

St Dunstan's Review

August 2000



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Cover picture: *Esprit de Corps! St Dunstaner Steve Nixon was cheered on by fellow Royal Marines when he tackled the London to Brighton Bike Ride.*

Full details on page 6.

From the Chairman



We send loyal greetings and our heartiest congratulations to Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother on the occasion of her 100th birthday on August 4th.

Sir John Wall, CBE, MA(Oxon)

It is with great pleasure that I extend the congratulations of all at St Dunstan's to Sir John Wall on the award of his Knighthood in the Queen's Birthday Honours list on June 17th. John is Chairman of The Royal National Institute for the Blind and was elected a member of St Dunstan's Council in October 1990.

John attended Worcester College and went to Oxford where he studied law. He is currently Deputy Master in the High Court, Chancery Division.

He works tirelessly on behalf of visually impaired people both nationally and internationally. John is President of the European Blind Union and Chairman of the British Wireless for the Blind Fund amongst other responsibilities.

This recognition is richly deserved. We are delighted for him and wish John a speedy recovery following a recent operation.

Captain Michael Gordon-Lennox, RN



NOTICE BOARD



HER MAJESTY THE QUEEN

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

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

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

"The Queen was pleased to receive your kind message of loyal greetings sent on behalf of the Council and Members of St Dunstan's on the occasion of Her Majesty's Official Birthday. The Queen thanks you for your thoughtfulness in writing as you did, and warmly reciprocates your good wishes."

CONNEX HELPLINE

Connex, the company operating railway services in the south-eastern quadrant of the country, has a dedicated phone line to help disabled travellers use the train. They cover South East London, the whole of Kent and parts of Surrey, Hampshire and Dorset. The London Victoria to Brighton service also comes under their remit. The information line is on 0845 000 2211. Callers can obtain advice on planning a journey or arranging assistance when arriving at a station or changing trains.

LAST CALL FOR OLD NUMBERS

The changes to six area telephone codes made in April will become permanent over the next three months. It will not be possible to use the old codes after this procedure ends. The number for St Dunstan's Headquarters is 020 7723 5021.

CALLING ANY

BATTLE OF BRITAIN VETERANS!

Would anybody who was involved directly in the Battle of Britain, either in the air or on the ground, please contact the Public Relations department as soon as possible. Telephone: 020 7723 5021.

OVINGDEAN BOOKINGS FOR CHRISTMAS AND THE NEW YEAR

Bookings for Christmas and the New Year at Ovingdean will again be split:

Christmas Week

Thursday, December 21st
to Wednesday, December 27th

New Year Week

Thursday, December 28th to Thursday, January 4th
Applications must be made by September 1st through your Welfare Officer who will then contact you to complete the application form. If numbers are too great selection will be based on need.

CHURCH STRETTON REUNION DATES

The proposed dates for next year's Church Stretton reunion, for those who trained there during the war, are Tuesday, May 29th to Thursday, May 31st. The approximate cost is £40 per head per night (inclusive of breakfast and evening meal). The venue is the Longmynd Hotel, Church Stretton. Enquiries can be made to Bill Shea via the Public Relations department at St Dunstan's Headquarters.

LANGUAGES GO LARGE PRINT

A series of Collins Easy Learning Large Print Bilingual Dictionaries in French, German and Spanish are now available from the Royal National Institute for the Blind. The Easy Learning Dictionaries are available at £23.99 per set plus postage and packing from RNIB Customer Services on 0845 702 3153.

DEADLINES FOR FUTURE ISSUES

The final date for submitting items for publication in the October *Review* is August 29th.

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

LEISURE AT HOME

A new leaflet provides advice for people with low vision on how to make the most of home based leisure activities. With simple and practical adaptations the leaflet provides many cheap but effective ideas for making things easier to see when gardening, reading, doing DIY or playing board games.

Call RNIB's Customer Services on 0845 702 3153 (cost of a local call) for a free copy of the *Leisure At Home* leaflet. Other leaflets in the *See For Yourself* series offer advice on low vision services, home improvement, lighting and use of magnifiers.

COBOLT SYSTEMS LTD OF NORWICH

This company produces many aids, from talking tape measures to talking microwave ovens for totally blind and partially sighted people. Most of the products have been tried and tested by St Dunstaners. If you would like a catalogue then please call 01493 700172.

JOURNEYS OF REMEMBRANCE

The Royal British Legion recently published *Remembrance Travel 2000*, a brochure of pilgrimages and tours to war cemeteries and memorials. It includes information about group visits to 22 countries.

For a free copy of *Remembrance Travel 2000*, simply call 01622 718477. Fax: 01622 717464.

A CARD WITH FEELING

Personalised tactile greetings cards for birthdays, Christmas and other special occasions are now on offer from Fieldsman Trails. Your message is printed in large print and braille with a tactile picture selected from a choice of country scenes. The cards cost £3.50 each. For details contact Colin at Fieldsman Trails, Fron Deg, Clayton Road, Mold CH7 1SU. Telephone: 01352 756202.

CONTINENTAL COURTENAY

Congratulations to Tim Courtenay who successfully completed a Bike to Brussels ride on June 4th. Tim, who many St Dunstaners will know as The Royal British Legion's Field Officer in Devon, cycled over the South Downs to Dover and then via Ypres to the Belgian capital. The full journey covered 340km.



CAN YOU HELP?

