



St Dunstan's Review

May 2000

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Cover picture: Ken Moss was presented with The Henry Edmunds Trophy in recognition of being the first blind man to set a solo world land speed record.

Details on page five.

From the Chairman



On April 21st, our President Colin Beaumont-Edmonds and his wife Joyce celebrated their Golden Wedding anniversary. Many congratulations to them and all other couples celebrating similar events. It is a fine and steady example in today's changing world.

I am pleased to welcome our new Chief Accountant, Alan Jennings, whose appointment was confirmed on March 27th, having fulfilled the role on a contract basis since January. Alan previously worked for five years in the charitable sector with the Royal Postgraduate Medical School and Imperial College, both colleges of the University of London. Prior to that, he worked in industry and commerce for several years, including twelve years in banking in the City with Lloyds-TSB Bank and Midland Bank International Division. Alan qualified as an accountant in 1980 and holds a degree in Linguistics and German from Birkbeck College, University of London.

It is no mean achievement when the name of one of our family members is linked with those of Damon Hill or Andy Green, the world land speed record holder. You will read of Ken Moss' award of the Henry Edmunds Trophy in recognition of his world blind solo land speed record elsewhere in the *Review*. It was a pleasure for me to attend the ceremony. Well done to Ken and to his wife Cheryl, who supported him throughout.

Captain Michael Gordon-Lennox, RN



NOTICE BOARD



CHANGES TO THE PREMISES AT ST DUNSTAN'S OIVINGDEAN

by M G Hordell, Facilities Manager

The year 2000 promises to be exciting due to a number of projects which will add to and enhance our facilities at Ovingdean.

- 1) We have completed the installation of individual thermostatic radiator valves in each bedroom. The temperature range indicated on the rotary dial fixed alongside each radiator is from 0 to 5. Position 3 has a tactile marker to indicate the mid point on the scale for controlling the temperature in the room. To date, we are pleased with the results of the installation, made possible through technology.
- 2) Again, through the introduction of technology, and over the next few months, we shall gradually reduce the hot water temperature in each bathroom from 60°C to 43°C. This will reduce the potential risk of scalding, but will still comply with current legislation.
- 3) Each of the nine bench seats around the outside grounds has now been placed onto a concrete base. In addition, we now have tactile paving to the adjoining pathway indicating the position of the benches.
- 4) Tactile paving is also to be installed immediately outside the main entrance. This will indicate the crossing point from the main building across to the pathway, leading to the steps and main drive.
- 5) By the time you read this, the rewiring of the TV and radio sound systems in each room will have commenced.

Please speak to any member of staff should you need any further information when you next visit Ovingdean.

NEW HOLIDAY BOOKINGS PROCEDURE

A new procedure for booking your holidays at Ovingdean has been introduced. You can find the details on the centre pages of this issue. Please pull out this supplement and keep it for future reference.

SKIING 2001

It is hard to imagine the thrill and exhilaration of downhill skiing until you have tried it for yourself. The fresh and clean mountain air, plus the still and peace of the great outdoors prove heady mixtures, without the added intoxication of the après-ski! Glide to the bottom of a slope, be it a nursery or advanced run and sense the sweet aroma of achievement. St Dunstan's provides competent and experienced guides.

Would anyone interested in details of the St Dunstan's skiing trip to Italy taking place in mid January 2001, please contact Gerry Jones on 01872 553957.

SHIRTS IN STOCK

A new all cotton polo shirt is available in blue with a left-hand yellow chest logo in medium or large only or white with a blue logo, medium, large and XL. 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 in large only. All of these items can be ordered from the Public Relations department at Headquarters either by telephoning 020 7723 5021 or by mail. Please add £2.00 to your order to cover p&p.

PLEASE NOTE: Only published sizes are available.

DEADLINE FOR NEXT ISSUE

The final date for submitting items for publication in the July *Review* is May 30th.

The final date for submitting items for publication in the August *Review* is June 30th.

TV LICENCE CONCESSIONS

Registered Blind

As of April 1st 2000 registered blind persons were able to claim a 50 per cent discount on the cost of a TV licence. To qualify for this concession, you must produce a certificate that certifies you are a registered blind person. You should approach your local Social Service department for this. The licence must be in the name of the registered blind person. It cannot be issued to anyone else, even if they have a registered blind person living in the same house.

- You cannot hand in your existing licence and claim a refund.
- If you have a Sound Receiver ONLY in your house you do not need a licence.

Over 75's

From November 2000, those over 75 will receive a free TV Licence. If your licence expires between now and November you will be able to get a short-term or blind concession licence.

If you require further information please contact TV Licensing- General Enquiries on 0990 763763 between (8.30-6.30 Mon-Fri) and (8.30-1.00 Sat).

DOLPHIN DROP-IN DAY CHANGE OF DATE

This will now be held on Wednesday, June 29th at St Dunstan's Ovingdean from 10am to 3pm. Dolphin will be teaming up with Zychem and Pulse Data, making the day into a mini-exhibition. Anyone interested in IT and access technology is strongly recommended to attend.

No appointment is necessary, just turn up and "drop-in". For more information contact Janis Sharp at St Dunstan's Ovingdean on 01273 307811 ext 3297.

ST DUNSTANERS TIES

The St Dunstaners tie, sporting our familiar torch emblem, is available from the PR department at Headquarters. Priced £5, it is French Navy in colour and made from polyester for easy washing.

LIFE IN MY HANDS WANTED

Thomas Poole of Cambridge is seeking a copy of *Life in My Hands* by Wally Thomas. Mr Poole can be contacted on 01223 861507.

DERBY SWEEPSTAKE 2000

Applications for *St Dunstan's Review* Derby Sweepstake tickets should be made before June 5th. The draw is open to St Dunstaners, beneficiaries of the Diana Gubbay Trust, widows and widowers.

