UK and at HQ Allied Forces Central Europe in Holland. A statistician for a highway maintenance firm, he enjoys combining his interest in figures with computing and other interests such as gardening, DIY and rugby. Mr James and his wife Ann have two daughters Melanie and Diane.

Mr Roy Marsden of Bevendean, Brighton served in the Royal Engineers from 1938 to 1940, the Royal Artillery (51 HAA Regiment) from 1940 to 1946 and then the Royal Army Service Corps (TA) from 1956 to 1958. During this time he served in North Africa and Italy. He is married to Renee.

Mr James McGoff of March, Cambridgeshire served in the Royal Air Force from 1941 to 1946 and the Royal Auxiliary Air Force from 1954 to 1958. During the war he worked as an airframe fitter starting with bi-planes and finishing with Dakotas that were used at Arnhem and D-Day. In the Auxiliary Force he supported Spitfires, Vampires and Meteors. He is staff member of 109 and 607 Squadron Associations. After the war, Mr McGoff worked at the Midland Bank for 22 years. Now aged 77, he is a keen amateur radio enthusiast. He and his wife Edna have two children and are active members of their local church.

Mr Terry Ottewell of Paignton, Devon served in the Royal Army Medical Corps from 1960 to 1961. After leaving the service he set up his own roofing firm and then worked as a telephonist at Barclays Bank. Now aged 59, Mr Ottewell enjoys wood turning and seat caning. He is also a member of the local rambling club. He and his wife Avril have two sons Andrew and Ian. Mr Ottewell's brother Christopher is also a beneficiary of this trust.

Mr George Packham of Brighton served in the Royal Regiment of Artillery from 1942 to 1943. After leaving the Service he became a HGV driver for Southern Transport and later worked at Shoreham Harbour. Now aged 86, Mr Packham has an interest in engineering.

Mr Arthur Pearson of Hartlepool, Cleveland served in the Royal Pioneer Corps from 1940 to 1946. He saw service in the UK, France, Belgium and Germany. In civilian life he worked in industry. Mr Pearson has a son Leslie.

Mr Ernest Slater of Stockport, Cheshire served in the Royal Army Service Corps from 1940 to 1946. He was posted to General HQ Middle East in Cairo where he worked until being demobilised with the rank of WO1. After the war he returned to CWS as an auditor before moving to a clothing wholesalers as company accountant. In 1967 he moved to a floor

covering wholesale firm where he was Company Accountant and Credit Controller until his retirement in 1984. Mr Slater, now aged 80, has two daughters and six grandchildren.

Mr Roger Tye of Woodston, Peterborough served in the Royal Army Ordnance Corps from 1961 to 1981. As a 15-year-old he joined the Junior Leaders Battalion and left the RAOC as a Corporal having served in the UK, Germany, Cyprus, Hong Kong and with the United Nations. During his service he was a keen boxer. After leaving the Army he worked as a security officer for 15 years. He is married to Jenny.

MESSAGE FROM THE HEAD OF FUND RAISING



A team from 63 Training Support Squadron, 3 RSME Regiment ran and cycled 67 miles around the Donnington Way in Gloucestershire on August 14th. Their exertion raised £790.60 for St Dunstan's and a cheque was presented to Ray Hazan and Ray Peart at Harcourt Street. Ray Peart had joined WO2 P. Morton, LCpl Baker, LCpl Weatherston and Spr Board, all pictured, on their run.

You already know of Ken Moss's splendid achievement of creating the first-ever solo world land speed record for the blind. Having spent over 18 months trying to "fix it" for Ken, I have to say that, as he moved off up the runway, there was a terrible realisation that he was on his own, in charge of his own destiny and there was nothing I or anybody else could do to help him. A few seconds later I felt sheer elation as he flashed through the timing beams at 131mph. When Ken's achievements were shown on BBC1's *Tomorrow's World*, it was the most watched piece of TV that night, more even than *Coronation Street*. Remarkably, all those involved provided their support for free. Ken also appeared on BBC1 on a new programme called *The*

Club on Monday, November 29th. Later in the year a one-hour documentary telling the whole story will be available. For now, there is an MGF Sports Car up for grabs in a free draw. Tickets for this are enclosed with your *Review*. Everyone in the department would like to add their congratulations to Ken for his courageous effort.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all my staff (not to mention volunteers) for their hard work during the year. I would be lost without them! Everyone in Fund Raising wishes you all a very Happy Christmas. Of course, we are approaching the next millennium. When I was at school, the first date of this millennium I was taught in history lessons was 1066. I wonder what will be the first historic event in the year 2000?