Does anyone remember anything about a St Dunstan's silver spoon? At the top is the St Dunstan's badge and underneath is an angel. It measures approx. five and a half inches in length. If you have any information I would be very grateful. Please contact Robbie Hazan at HQ on 020 7723 5021.

OBITUARIES:

Miss Elsie Westmore

Miss Elsie Westmore or 'Westie' as she was known died on June 29th, aged 96. She was a member of St Dunstan's staff for 37 years, 26 of them as the Editor of *St Dunstan's Review*. She worked for Lord Fraser reading and recording news and comments in order to keep him up to date with affairs. Miss Westmore retired in 1964 but continued to edit *Nuggets* for St Dunstan's. She stepped down in 1987 having managed the publication for 45 years.

Miss Diana Hoare

Many St Dunstaners will be saddened to learn that Diana Hoare, the niece of Avis Spurway (founder of the camps at HMS *Daedalus*), died peacefully on June 25th in the Winchester nursing home where she had been for many years. She was 86.

Diana retired as a camp helper in 1988 but in spite of having lost a leg she delighted campers by coming to the 50th anniversary dinner at HMS *Daedalus* in 1994. Although in a wheelchair, she remained independent in her own house with her beloved dog. Sadly about two years later she lost her second leg and had to go into a nursing home.

Diana was a most faithful camper having started at the age of 17 when Avis held the camps at her own home near Stratford-on-Avon. She had met many St Dunstaners during those years and remembered every one with affection. She had great patience and loved nothing more than talking to her St Dunstaner friends and taking them for long walks. At camp, she danced with indefatigable energy long after younger helpers had given up!

Our sympathy goes to her sister Judy and her many adopted nieces and nephews.

Elsbeth Grant

NEW REPRESENTATIVE

■ Congratulations to Penny Melville-Brown who has been appointed Chair (Designate) of the Learning and Skills Council for Hampshire and the Isle of Wight, replacing the two Training and Enterprise Councils.

Penny writes:

I have taken over from Ray Hazan as St Dunstan's representative and one of the six UK delegates to the European and World Blind Unions. This means that I will be attending the four yearly assembly of each of the Unions, and the more regular meetings of the RNIB International Committee.

The first of these meetings took place in London on June 27th and was my chance to learn something about the current issues and the Committee's work. Much of the time was taken up with reports from various groups who are working to represent the interests of blind and visually impaired people across a huge range of topics: mobility, education, the elderly, human rights, technical equipment etc.

There was discussion about how various airlines may treat disabled people less favourably than other customers. For example, some seem to be charging for transport of wheelchairs. If you have any examples of poor service because of disability, rather than just

more general failings, let me know and I will pass your experiences on to the action group concerned.

The EU is creating a Directive on copyright which might seem rather remote from our everyday interests. But it does have potential implications for reproducing material in accessible formats eg braille. The action group is making good progress and is now tackling the suggestion that originators might be able to use "technical blocks" against illegal copying. This will be particularly relevant for CDs, videos and computer information. The aim is to establish exceptions for groups with special needs.

There is a new "Wayfinder" product based on the white cane that is being trialled in the Czech Republic – hopefully there will be a chance for the inventor to demonstrate it in the UK later this year.

The European Union may need some encouragement to provide information available to the public in accessible formats. "Euro Direct" can be contacted on 0800 581 591 – they have guides and fact-sheets about our rights as EU citizens.

A date for your diaries: December 3rd 2000 will be the European Day of the Disabled Person. Employment will be a main theme and the UK is likely to hold a seminar in the autumn to raise awareness.

BADGE OF PRIDE



In the very early days of St Dunstan's the newly blinded ex-Servicemen in training wore a badge in the shape of a blue oblong, surrounded by laurel sprays. Our Founder, Sir Arthur Pearson decided that a further badge was needed for those that had passed from training into aftercare and he invited suggestions. A number of designs were submitted and finally they combined two designs; the flaming torch – to light the way, encircled by a shield, which represented care and protection. The name "St Dunstan's" was across the shield.

The design of the badge has remained very much the same over many years but the metals and colouring have changed dramatically. A metal lapel badge has always been presented to new St Dunstaners. In pictorial form, the badge has been used constantly on stationary, in publications and in promoting the organisation. A painting by a First World War artist, Craven Hill, depicts the Lady of Hope carrying our badge on her shoulder. A steam locomotive was named after us in April 1937 and one of the large metal nameplates emblazoned with our badge is on display in the foyer at Headquarters.



ON YER BIKE!



The London to Brighton run normally gets people thinking about vintage cars, but on Sunday June 18th it was the cyclists (all 27,000 of them) who took pride of place, including St Dunstan's who entered a strong team for the 2000 London to Brighton Bike Ride.

Our principal competitors were St Dunstaners Steve Nixon in tandem with Grant Cooper and Gary Lomas in tandem with Lynda Stringer. Neil Swan accompanied Steve and Grant throughout the ride and the team was further strengthened by Dave Goldsmith, Mike Godden, Janis Sharp, Paul Roden and Tessa from St Dunstan's Ovingdean, plus Margaret, Franz, and Trevor from PBK. Those not cycling were David Vinall and Mike Varney who provided transport to the start and Sgt Paul Kettleby and a team of three Royal Marines who were available to assist on the major ascents.