Fifty per cent of the prize money will go to the holder of the ticket drawing the winning horse, 20 per cent goes to the holder of the ticket drawing the second horse, third prize is 10 per cent. The final 20 per cent will be divided equally among those drawing a horse which actually starts the race.

This year the race is being run on June 10th. Tickets are 30p each and issued consecutively to a maximum of 25 (costing £7.50). Cheques should be made payable to St Dunstan's and crossed. Loose money should not be sent unless it is registered.

Each applicant should send their name and address, the number of tickets required, and a stamped addressed envelope, to The Editor, DSS Department, *St Dunstan's Review*, 12-14 Harcourt Street, London W1A 4XB.

HELP FOR COMPUTER USERS

St Dunstaner Michael Pirrie has kindly sent in an extensive list of keyboard shortcut commands for Word. Anyone interested in obtaining a copy should please contact the PR department at HQ.

DISABLED PERSONS RAILCARD

The Disabled Persons Railcard entitles holders to obtain many savings on rail fares. The holder and one accompanying adult can receive one third off most rail fares (discounts are not available for Eurostar, Heathrow Express, Railair Coach links or special offers). The card costs £14.

Initial application forms can be obtained at railway stations or from the Disabled Persons Railcard Office, PO Box 1YT, Newcastle-upon-Tyne NE99 1YT or by telephoning 0191 269 0303. A Minicom service for hearing impaired people is available on 0191 269 0304. Lines are open Monday to Friday, 0900 to 1700hrs.

SCANNER FOR SALE

HP 4P scanner with connecting cable and half card, £50 o.n.o. Please contact Ray Hazan at St Dunstan's Headquarters on 020 7723 5021.

Royce rolls out tribute for record making blind driver UNIQUE TROPHY FOR SPEEDY KEN

by Neil Swan



Ken and Cheryl with Frank Shaw. Ken is holding a small replica of the Henry Edmunds Trophy.

The last two months proved to be a busy time for all in the Fund Raising Department. Not only were we inundated with thousands of donations as a result of our latest campaign, but there was also the enormous pleasure of attending a very special presentation. On March 23rd, Ken Moss was awarded the Henry Edmunds Trophy by the Sir Henry Royce Memorial Foundation. This trophy is given to the person making the most outstanding contribution to sport, with a mechanical content coupled with extraordinary courage. In his summing up, the Chairman of the Foundation, Frank Shaw, said:

"It was not the fact that Ken is the first totally blind man to drive a car solo at 131mph that prompted us to make this award, but the fact that he did it at all. If I told you that the last winners were Damon Hill and Andy Green (the fastest man on earth) you may get a measure of its value. However, when we compare the courage of these men, Ken's effort totally eclipses that of the other two."

The trophy is a magnificent bronze of a Rolls Royce car with owner and driver competing in a hill climb circa 1902. It stands some 18" high and is such a weight that it requires two men to lift it. The detail of the car is extraordinary and it is quite the most splendid trophy I have ever seen. The presentation was made at the Foundation's headquarters in Northamptonshire with examples of Rolls Royce cars

and engines all around, including a complete Merlin engine from a Spitfire.

The very next day, a small party from St Dunstan's, including the Chairman and his wife, attended the International Visual Communication Association Millennium 2000 Awards at the *Grosvenor House Hotel*, Park Lane. These awards recognise excellence in all forms of communication and St Dunstan's had entered the film *My Blind Ambition* which featured how Ken Moss was blinded and then the events that led up to his setting the first-ever solo world land speed record. There were some 1,500 guests, with entertainment provided by fire eaters, people on stilts, a full Mardi Gras band and dance troop, acrobats dancing on trapezes up above our heads and fireworks being let off that were far bigger than anything you can normally buy. Remember that this was all inside! Luckily, our table was positioned close to a fire exit although we did not have to use it. Between each course of the meal, the IVCA presented their various awards. There was great excitement at our table when it became apparent that *My Blind Ambition* had been nominated for best documentary. A few seconds later we found out that it had actually won!

As is common on these occasions, straight after the presentation of the awards they showed a short clip from the film and the gasp from the audience was quite noticeable when they realised the man behind the wheel had no perception of light and dark and was, in fact, totally blind. Afterwards it was great to see how many people went over to shake Ken by the hand and how his achievements put the name of St Dunstan's up in bright lights in an international arena.



Richard Shaw, Editor; Neil Swan, two IVCA ladies; Charles Marriott, Director and Boyd Catling, Producer.

THE DESERT BATS

run The Marathon des Sables



Never one to shy away from a challenge, Jamie during a St Dunstan's climbing weekend.

Jamie Cuthbertson served with the Royal Engineers and became a St Dunstaner in 1987 when a box of detonators blew up during a training exercise.

On April 5th a group of four intrepid thrill seekers set off on the adventure of a lifetime. Along with three friendly human 'guide dogs' (or perhaps they should be called guide camels!) Jamie Cuthbertson aims to take part in the gruelling Marathon des Sables in Morocco.

This will be the 15th Marathon des Sables, which was the brainchild of a charismatic French businessman, Patrick Bauer. In 1985 he had been running alone in the Sahara and was caught out in a sandstorm. The desert "communicated itself" to him and gave him the idea to make his run into the world-renowned event it has become. It is widely recognised as the toughest foot race in the world and is likely to attract over 600 competitors from over 25 countries for the 2000 event. They will range from Olympic champions to amateurs such as Jamie and his group of cronies.

The idea of the race is simple: Competitors must cover a distance of around 225km in a period of seven days carrying everything they need to survive in the desert, except tentage. Water replenishment is given throughout the race but is limited to nine litres

per day. All food, safety equipment and other items such as sleeping bags and so on must be carried by the competitors. The terrain varies from flat sandy plains to rugged rocky mountains, from massive sand dunes to dirt tracks and dried river beds. The expected temperatures are likely to be in the high forties but dropping to around zero at night.