Neil Swan



Many collecting boxes have been distributed during the year. Sid Doy was presented with a full collecting box by Maureen James of the Bevendean Sports & Social Club. It contained £216, for which we are most grateful.

BRIDGE CLUB

The St Dunstan's Bridge Club continues to meet twice a month on Sunday afternoons at 2pm.

We play two matches a year against Horsham Bridge Club. One match is played away at Horsham, for the return match we entertain them at home. These matches have been played for over 40 years and we have some members from both teams who have played every year since the first match. Quite an achievement! We also play the local Masters at Ovingdean once a year. Our final event of the year was at Bognor at the end of November where we played members of Bognor Bridge Club.

We would like to extend a welcome to anyone who plays bridge to come and join us.

Reg Goding

FAMILY NEWS

DIAMOND ANNIVERSARY

Congratulations to:

Roy and Pauline French of Shepstone, Natal, South Africa on September 3rd.

SPECIAL ANNIVERSARY

Congratulations to:

Leslie and Rose Tanner of Morden, Surrey who celebrated 67 years of marriage on October 15th.

ACHIEVEMENT

Congratulations to:

Mrs Joanna King on successfully obtaining a BA Hons in French and Italian with TEFL (Teaching English as a Foreign Language). She is the daughter of Mrs Daphne Lavery of Alcombe, Minehead, Somerset, widow of *Ron Lavery*.

DEATHS

We regret to announce the death of:

Mrs Winifred Medway of Pinner, Middlesex on October 14th. She was the widow of *John Medway*.

Mrs Elsie Gardner of Heswall, Wirral, Merseyside on October 25th. She was the widow of *John Gardner*.

Mrs Elizabeth Hodgson of Ferryhill, Co Durham on October 28th. She was the widow of *David Hodgson*.

Mrs Ivy Harding of Yate, Bristol, Avon on November 4th. She was the widow of *Rhesa Harding*.

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 and we offer our deepest sympathy to their widows, family and friends.

Jack Roston

Royal Army Ordnance Corps

Jack Egerton Roston of Weybridge, Surrey died on October 25th, aged 89. He had been a St Dunstaner since 1951. He enlisted in the Royal Army Ordnance Corps in 1940 and was injured while serving as a Private in Egypt. He was discharged in 1943. Mr Roston was a director of Linguaphone and retired in 1973. His interests included braille, radio and talking books. Our sympathy goes to his daughters Ann and Elizabeth and all other members of the family.

Frederick Field

Royal Air Force

Frederick Joseph William Field of Ovingdean died on October 31st, aged 66. He had been a St Dunstaner since 1990. Having enlisted in the Royal Air Force in 1950, Mr Field served in Germany, Malaya, Cyprus, Kenya and Aden. He represented the Service as a swimmer and marksman and played rugby at station level. When Mr Field left the RAF in 1975 he was a Chief Technician. His hobbies included fishing, rabbit keeping and photography. In civilian life he worked as VAT Manager for an accountancy firm. He was a guide dog owner. Tragically his daughter Deborah died six days later. We extend our deepest sympathy to Beverley, daughter and sister, and all of the family.

Diana Gubbay Trust for the Blind

Mr Stephen Riddall

Royal Navy

Mr Stephen Riddall of Banbury, Oxon died recently, aged 46. During his time in the Royal Navy he served on various ships in the Gulf, Ireland and the Falklands. Our sympathy goes to his family and friends.