David and Mike were up at 3.00am since a 5.00am departure was necessary to ensure a 7.00am start at the southern end of Clapham Common, London. We arrived at Clapham just as the sun was warming things up for what turned out to be the hottest day so far this year. The start area was spectacular with thousands of cyclists waiting for the off. We finally crossed the start line at 7.40am under the watchful eye of St Dunstan's Council Member Major-General Andrew Keeling who came especially to support Steve.

At ten o'clock we passed the ten-mile board – only 48 miles to go and the temperature kept on rising. However, Mike Varney worked wonders in his support bus. He constantly manoeuvred the St Dunstan's bus into places banned to all traffic throughout the day, thus ensuring that the St Dunstan's competitors were constantly fed and



Main picture: *The tandem team of St Dunstaner Gary Lomas and Lynda Stringer speed along the open road to Brighton.*

Left: *Our London to Brighton cyclists get ready to roll on Clapham Common.*

watered during what proved to be a gruelling, but highly rewarding challenge.

Dave Goldsmith and Mike Godden of the Sports and Recreation department were having a few problems with their tandem (due to distribution of weight!) and Margaret and Franz (PBK) were having chain problems, but apart from that all bikes were holding up well. The route was physically and mentally demanding and the intense heat made the going even tougher. By lunchtime the temperature was up in the 80's and we were very pleased to see Sgt Kettleby and his three Marines at the bottom of Turner's Hill. The enormous numbers of cyclists made it impossible to ride up the hill and walking was the only option.

Heat exhaustion and dehydration were beginning to set in and tempers were becoming slightly (!) frayed as we passed the halfway point. The heat was so intense that the tarmac on the road was beginning to melt and this acted as a constant braking system as the tar clung to bicycle tyres and then – there it was – the dreaded Ditchling Beacon. A 500ft ascent in just one third of a mile and this after we had already completed 50 miles. Very few people even attempt to cycle up this hill. However, with a little team effort Steve cycled up the hill whilst the Royal Marines went up at the double just behind.

Once at the top, it was downhill all the way and a real sense of achievement as we crossed the finishing line in front of thousands of cheering onlookers. All from St Dunstan's who took part completed the 58 mile course in just less than nine hours, despite the scorching temperatures, the only side-effects being sunburn and taking a great deal of care when choosing a chair over the next few days.

This fine effort by Steve and Gary needed a considerable amount of dedication, training and commitment and their endeavours were well recognised by the many people who sponsored them for the event. Special thanks to Grant who single-handedly navigated Steve to Brighton despite a running commentary about the merits of Sunderland football club. I think Steve and Grant are talking again, but football is off limits.

Special congratulations must go to Steve who completed the 60 mile course in true Royal Marine manner and raised in the region of £5,000 for St Dunstan's. In his now familiar words: "It was just a walk in the park!" Well, Steve, it was a BIG park – good effort!



Keep those pedals moving Steve! Messrs Nixon and Cooper are coming through.



Gary and Lynda make a sprightly finish.



PBK's Trevor races back to light the barbie.

TRI-SERVICE TRIUMPH ON TARGET

St Dunstan's takes on Army, Royal Navy and Royal Air Force

by Roger McMullan



David Poyner prepares to shoot.

St Dunstan's Archery Club Summer Shoot was held from June 11th to June 17th on the field at St Dunstan's Ovingdean. There were 15 archers competing, the most the club has had for many years. It was nice to see new members competing on handicap in all shots, unfortunately the weather was not too favourable at the start of the week.

Competitions started on the Tuesday with the Dacre Trophy. On Wednesday, the Club welcomed teams of archers from the Army, Navy and Air Force. A friendly rivalry made it a great day's shooting and the St Dunstan's team beat all the services teams. As it was the first time the Navy had shot against St Dunstan's, a new trophy was bought named the Britannia Trophy.



The Army team in action.

After the competition, all were entertained to lunch in the Winter Garden followed by the medal and trophy presentations by Lady Paramount Susan Harrison. We also had the privilege of entertaining Mrs Lenie Hinton, Craft Instructor who was retiring after many years at St Dunstan's. The Archery Club presented her with a gift in grateful thanks of all her work.

Thursday saw the Curly Wagstaff Trophy, Friday the RUC Pairs Trophy and on Saturday the Club travelled to Newhaven Archery Club who hosted a four-way shoot against Cuckfield, Greenways and Newhaven. It was a very hot day but enjoyed by all, with St Dunstan's team coming out as winners on handicap against all the other clubs.

RESULTS SERVICES SHOOT



St Dunstan's Team

Dennis Crouch, Nigel Whiteley, David Poyner and Leslie George (above)

Score 5808



Army

George Carter, Lee Miller, John Grout and Chris Vitali (above)

5713



Royal Air Force

Andy Cramm, Bob Ruffells, Paul Bevis and Steve Wildman (above)

5659



Royal Navy

Barry Green, Jonathan Parker, Tony Whitwham and Martin Payne (above)

5658

OTHER RESULTS

Dacre Trophy

Tony Parkinson	1728
Leslie George	1604
David Poyner	1528

Curly Wagstaff Trophy

David Poyner	1549
Ron Freer	1526
Leslie George	1522

RUC Pairs Trophy

Bert Wood and Dennis Crouch	646
John Lilley and Ron Cattell	630
Tony Parkinson and Ron Freer	607

Four-way Saturday Shoot

St Dunstan's
Leslie George, Sidney Doy,
Arthur Lowe and Terry Ottewell 6040

Cuckfield

John Grout, Jonathan Grout,
Alan King and Phil Varden 5754

Greenways

David Habgood, Enid Andrews,
Barbara Degenhardt, Sue Habgood 5684

Newhaven

Alan T, Norma, Mike, Heather Duggan 5808

We look forward to seeing everyone again at the end of this month for the Autumn shoot.