The three guides will be Roraigh Ainslie (a Royal Engineer Major who Jamie served with in the Army), Nick Dillon and Dave Scott from the Glasgow area. Nick and Dave have only known Jamie and Roraigh since the idea of this crazy event came up at a dinner in March 1999. It just shows what strange conversations arise at these odd Glasgow dinners! Perhaps it can be attributed to too much amber nectar or some other equally tasty beverage.

The team is to be called the Desert Bats. This name was thought up by one of the visually impaired trainees who was attending the computer training at the Glasgow & West of Scotland Society for the Blind where Jamie works as the Technology Officer. "The name is quite catchy and ties up my ex-military connection with the fact that I am blind," says Jamie.

All the team members are expecting that they will be minus several toenails and will have picked up countless blisters on the way, not to mention being a

good deal lighter than when they started the race. Although fitness is, of course, very important, the mental attitude they adopt will be equally important. It is possible for most people to complete the event if they want it badly enough. Roraigh has done the event twice before and was a member of the winning Army team on both occasions. He talks of vast scenes of undisturbed wilderness and awe-inspiring beauty, salt plains that go on forever and sand dunes, which are as tall as Ben Nevis. There will be little opportunity to appreciate this at the time but more probably it will only appear that way in retrospect after crossing the finishing line!

By taking part in the event, Jamie will be the first British-born blind person ever to do so and only the third blind person in the World. He intends to complete the event and, by doing so, show that blind people can achieve many things if they set their sights high enough. He also hopes to encourage other blind people with a spirit of adventure to consider taking part in the future.

COMPETITORS MUST CARRY EVERYTHING THEY NEED TO SURVIVE IN THE DESERT

At this stage in the preparations, Jamie would like to be fitter but as they are now running out of time rapidly, they will just have to make do with what fitness they have now. They have been training for around six months but have had a catalogue of injuries ranging from twisted ankles, sore knees and feet to clicking hips and shin splints. What a bunch of old crocks! They have tried to get out together as much as possible but the good old Scottish weather has conspired to make it very difficult for many of the possible occasions. Roraigh also lives in Kent which makes evening training a little tricky! Consequently Jamie has had to do most of his training in his garage on his electric treadmill. Fortunately this has not yet broken down and looks like it may last the course until the event. Perhaps that is tempting fate but time will tell. Since January he has been gradually increasing the weight in his pack from around 3kg to 9kg. They will probably be running with slightly less than this but they feel it is better to train with more than they need to so the real thing feels a bit lighter - that's the theory but they will have to see what happens in reality.

Jamie has two main fears about this event:

Snakes and scorpions are most certainly not his favourite creatures - perhaps if they come across a snake it might make them run a bit faster! Jamie

reckons his greatest fear is that of lying in his sleeping bag and finding a 'visitor' joining him in the middle of the night. "I know the theory would be to lie perfectly still but I just know I would panic in absolute terror," he says.

His second fear is more to do with the race itself. On a number of occasions he has woken up with the thought that he had managed to get to Day 7, and therefore past most of the hard work with but a short run to the finish, only to break an ankle or leg. The disappointment would be immense - perhaps even worse than a snake in his sleeping bag?

Apart from these fears, he is well aware the race will be gut wrenching and will require all his reserves of energy and determination to complete the course. But the thought of the sense of achievement at the finish line will spur him on to the end. The thought of a nice, cold pint of lager will also go a long way to easing the pains!

It all sounds like fun, I'm sure you agree! Why not come along and join in yourself? Actually the entry for this year's event is now closed so you have managed to escape just this time! However, you can still get involved.

The Desert Bats team is aiming to raise both the £8,700 entry fee and additionally they hope to raise £10,000 to donate to the following two charities:

Sight Savers International is an organisation that works around the World to save the sight of many thousands of adults and children from preventable causes such as river blindness. They also spend time educating local people so that they are able to continue the good work after the Sight Savers team has left.

The UK Children's Cancer Study Group works to develop new techniques for the treatment of child cancers. It aims to save lives and improve the quality of life of those suffering from a variety of cancers.

If you would like to contribute to the Desert Bats efforts then your contribution would be very gratefully received. All you have to do is to make your cheque or postal order payable to 'Desert Bats' and send it to me at the following address: Jamie Cuthbertson, 27 West Chapelton Crescent, Bearsden, Glasgow G61 2DE. Thank you in advance for your support.

Presentations add to cheer at Brighton Reunion

FINE START TO REUNION SEASON

The first of the season's reunions took place at Ovingdean on Wednesday, April 5th. The Chairman presided at the gathering of 99 people, which included 31 St Dunstaners and 20 widows.

Three presentations were made during the reunion.



Karen Sawbridge, daughter of the late St Dunstaner, Harry Sawbridge presented Captain Michael Gordon-Lennox with a cheque for £2,000 in aid of St Dunstan's.



Nigel Whiteley of Eastbourne, who recently became a St Dunstaner, presented Ovingdean with a Commemorative plate to mark the final gun run at Earls Court last year. Formerly of the Fleet Air Arm, he acted as a medic for his colleagues in the gun crew at the Royal Tournament.



Our Resident St Dunstaner Richard Bingley handed over a cheque for £1,130 to Jim Tomsett of the Gurkha Welfare Trust for onward transmission to the Amarsing Blind School at Pokhara, Nepal. Richard raised the money through organising coffee mornings and the sale of soft toys, which he had made himself.

ALL GONE TO PLAN!

On February 24th another excellent effort was made by St Dunstaner Don Planner. He set the Under 60's 10,000m rowing record on the Concept II rower of 45 minutes 12 seconds.

We have now set age categories for this challenge as follows:

30 years and under, 31-40 years, 41-50 years, 51-60 years, 61-70 years, 71-80 years and 80+ years.

If anyone would like to attempt this challenge please phone Dave Goldsmith at St Dunstan's Ovingdean on 01273 307811 ext 3219/3102.



BOOKING HOLIDAYS AT ST DUNSTAN'S OIVINGDEAN

PULL-OUT SUPPLEMENT

PLEASE KEEP FOR FUTURE REFERENCE

MAY 2000

NEW PROCEDURE NOTICE

ST DUNSTANERS, WIDOWS AND WIDOWERS

We are pleased to advise you that as of April 1st 2000, a new holiday booking procedure came into effect. This means that St Dunstan's Ovingdean can now accept DIRECT bookings for holidays only (irrespective of whether they are 2 weeks for the price of 1 or fully paid).

In order for you to be able to do this, it is of utmost importance that you appreciate our requirements here at Ovingdean to ensure you are given the best bed allocation, care and attention, and a comfortable stay.

Firstly we have to point out that the Local Authorities register us and we have to abide by their regulations. Anyone needing any supervision, support and/or care cannot be assigned to holiday beds.

The interpretation of care is if you need:

- a) Assistance with medications, oxygen, nebulisers, injections, etc.
- b) Dressings to ulcers, wounds, etc (however small).
- c) Assistance with wheelchairs.
- d) Assistance with washing, bathing or dressing.
- e) Assistance with eating or drinking.

We do have other options here at Ovingdean for those unable to be admitted into a holiday bed as they are in need of care. The two categories are:

1. Residential (short-stay/Respite) where Carers are able to help with items a, c, d, and e above.
2. Nursing (short-stay/Respite) where Registered Nurses and Carers are able to help with all categories above.

HOW TO BOOK

Holiday bookings should be made via our Bookings Co-ordinator Jackie Castle on 01273 307811 ext 3200.

Residential & Nursing Bookings for short-stay/Respite must be made through your Welfare Officer.

Now that we have taken over direct holiday bookings you will be sent an assessment sheet which the Welfare Officers have utilised on our behalf in the past. We hope that you will be very frank and honest with your replies, in order for us to assign you to the area of the home best suited for your needs. If, on arrival, we find that your health and mobility is not appropriate for the holiday category, you will have three options:

1. Transfer to Residential or Nursing bed (dependent on need/bed availability).
2. Return home.
3. Transfer to the Accident & Emergency Unit (Sussex County Hospital) if your health is considered poor.

ACCOMMODATION CHARGES (WEEKLY RATES EFFECTIVE FROM 12 APRIL 2000)

Residential (short-stay/Respite)	£141.40
Nursing (short-stay/Respite)	£228.34
Holiday	£134.40
Children aged between 3 & 14	£74.20

CANCELLATION CHARGES

Cancellations, unless for a valid reason, can spoil someone else's holiday. We have had to introduce a cancellation charge as follows:

1 month's notice or more	No Charge
2-4 weeks notice	£25
Under 14 days notice	£50

The charge may be waived in cases of exceptional circumstance or illness.

MISCELLANEOUS

In order that rooms can be properly prepared for subsequent occupants, you are kindly requested to vacate your room by 10am. Rooms may not be occupied on arrival until 12 noon.

If these times are not convenient to your travel arrangements then please avail yourselves of all our other facilities. Luggage may be stored temporarily at Reception.

For holiday stays please remember to bring adequate medications for the whole period of your stay. Only as an emergency can appointments be made with the: a) Ophthalmic surgeon b) G.P. c) Dentist d) Chiropodist e) Physiotherapist, etc.

We will always try to include you in any outings arranged for our permanent residents.

TRANSPORT

Please note that transport can be provided free of charge. However, if you are driven by your wife/carer we will subsidise your travel mileage at 17p per mile. If you travel by train using a disabled rail card, we will reimburse you on production of your and your escort's tickets or receipt. In both cases, please see the Cashier on the first floor before you leave.

PLEASE REMEMBER

1. Bookings cannot be taken more than 6 months in advance.
2. Special requests for particular rooms and/or equipment e.g. Appollo baths, cannot always be met. (There are Appollo baths, Closomat toilets, walk-in showers, Arjo baths, etc available to all on the nursing floors, on request).

3. Couples cannot be provided with separate single rooms due to pressure on accommodation.
4. Please will you settle your bills with the War Pensions Co-ordinator on the first floor before you leave.

GUIDE FOR HOLIDAY MAKERS

Holidays are for the independent, self-caring, mobile St Dunstaners, Wives and Widows. However, holidays can also be taken in the Nursing and Residential wings, if necessary, on a respite basis, which must be arranged through your Welfare Officer.

Think as if you are going to a hotel in the community such as Brighton or Blackpool. Would you be able to look after yourself without carers?

The advantages of coming to Ovingdean are:

- To know you are safe and secure in an environment/building you know well
- To mix with friends and colleagues
- To join in the entertainment
- To use the craft workshop and/or gym
- To have good food
- To be able to drink at the in house bar
- To (whenever it is possible) join the outings with the permanent residential and nursing care St Dunstaners
- To have laundry free of charge
- To have newspapers available
- To benefit from heavily subsidised accommodation charges
- Free transport to and from Ovingdean, or mileage/train fare reimbursement

Should you need care/assistance by Ovingdean staff it is better to have respite residential or nursing care, so do let us know.

If an offer of guidance to show you around the building is overlooked, please ask and we will be delighted to familiarise you with the building.

I hope this information assists you to understand what will help us to provide you with an excellent, safe and happy holiday. We look forward to seeing you soon.