Adding up the scores.



Nigel Whiteley during the winning shoot.

REUNION ROUND UP

Lieutenant-General Sir Maurice Johnston, KCB, OBE presided at the Shaftesbury reunion on June 21st. Twenty-three St Dunstaners and 14 widows gathered at the Royal Chase Hotel in Shaftesbury.

Captain Ray Hazan presided over an evening gathering at the Royal Scot Hotel, Edinburgh on June 28th. Three St Dunstaners, were joined by two widows and the daughter of a late St Dunstaner. The guests were piped into dinner by Joe Caution, Piper to Chief of the Clan Ferguson.

One cause for celebration at the reunion was an event the day before, on June 27th. A stone cairn was named after Sydney Scroggie. Thus his name will be retained for posterity in his beloved hills. Further details are on page 19.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY, MA'AM

With Our Love and Admiration on Your Hundredth Birthday on August 4th



The Queen Mother was introduced to St Dunstaners during the Regency Exhibition at Brighton in 1946.



The late Tommy McKay was presented to Her Majesty when she visited Ovingdean in 1948.

Ever since the foundation of St Dunstan's the Royal Family have shown the greatest interest in our work. King George V was a devoted friend and when he died in 1936 his son, Prince Albert became our Patron. HRH Prince Albert became the Duke of York in 1920, he married Lady Elizabeth Bowes-Lyon, now The Queen Mother, in 1923, succeeded to the throne as King George VI in December 1936 and died in February 1952.



How the Review marked the coronation of their Majesties The King and Queen in 1937.



Industrial training was demonstrated by the late John Palmer, as he assembled an aircraft engine.

The OLD BILL Fraternity



ENROLMENT FORM

I consent to become a member of The Old Bill Fraternity and undertake to purchase from St. Dunstan's, goods made by war-blinded men to the minimum value of 5/- (plus cost of delivery) annually. To pay an initial membership fee of 6d. and in the event of my having to resign, to provide a substitute member. In fulfilling these conditions it is my desire to show appreciation for the sacrifice made by the Nation's war-blinded, and I will assist by interesting others in the objects of the Old Bill Fraternity.

"PUT IT THERE MATE"

M.H.R.H. the Duchess of York
145 Piccadilly

Please state title or whether Mr., Mrs., or Miss.

HM Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother has also shown a steady interest in St Dunstan's.

This interest was confirmed by her consent to become the first Lay Member of the Old Bill Fraternity – a scheme to encourage the sale of goods made by St Dunstaners.

On many occasions, both the King and Queen went out of their way to greet St Dunstaners on public occasions and made a point of purchasing their goods at exhibitions throughout the country.

As the Queen, in February 1948, she paid her first visit to St Dunstan's Training Centre at Ovingdean. Her Majesty stayed for nearly two hours, visiting every department in turn and watching and greeting many of the trainees at their work.



Her Majesty saw every aspect of St Dunstan's training and was particularly interested in a young Royal Engineer who had lost both eyes, both hands and suffered serious damage to his hearing during action in the Middle East. That young St Dunstaner, the late John Proctor, used a specially adapted typewriter where his steel hooks could strike the slotted keyboard.

The visit of the Queen Mother honoured not only the hundreds of St Dunstaners of both wars who were present on this occasion but also the 5,000 members of St Dunstan's Family throughout the Empire.



Her Majesty and Princess Margaret examining the handicrafts of Lady St Dunstaner Alice Gimbrere who was blinded while serving with the WRNS.