Susan Harrison
General Manager
St Dunstan's Ovingdean

MARINES ON PARADE

Major General R.H.G. Fulton, Commandant General Royal Marines visited St Dunstan's Ovingdean on March 6th. During a tour of the house he met St Dunstaners such as Martin Shail, who was having a computer tutorial.

He then lunched with St Dunstaners who had served in the Royal Marines. Major General Robert Houghton, one of the guests, who escorted St Dunstaner Bill Shea, celebrated his 88th birthday and was presented with a birthday cake.



BOWLING IN THE SPRING

by Bob Osborne

The Bowling Club held their Spring Tournament from March 17th-31st. We were very pleased to welcome 20 members and had a most successful tournament. During the fortnight, we had several enquiries from residents wishing to join the Club, so we hope to have a larger "contingent" in November. The winners are as follows:

Totally Blind Singles

Winner	John Perfect
Runner-up	Bob Osborne
3rd	Tom Whitley

Partially Sighted Singles

Winner	Boyd McKinlay
Runner-up	John Hopkins
3rd	Phil Dobson

Pairs

Winners	Iain Millard & Boyd McKinlay
Runners-up	Alf Waters & Phil Dobson

Triples

Winners	Jackie Pryor, Iain Millard & Elwyn Rees.
Runners-up	John Perfect, Len Walker & Craig Neller

Owing to the large number of entrants, we will have to hold the next Tournament from Friday, October 27th to Friday, November 10th. Any St Dunstaner wishing to participate, who is not yet a member, should contact our Secretary:

Mrs Rita Pryor, 123 Hoddern Avenue, Peacehaven, East Sussex BN10 7QT. Tel: 01273 582523.

Alternatively, contact our Chairman:

Mr Bob Osborne, 128 Lustrells Crescent, Saltdean, Brighton, BN2 8FL. Tel: 01273 302115.

Those attending should also book their accommodation as soon as possible.

I would like to take this opportunity of thanking all our helpers, especially the callers and those who helped on the Green, who did an excellent job.

We had a pleasant social evening with all our friends and I would like to say how impressed I was with the bowling choir under the direction of Prof. John Mugan.

Looking forward to seeing you all on October 27th.



Eric Church rolls his wood.

Commendation for Ypres sculpture



A sculpture modelled on a First World War image of three blind soldiers has received a commendation at Chichester Centre of Arts Sculpture Exhibition. The name of the work is *Soldiers of Ypres* and it shows the uniformed trio standing in single file, a hand on the next man's shoulder. One, his eyes bandaged, wears a cap, the next a helmet and the third leans forward clasping his head in one hand. Sculptor John Fenney crafted the statuette in clay, which was fired and patinated in wax. It is approximately 14ins high and 9ins long. He was inspired by literature he received from St Dunstan's.

LOYAL SUPPORT

Mr Ray Sturman of Wymondham, Norfolk is a retired woodwork instructor. Last year he presented St Dunstan's with beautifully crafted items he had made, which raised many hundreds of pounds for us at the Royal Tournament.



St Dunstan's fail with supporters such as Ray and Eleanor? We send them our warmest thanks and heartiest congratulations!

Ray and his wife Eleanor recently celebrated their Golden Wedding Anniversary and still St Dunstan's was in their minds. He asked friends to make a donation in return for guessing the name of a rocking horse he had made and sent us the proceeds. How can

Correction

Our apologies go to Mr Douglas Southwold of Plymouth, Devon whose name was spelt incorrectly when we welcomed him to St Dunstan's in the February *Review*.

Welcome to St Dunstan's

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

Miss Dorothy Featherstone of Kenilworth, Warwickshire joined St Dunstan's on March 17th. Now aged 84 she served as a nursing orderly in the Royal Air Force from 1940 to 1946, completing her service with the rank of Sergeant. She then worked as a shop assistant before becoming a NAFFI manager. She used to enjoy playing tennis and her other interests included sewing, tapestry and reading.

Mrs Winifred Johns of Pontypridd, Mid Glamorgan joined St Dunstan's on March 17th. Now aged 79, she served in the Royal Air Force from 1941 to 1946, working as a Leading Aircraftwoman.

Mr Edward Atkins of Hove, East Sussex joined St Dunstan's on March 21st. Now aged 84, he served in the Royal Army Medical Corps from 1939

to 1945. A member of the TA, he was mobilised in 1939 and went straight to France. Serving as a medical orderly, he lost his hearing during an attack on a casualty clearing station. He was taken prisoner alongside 300 patients and transferred to Germany. After the war he worked as a florist.

Mr Dennis Williams of St Julians, Newport, Gwent joined St Dunstan's on March 21st. Now aged 86, he served in the South Wales Borderers from 1940 to 1946. He served in India, Iraq and Egypt before being taken prisoner in Italy in 1942. Having been moved to Germany, he was made to work in the mines where he received injuries to the head, ribs and chest. After the war he worked as a telephonist and stocktaker at Cardiff Railway Station until his retirement. He played forward for his local rugby club and also used to box. Mr Williams and his wife Lilian have a daughter Christine and son Stephen.

PREPARING FOR THE BIG ONE

by Lynda Stringer



St Dunstaner Dave Powell joins Grant and Lynda on the Marathon team.

At 0900 on Sunday, March 26th the St Dunstan's London Marathon Team began to arrive at Ferring, in West Sussex, for the Worthing 20 mile road race. We all arrived within minutes of one another and were all parked alongside each other (GOOD TEAM WORK!).

This was our penultimate run before the big day in London on April 16th. Everyone was slightly apprehensive as to whether or not the many miles of training had been sufficient to get them comfortably around this pleasant 20 mile course.

St Dunstaner Andy Mahoney had flown down from Scotland to join the other team members in this gruelling race which consisted of four circuits of five miles. Dave Powell made his debut as a member of the team.

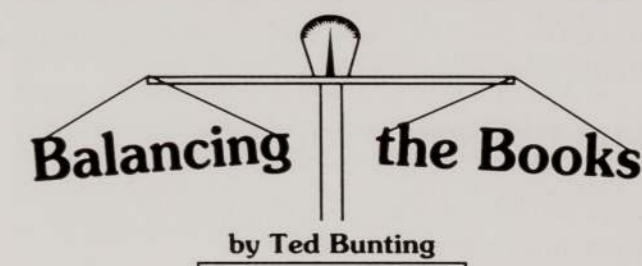
The team stayed together throughout the race, offering words of encouragement to one another when the going got slightly tougher.

We all crossed the finish line together in a respectable time of 3hrs, 31mins - just a little slower than anticipated. Fatigue had taken its toll, and one or two of the team had experienced hitting the proverbial "wall" which was good training prior to the full London Marathon.

Our commiserations go to St Dunstaner Pete Walker who has had to pull out of the team at this late stage, due to injury. Hope it gets better soon Pete. In the

June issue of the *Review* you will find out how the rest of the team fared in London.

The St Dunstan's London Marathon Team are raising money for St Dunstan's to purchase specific disabled fitness equipment and for the Activities Club. If you would like to support this worthy cause please send your cheques, made payable to St Dunstan's, to Grant Cooper, Sports and Recreation Supervisor at St Dunstan's Ovingdean.



Catch 22

Author: Joseph Heller
Reader: Steve Hodson
Catalogue number: 6418
Duration: 22 Hours 25 minutes

Several friends recommended *Catch22* to me. "It's fantastic," exclaimed one; "Very clever" agreed another and "Wonderful, I began laughing from the very first page" enthused a third. Which just goes to prove the adage, "One man's meat is another man's poison" doesn't it? Because without putting too fine a point on it, I thought the book was absolute rubbish from beginning to end! Oh there are "funny bits" all right, if your taste in humour is for the crude and obvious, and I suppose its pseudo-philosophy might pass for cleverness too, in a poor light. As to fantastic, yes, there is fantasy but sadly it lacks consistency. Are the events described only real in the mind of one of the characters? Or in the minds of several of them in turn, or what? There seems to be no way of finding the answer, if there is one, and the author has certainly broken the conventions observed by all the great writers of history.

We know for example that *Oliver Twist* isn't actually true, any more than are the plays of Shakespeare, but we can enter into them with a sort of credibility which is totally absent in *Catch 22*. There is room for other opinions of course but mine, for what it is worth is that this book is sillier than Mickey Mouse.

POETS' CORNER

Picture courtesy of Westminster Abbey.



Was he the one? The Grave of the Unknown Warrior in Westminster Abbey, London.

THE UNKNOWN SOLDIER

Were you the man who stood with me
When first we heard the call to arm?
Were you from a big city or perhaps an English farm?
Did you, like me, learn your new trade
In some seaside resort on the esplanade?
Did you like me walk your lonely beats
Through London's broken streets?

Did you, like me, board that troopership, in holiday mood
Which soon changed as we trod those heaving decks
And watched our dinner go out with the tide?

Did you land in some tropic place
Look around with distaste
At this and waste of sand and pitch your tent?
Were you born to die in some secret place?
Is there an ageing family who mourns?
They will grow old but you are forever young
Are you the man for whom the last post blew?
Are you the man whose name I never knew?

Ernie Bowditch

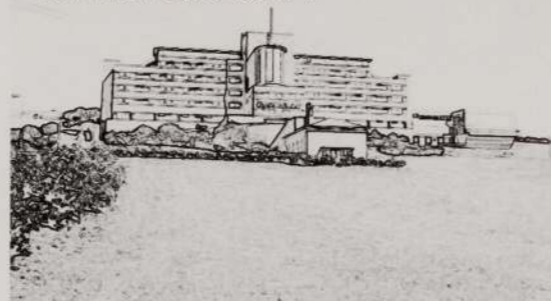
THE EXASPERATED WIFE

He criticised her puddings, and he didn't like her cake,
He wished she'd make the biscuits that his mother used to bake,
She didn't wash the dishes and she didn't make the stew
She didn't mend his stockings as his mother used to do!
Oh well, she was not perfect though she tried to do her best,
Until at last she thought it was time she had a rest,
So one day when he said the same old rigmarole all through,
She turned and boxed his ears as his mother used to do.

Anon

A selection of poems written by St Dunstaners

OVINGDEAN



I have surveyed the scene at Ovingdean
The building is a credit fit for a Queen
A Battalion muster here
Some cannot see, others can't hear

They do not wither
War has not made them bitter
From Flanders field to Norman shores
Their memories are uttered with a silent pause

Many are here recalling their loss
Comrades in arms counting the cost
Widows here too, mourning their men
All silent in prayer saying Amen

They come to St Dunstan's from far and near
Plenty of TLC, lots of beer
To the barracks here high up on the hill
Everything here is peacefully still

Steve Moseley

Quick Quiz

Can you answer these nostalgic teasers
recalling those golden radio times?

Q1) Jimmy Edwards was never happy with
Ron and Eth on this show.

Q2) Who was that man again?

Q3) Don't confuse this popular band leader
with a former Prime Minister.

Q4) Who used to sing about the benefits of a
hot drink before bedtime?

A LIBRARY FOR BLIND PEOPLE?

by Terry Walker

Yes, it's a research library at the Royal National Institute for the Blind, Great Portland Street, London. Some 11 years ago whilst studying for a braille teachers qualification, three books were loaned to me, and that, at the time was it. Last week, having an hour to spare, an appointment was made and Librarian Anne Walker of RNIB (no relation) gave me a conducted tour. She explained as we moved towards a comfortable chair, all the aspects of their establishment. Facts and figures flowed until after a very few moments I had to stop her. My question, "What do you offer?" brought about a change of agenda.