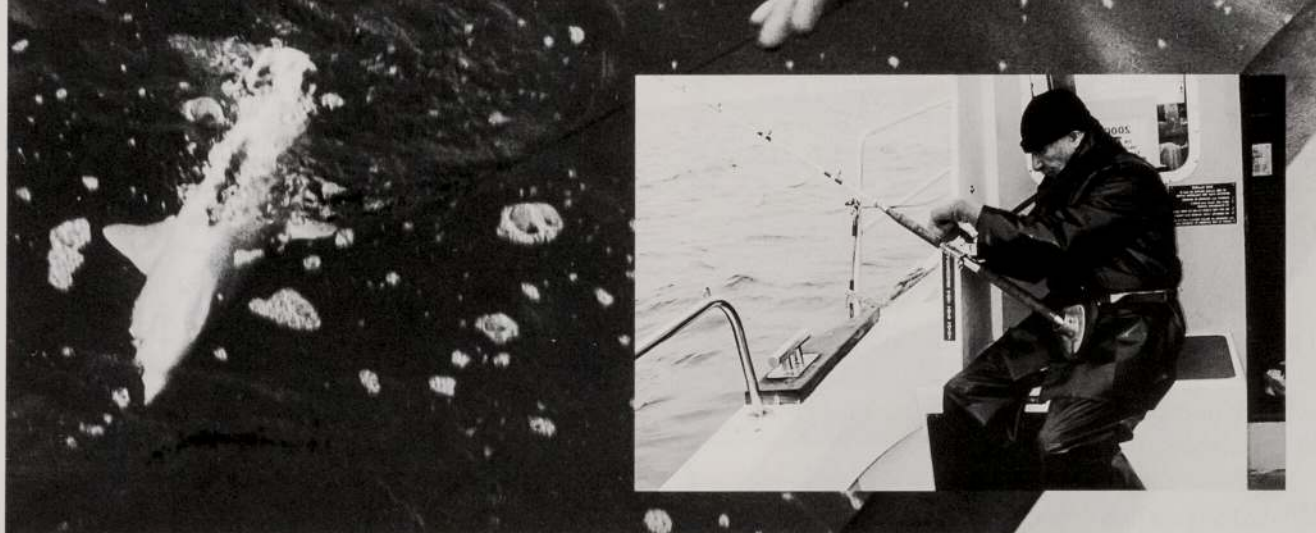


St Dunstaner John Walbrugh was presented to Her Majesty The Queen Mother at a commemorative service for South Africans who died on D-Day.

August 4th will be the culmination of many celebratory events – pageants, processions, church services and banquets. May these be warm memories for Her Majesty The Queen Mother for many more years to come.

Yes, the big one got away!

Joek Carnochan and St Dunstan's Fishing Club return to the sea



Wally Lethbridge hooked the heaviest tope but it managed to break free of his line.

Having missed out on last year's annual trip, the first for 31 years, we decided on a new venue for this year. After extensive negotiations with WOI Russ Craig we were finally accepted as guests of the Sergeants' Mess at RM Poole. So on May 29th, at 10.30 we set out in St Dunstan's minibus with driver Stan Bowers who I understand had volunteered as driver and helper for the week - an odd decision for an ex-RM!

This driver-minibus contribution was a great help as the camp was about three miles from the harbour, a long walk with your wellies and wet suit on. Our



Alan Mitchell with his catch.

boat *Our Gemma* had been booked well in advance skippered by owner Mervyn Minns. We arrived at RM Poole after a good run down with a comfort stop at the Red Rover just outside Salisbury.

Being Bank Holiday Monday the camp was quite deserted with most of the complement enjoying a well-earned long weekend, but the RSM had everything well organised for our arrival. We soon unloaded and settled in to our accommodation.

Our group consisted of five St Dunstaners: Team Captain Fred Bentley, Wally Lethbridge, Jack Fulling, Alan Mitchell and Phil Dobson.

For those who may be interested, in 1941 Lake House (the present Officers' Mess) and the land around it was requisitioned by the Bournemouth Electricity Board for use as a Sea Plane Base and Landing Craft Training Centre. The base was called *HMS Turtle* a name that lives on as the Marines Club. The camp was one of the main bases used for training personnel for the Normandy landings and the attack on Walcheren.

After the war the camp became derelict until its re-opening in 1954 as the Amphibious School Royal Marines and to reflect its new role after many name changes it finally arrived at its present title

RM Poole. It should also be noted that Poole Harbour is the second largest natural harbour in the world, giving way to Sydney Harbour Australia.

So much for history, what about the fishing? In some ways not so good as expected or does that apply to the fishermen? It took a good hour to clear the harbour where we expected to catch, pouting, dog fish, cod, mackerel, tope etc. Looking at the skipper's fish finding screen it was evident they were there but would seem they weren't hungry (that's our excuse).

A few mackerel were caught which certainly provided good fresh bait for the young tope (shark family) which were running and biting. For those who have fished for trout and salmon the technique is similar, when it wants to run let it, when it doesn't wind it in. So it goes on, cat and mouse, until you finally either boat it or secure it alongside depending on size, when it is weighed measured for length and girth and sexed, this is recorded. Finally a tag is inserted just behind the dorsal fin and the tope is then released. As you can imagine exciting and sporty fishing!

Of the half dozen or so boats that were fishing in our area we seemed to be the only one catching. Of our team everyone caught except Captain Fred, so we awarded him the first ten penalty points. Tope man of the week was Jack Fulling catching five all around the 15-20 pound weight and approximately a metre long. Alan and Phil got one each.

I thought Wally hooked the heaviest. It was running from side to side under the boat and by the time it surfaced his main line broke through rubbing on the boat's hull. Hard luck Wally! Catching so many tope was a new experience for our team.

The weather could have been kinder for the time of year. Our first day out was wet, windy, cold and miserable with only a couple of mackerel and dog fish to show for our efforts. Thereafter the weather improved but not the catching, despite that our first visit to the new venue was enjoyable, as always plenty of good banter.

Our accommodation and food was excellent with a first class dining room and galley staff looking after our every need. It took the resident Sergeants a week to get used to half a dozen blind men wandering the corridors trying to locate their cabins. I feel quite confident that the mess funds were well boosted by our contribution to the bar particularly with the low prices.



Tope dog! Phil Dobson hooked Jaws baby-brother off the coast of Poole.

We highly commend the following, RSM Russ Craig, who kept a close eye on our welfare, WOII Peter Scotland, the mess manager and his catering staff who took care of our food and accommodation needs and for the friendliness and warm welcome extended by all mess members, not forgetting the bar who provided table service. A big thank you to Stan Bowers for his unfailing attention on and off the boat, although he deserted ship a couple of times for which he received a few penalty points (best described by Stan) and on occasion missed a turning and negotiated a few roundabouts to get back on course but Fred had him taped and awarded a few more points. Joking apart, thank you Stan for all your hard work.

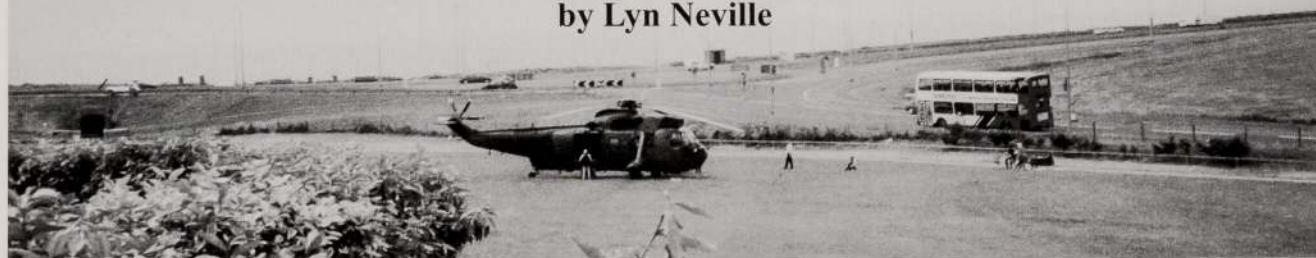
It was a new experience for our skipper Mervyn looking after half a dozen blind anglers but he did it well and we shall certainly book him again on a return visit. Finally a special thank you to St Dunstan's for providing transport and driver.



St Dunstaner Jack Fulling reels in a big one!

Life and Times of Ovingdean

by Lyn Neville



The Royal Marines helicopter strikes an imposing profile compared to a passing double-decker bus.



Royal Marine Julian Stevens makes a quick inspection of the visiting helicopter.

We have had a very busy time here at Ovingdean with a host of activities and excursions.

On June 6th a group of St Dunstaners joined the "Not Forgotten Association" for a boat trip on the *Solent*. Everyone had a good trip and enjoyed a good lunch while on board.

St Dunstan's had another military visit on June 20th when a Royal Marines helicopter landed at 10am. When the Marines arrived the weather seemed as though it was going to stay rainy all day. However, after lunch the sun came out and many St Dunstaners, local widows and guests from local rest homes were able to make their way down to the lower field to see the helicopter. The more agile were also able to clamber aboard to examine the cockpit.

We have also been visited by the new Lord Lieutenant of East Sussex Mrs Stewart-Roberts, OBE who came to Ovingdean on June 22nd. She was introduced to the Chairman, St Dunstaners and members of staff and given a tour of the building by Susan Harrison.

On July 1st we had our Millennium Barn Dance and BBQ. St Dunstaners and staff got together for an evening of country music and line dancing along with another great feast from PBK.

Forthcoming events include a visit by the Royal Marines Band on September 4th.



The Lord Lieutenant chats with Les Copeland.
Below: Sid Doy demonstrates his archery skills.



LENIE RETIRES

Lenie Hinton retired on June 23rd 2000 after 22 years service to St Dunstan's as Craft Supervisor in the Rehabilitation & Training department at Ovingdean. She originally joined the Charity as a Craft Teacher on December 6th 1977 and in 1995 became Craft Supervisor.

Over the years many St Dunstaners have benefited from Lenie's knowledge of a host of crafts. Nothing was impossible and she was always prepared to let anyone have a go at anything.

During her time here Lenie had seen many changes within the Charity and especially the Rehabilitation & Training department. The move of the two Craft Rooms from the 4th Floor North Wing to the Craft Workshop was a daunting task, which Lenie and her staff undertook with admirable calm and organisation. The new Craft Workshop has allowed far more scope for an increasing number of crafts to be carried out. This includes rug-making, papier-mâché, pottery and mosaic.

Lenie will be missed by St Dunstaners and staff alike and we all wish her well in her retirement.



Lenie Hinton was presented with a token of appreciation by St Dunstan's Archery Club.

New additions to the Rehabilitation and Training Department

Pat Callue has joined the department as Rehabilitation Officer, while Selina Graham and Graham Elliott, are Cookery and Craft Instructors, who replace Pam Durie and Lenie Hinton.

My Visit to the American Embassy

By Matthew Rhodes

I was invited to attend an exhibition of sculptures at the American Embassy on Friday, June 30th.

A Red Indian serving with the American Army in Vietnam in 1968 got seriously injured from a grenade exploding in his face. The explosion completely blinded him and took away half of one of his hands. Today, he is one of the best sculptors from America!

Michael A. Naranjo had always wanted to be a sculptor since his childhood, when he used to tear about with all of his Indian friends. The way he makes his sculptures is by sheer touch and nothing else, as he does not need it!

He said that when people come around to look at his sculptures, he wants them to close their eyes, and reach out and touch the sculpture, so that they can feel what he sees. For those people who can see, the sculptures look truly fantastic!

I have got some sight, but when I closed my eyes, and reached forth with my hands, the feeling of the sculptures was absolutely amazing! It felt as though they weren't sculptures, but were actual living things, just perched there waiting to spring, dance, walk forward into life! Here are a couple of examples:

The Secret (1984 Bronze)

This is of an old man with a walking stick and an Eagle on his left shoulder. Long hair, long face, walking on to his destiny.