There are books, pamphlets and journals covering a wide range of subjects. These are cross-referenced, making it easy to select books and magazines alike on the same subjects. Grit your teeth and let the information sink in. The medical aspects section covers subjects such as individual conditions, medical intervention and ophthalmology. Administration looks at generic charity administration. I looked up this 'generic' word, it's a way of saying general, widespread or common. The subjects continue with psychology - looking at what it is like to be visually impaired, and ways of coping with specific problems which may occur. There is a large section on Education, as the RNIB is very committed to this and also items on children and young people.

Rehabilitation material is featured and this is extended to cover many aspects of vocational rehabilitation. Next came Employment and Daily Living, which leads nicely to information about equipment of all kinds, from a wide variety of sources. They also hold details of material either produced by people with a visual disability, plus many autobiographies.

As the library is often asked questions about easily definable groups of people with a visual impairment, there are subject headings for these groups, such as people with dual sensory loss, those with monocular vision, and visually impaired people from ethnic minorities.

The library also contains magazines for staff. This obviously has RNIB'S staff training in the forefront

of its intent to provide what is termed in today's parlance as "A Centre of Excellence". I believe I've heard that statement elsewhere! Further questioning revealed a section on Government documents and laws, etc. When asked about availability, the answer was not by this time surprising.

Everything from 1996 onwards is catalogued on computer, employing a system called DBTextworks. This is accessible to me through use of a speech synthesiser. They have some 50,000 items. Whilst the material in the library is in print format, they are happy to make material available in braille, disk or tape, although some delay should be expected in these circumstances. Bibliographies on specific subjects can also be requested and will be supplied in the format of your choice.

I asked about County Education Departments and whether they come to the RNIB with requests? Anne replied that they do receive requests such as these but that they have closer links with some authorities than others. Kent was quoted as one of the counties who use the service frequently. Local Authorities also come to the RNIB with follow-up queries. Enquiring about Hampshire did not start any instant response. My visit was informal, but two days later I opened my mailbox to find an e-mail containing details of the several publications and pamphlets published in Hampshire, dates and details included. Surely this must be a fine example of an efficient service. Perhaps as we enter a new era of change this article may provide a link for the busy person. Michael Caine once said, "Not a lot of people know that!" No, but we now know where to find some of the answers!

The following is copied from the RNIB'S own publication:

The RNIB Research library houses the largest collection of material relating to visual impairment in the United Kingdom. The library contains around 19,000 items including 6,000 books, 6,500 pamphlets, 2,500 government papers, 4,000 annual reports of and for blind people in the UK and overseas and 180 current periodicals. The library represents an essential resource for anybody working with and for visually impaired people.

St Dunstan's Golf Club plays 18 holes with The Royal Marines

MATT WINS HOME CADDY



Members of St Dunstan's Golf Club, escorts, the Libberton Golfers and Royal Marines from RMB Chivenor.



Alan Logan congratulates Matt on a good game.

It could be that David Morris – widely regarded as one of the UK's best blind golfers - has some serious competition amongst St Dunstan's golfers. Matthew Rhodes emerged as the best blind golfer during a three-way match between St Dunstan's, Royal Marines at RMB Chivenor and Libberton Golf Club.

Matt, a relative newcomer to the game, has developed a back swing to compensate for his



St Dunstaner John Stevens with fellow contestants Jack Stevenson and Marine Daniel Tompkins.

paralysis. Against the odds this enables him to strike the ball in a powerful straight line. His achievement was feted with the presentation of a home caddy system donated by Logan Golf International.

The contest was organised by Colour Sergeant Kerry Lewis and St Dunstan's team picked up the challenge with their usual relish. They travelled down to RMB Chivenor near Barnstaple, Devon where 'Reg' Perrin joined them to dispense Zen wisdom and judge who was nearest to the pin.

Arrival on March 17th coincided with a Real Ale Festival in the Sergeants' Mess. It is surely coincidence that St Dunstaner Craig Neller awoke the next day under the impression that he had already played his 18 holes. It was, apparently, a great game! Cue "Confucius" Perrin: "If you want to fly with the eagles – don't get up like a vulture."

The course at Libberton offered the golfers a variety of challenges with scenic drops and some surprising water features.

The home team won the day. They claimed The Alan Logan Trophy, a mounted putter that will be held at RMB Chivenor for future contests.

St Dunstaner John Stevens very graciously accepted the booby prize, a book on how to improve his game. All contestants and escorts came away with a memento of the day, they were presented with a bottle of tees emblazoned with the crests of St Dunstan's, The Royal Marines, Libberton Golf Club and Alan Logan Golf International.

ESCORTS WANTED

St Dunstan's Golf Club are seeking escorts for future games. For further details contact Mike Godden at St Dunstan's Ovingdean on 01273 307811 ext 3101.

A GAME OF CATCH

Anglers always have a tale of the one that got away, the massive fish that put up such a tussle before slipping the hook and returning to the depths. However, St Dunstaner Trevor Tatchell recalls running into one Cardiff angler who wanted to get rid of his catch.

Trevor had been walking his guide dog, letting him off the leash for a morning run. Soon after, he chanced upon an irate fisherman bellowing at the top of his voice.

"Is this dog yours?" he demanded to know. "Yes, but don't worry," said Trevor, "he won't bite." The angler curtly replied that was the least of his worries. Trevor's pedigree chum had just helped himself to a pack of sandwiches and a bucket of bait!

• If you have any similar tales, why not share them. Write to The Editor, *St Dunstan's Review*, 12-14 Harcourt Street, London W1A 4XB.

APRIL QUIZ ANSWERS

1) St Elmo; 2) St Patrick; 3) St Dunstan; 4) St Thomas à Becket; 5) St Bernadette of Lourdes.