The Crayer (1997 Bronze)

This one is of a young girl who is holding a stick up in the air with her left hand. With her right hand she's holding the reins of a bareback horse. She feels like a young girl in joy with her surroundings and life.

In the art world, Naranjo is known as 'The Man Who Sees With His Hands'!

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Letters to the Editor are always welcome.

Send a letter, tape or disk to 12-14 Harcourt Street, London W1A 4XB. Fax: 020 7224 9616.

E-mail: ray.hazan@st-dunstans.co.uk

**From: Mike Tetley, MBE,
St Albans, Hertfordshire**

Regarding tactile markings on pavements. I wonder if the time has come to modify tactile markings in the light of experience in using them. When they first appeared on our pavements I thought to myself, "What a good idea", but I now look upon them and the ramps from the pavement onto the road as a disaster and an idea thought up by someone who had at least partial sight.

As there is no sharp edge of a kerb these days you can only tell that you are at the edge when you have overshot it and put your foot on the road. It would be much better if they retained a small kerb say only of half an inch in height then you could tell the road from the ramp.

Last year I was in Japan and came across tactile markings worn down by heavy traffic "cutting corners" and I could foresee the same trouble here in England in a few years time. The authorities will not have the money or time to replace worn markings. When, as a totally blind man, I want to cross a road using my long cane I would stand in the road and click my heels against the kerb, which would give me a direction of right angles to the road that I hope to cross. With ramps you can only guess and more than once I have found myself missing the far side pavement.

Let's get back to common sense and well tried road markings. Like political correctness tactile markings have made things more difficult. Is it time for Guide Dogs for the Blind, St Dunstan's and the RNIB to start alerting the authorities how difficult it is going to be when the tactile markings wear down? So can we start having even half an inch kerb back? Half an inch is not much of a bump for wheelchairs or prams.

From: Mr E.C. John, MBE, Wallasey

Regarding Bill Shea's letter in the June *St Dunstan's Review*, I am the person who suggested to Mr Shea that a more apt slogan (or strap line) for St Dunstan's would be "Caring for War Blinded and Blind Ex-Service Men and Women".

From: Emma Daborn, Barnstaple, Devon

I feel I want to thank you for sending me the *St Dunstan's Review*, I enjoy reading it. I had a good chuckle in the last *Review* with the poem *The Exasperated Wife*. On Sunday evenings, with a friend, we visit an old people's home! (My friend is 81 and I am 79). We have tapes to play, and anything we have to read. I took *The Exasperated Wife* and read to them and they had a good laugh. Now I have *A Smile!* to read and I know they will enjoy it! Thank you.

Des is best golfer!



Des Chandler won this year's Best Blind Golfer trophy during the annual contest for the St Dunstan's Invitation Shield on June 17th. Accompanied by his guide Fez Parker, Des claimed the Alan Logan Trophy after achieving a stableford score of 31.

Des and Fez, with John Stevens and guide David Woodrow also took the prize for best St Dunstan's team. St Dunstaner Iain Millard managed the longest drive. Rusper Golf Club retained the Invitation Shield for a second year.

St Dunstan's Golf Club voiced their thanks to Rusper Golf Club for hosting the event, to sponsors Courage Breweries, Norwich Union, British Aerospace, Ericsson, Weatherstone Properties Ltd and everyone else who supported the event.

Welcome to St Dunstan's

Frank Parsons of Cheadle Hulme, Cheshire joined St Dunstan's on June 15th. Now aged 104 he served in the Royal Engineers from August 1915 to 1919. A drill and musketry instructor at Chatham, he deployed to Egypt. After the war he worked as a carpenter with his father in Gloucestershire until 1934 when he moved to Southport and became clerk of works to a firm of architects. In 1947 he set up his own business as a jobbing builder before retiring in 1966. A keen cricketer he played as an all-rounder for a number of local clubs. He now lives with his daughter Audrey.

Andrew Baxter of Tidworth, Hampshire enlisted in the Army in 1981 and has been serving as a Staff Sergeant in 1st Regiment Royal Horse Artillery. He has served with his regiment in Canada, Northern Ireland, Bosnia and other European countries. A field gunner, he also served as Provost Sergeant, Mess Manager and BQMS of E Battery. Known as Billy, he is interested in field sports and has been active in tug-of-war, boxing, fishing, riding and clay pigeon shooting. Sgt Baxter and his wife Karen have a daughter and two sons.

Dennis Busby of Hull, East Yorkshire served in the Royal Artillery from 1943 to 1947 and later with the Royal Army Service Corps (TA) from 1950 to 1952. Now aged 75, he trained as a driver wireless operator. His regiment took part in the D-Day landings and fought through Europe to Germany as 98 Field Regiment. Whilst in Germany he produced a variety show for his unit. He produced another variety show after being seconded to XXX Corps (30 Corps). After the war he returned to his job as a fruit salesman but later worked as a theatrical agent and entertainer. Mr Busby and his wife Betty both play the organ and he enjoys his garden, music and talking books.

Charles Dancer of Bexhill-on-Sea, East Sussex served in the Royal Engineers from 1938 to 1960. Having been deployed to France with 58 Chemical Defence Company, he was evacuated via Dunkirk. The unit retrained in the UK before being posted to India and then Burma. He served in the Arakan and Imphal before injuring his leg during construction of a bridge. After the war he served in Germany, the

Middle East and retired as Staff Sergeant while serving with the Railway Training Regiment at Longmoor. Leaving the service, Mr Dancer joined Wimpey Construction and was a regional manager in their marketing division when he retired. He enjoyed running and sports such as archery, bowls and badminton. Mr Dancer and his wife have a daughter.