FAMILY NEWS

BIRTH

Congratulations on the birth of:

Callum Hobbs on July 13th 1999. He is the great-grandnephew of Mrs Gladys Jeanmonod of Pinner, Middlesex, widow of Frank Jeanmonod.

Samuel Pugh on November 22nd. He is the first great-grandson of Mrs Rose Haskey of Pinner, Middlesex, widow of Henry Haskey.

WEDDINGS

Congratulations to:

Belinda and James McNair in April. Belinda is the daughter of Mrs Dorothy White of Auckland, New Zealand, widow of Leonard White.

Amanda and Tony Finestone on December 5th.

Amanda is the granddaughter of Mrs Sylvia Meleson of Wembley, Middlesex, widow of Harry Meleson.

RUBY ANNIVERSARIES

Congratulations to:

Elsie and Frederick Tucker of Porthcawl, Mid Glamorgan on March 19th.

Bernard and Sylvia Lewandowski of Weston-super-Mare, Somerset on April 2nd.

SAPPHIRE ANNIVERSARY

Congratulations to:

Tom and Betty Page of Morecombe, Lancashire on April 9th.

GOLDEN ANNIVERSARIES

Congratulations to:

Sidney and Winifred Hoyle of Lytham St Annes, Lancashire on March 29th.

Percy and Dylis Stower of Cardiff on April 10th.

Colin and Joyce Beaumont-Edmonds of Sidmouth, Devon on April 21st.

DIAMOND ANNIVERSARY

Congratulations to:

Ted and Iris Miller of Leamington Spa, Warwickshire on April 7th.

SPECIAL ANNIVERSARIES

Congratulations to:

Charles and Olive Cummings of Verwood, Dorset who celebrated 68 years of marriage on March 26th.

Cedric and Vera Mays of Steeple Bumpstead, Suffolk who celebrated 64 years of marriage on March 30th.

ACHIEVEMENT

Congratulations to:

Tony Geldard, aged 19 who has joined the Royal Dragoon Guards. His grandparents Colin and Pearl Mills attended his passing out parade in Winchester on February 25th.

DEATHS

We regret to announce the death of:

Mrs Vi Morton of Bishops Stortford, Hertfordshire on March 30th. She was the wife of Fred Morton.

Mrs Lilian Sedman of Bury, Lancashire on March 17th. She was the widow of *Cyril Sedman*.

Mrs Sally Sandiford of Bolton, Lancashire on March 29th. She was the widow of *Ray Sandiford*.

Mrs Gwendoline 'Beri' Hill of Belper, Derbyshire on April 4th. She was the widow of *Edward Hill*.

Mrs Nora Westby of Morecombe, Lancashire on April 6th. She was the widow of *Joseph Westby*.

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.

Frederick Boughton

Royal Artillery (Field)

Frederick Herbert Boughton of Old Duston, Northamptonshire died on March 15th, aged 80. He had been a St Dunstaner since 1949. Originally a railway porter he enlisted in the Royal Artillery (Field) in 1940. He suffered head wounds while serving as a Gunner and was discharged in 1946. After training at St Dunstan's he took up poultry farming and later worked for the Express Lift Co. His hobbies included picture framing. Our sympathy goes to his widow Violet, daughters Caroline and Sally and all other members of the family.

Richard Taylor

Staffordshire Yeomanry

Richard Taylor of Wolverhampton died on March 25th, aged 87. He had been a St Dunstaner since 1943. He enlisted in 1930 with the Kings Dragoon Guards and was then posted to the Cavalry Training Regiment. He later transferred to the Staffordshire Regiment and was posted to the Royal Armoured Corps. He was serving as a Trooper with the Staffordshire Yeomanry when he received gunshot wounds in action at Cairo. After training at St Dunstan's he returned to his pre-enlistment occupation at an aircraft components factory. Our sympathy goes to his widow Ann, daughter Yvonne and all other members of the family.

Stanley Appleyard

York and Lancaster Regiment

Stanley Appleyard of East Garforth, Leeds, died on March 29th, aged 81. He joined the York and Lancaster Regiment in 1939, serving in Norway, Iceland and the UK. After his discharge in 1946 he worked as a delivery driver before retiring at the age of 59. Our sympathy goes to his widow Gwen, daughter Joan and all other members of the family.

John Davies, BA

Bombay Grenadiers

John Selwyn Davies of Cardiff died on April 6th, aged 78 and had been a St Dunstaner since 1946. He enlisted in 1941 and served with the Bombay Grenadiers, Indian Army as a Lieutenant. He was blinded in an accident in 1945. After training at St Dunstan's he returned to his studies at Oxford. In 1949 Mr Davies started a career in education as an assistant tutor in English at Coleg Harlech. In 1968 he became Director of Extra Mural Studies at University College, Cardiff. Our sympathy goes to his widow Joan, sons Andrew, Julian, James and William and all other members of the family.

Richard Morcel,

Corps of Royal Engineers

Richard Alfred Morcel of Bolton, Lancashire died on April 7th, aged 51. He had been a St Dunstaner since 1990. Mr Morcel enlisted in the Corps of Royal Engineers in 1966 and trained as a combat engineer before being posted to West Germany. He boxed for his regiment and played football at squadron level. Having reached the rank of Lance Corporal Mr Morcel was invalided out after the onset of diabetes. Our sympathy goes to all members of the family.

Jack Boorman

National Fire Service

Horace John Boorman of Faversham, Kent died on April 9th, aged 94. He had been a St Dunstaner since 1964. Known as Jack he served in the National Fire Service from 1927 to 1943 as a section officer responsible for training. After leaving the NFS he worked as an inspector for Metal Pressing Ltd. He was secretary of his local association for the blind for over 16 years. Our sympathy goes to his daughter Margaret and all other members of the family.