Dennis Foster of Blyth, Northumberland served in the Royal Engineers from 1940 to 1945. Now aged 86, he was serving in Greece when taken prisoner on the front line. After six months he was transferred to Germany and held in several camps. In civilian life he worked as a Borough Surveyor in Northumberland and Whitley Bay. His interests have included stamp collecting and caravanning. Having played the piano and accordion he enjoys music. Mr Foster has a son and a daughter.

George Pointer of Brookfield, Preston served in the Royal Marines from 1942 to 1948. Now aged 76, he joined the Corps in Devon and was posted to Egypt, followed by short tours in Malta, Sicily and Italy. Having returned to the UK in preparation for D-Day, he volunteered for commando training. While serving with 46 Royal Marine Commando in Europe, his unit was ambushed on a river crossing. Mr Pointer suffered gunshot wounds. He spent three and a half years in hospital and his right leg was amputated below the knee. After being discharged he returned to Courtoulds as a storeman and became a buyer before retiring in 1980. He and his wife Mildred have three daughters and two sons.

FIFTY YEARS AGO

The International Lawn Tennis Championships were in full swing at Wimbledon with two blinded soldiers Douglas Calder and F. Hume Crowe looking after the physiotherapy needs of the competitors. Both trained as physios at St Dunstan's.

Rev Michael Norman was ordained as a curate at Canterbury Cathedral by the Bishop of Dover. He had been appointed as curate to a church near Broadstairs in Kent. Rev Norman is now Chairman of St Dunstan's South Africa.

THE THREE MUSKETEERS

ST DUNSTAN'S-THE CALVERT TRUST-THE "NOT FORGOTTEN" ASSOCIATION

by Chris Ottewell

Once again The "Not Forgotten" Association funded an adventure holiday for St Dunstaners at the Calvert Trust Outdoor Venture in North Devon. Who would have thought that two brothers and other St Dunstaners would spend a week together testing their outdoor skills and endurance? The group consisted of me (Chris) and Terry Ottewell, Jason and Patience Hobday, Helen and Jim Bowyer and Don and Sharon Planner. We were all fully supported by Rosie from The "Not Forgotten" Association.

The River Exe Team comprised of Terry and Chris, Don and Sharon plus four members from the Gulf Veterans' Association.

The River Dart team was Jason and Patience, Helen and Jim, patients and care staff from Headley Court.

The three days were spent canoeing, sailing, riding, abseiling, rock climbing and archery.

Suffice to say that we all took our turn in the events and some members felt they wanted to spend more time in canoes and others on horses or just lazing around enjoying the sun when it shone. The weather was very kind until the last day when sailing had to be cancelled due to high winds.

I suppose the highlight of the week was to see two grown men standing up in two canoes tied together with a rather large silk "thing" held between them. Let me explain.

The canoes were lashed together for security and to ensure that anybody who had not canoed before, did not fall in. I should add at this point that due to green and blue algae in the lake, had anyone fallen in there would have been a problem. To continue - one of the instructors felt that as the wind was rather strong it might be a good idea if the emergency tents were used as some sort of sail which would propel us down the lake at a reasonable speed and relieve our tired arms.

One of the men was blind and the other slightly overweight. The two ladies in the rear of the "raft" needed to steer us into the wind. They had difficulty

doing this and the two men had a lot of pink silk flapping around them, with voices from within calling for some wind. Eventually we had the wind and off we went at a rate of knots to the other end of the lake. Having changed over half way down, the girls took over and with expert navigation found the wind immediately. What nobody had realised was that we had to come all the way back against the wind.

It was decided that the canoes would be unlashd and two people would paddle back to the jetty. I can only speak for myself and say that I had in the front of my canoe the lovely Rosie, who after several 360 degree turns eventually got the hang of which way she should be paddling and we returned to the jetty safely.

On the afternoon of the Wednesday, the River Exe group opted to go on a walk approximately three miles downhill and a quick visit to a hostelry at the bottom and then a quick three miles back up the hill. Just before starting back up the hill however, Terry Ottewell issued a challenge to the Gulf Veterans to see who could get back up the hill quickest. All started well with everybody together. But as age started to tell, Chris and Terry fell behind but finished a creditable ten minutes behind the younger men. A wonderful experience enjoyed by all.

The St Dunstaners from the River Exe team were totally annihilated by the boys from the Gulf Veterans' Association in Archery Darts - as they were all ex-Tank Regiment, we can only assume that they knew what shooting was all about!

I must say that it was a wonderful three days and, of course, nights at the bar when some 30 to 40 people with disabilities got together, not only to have a break, but also a little bit of competition, and a whole lot of camaraderie. To close this little account without thanking firstly, The "Not Forgotten" Association and secondly, The Calvert Trust, would not complete the experience, so thank you all and I hope The Three Musketeers will ride again soon.

Anyone interested in attending one of these activities should contact their Welfare Officer.

Balancing the Books

by Ted Bunting

The Angels Weep

Author: Wilbur Smith

Reader: Jon Cartwright

Catalogue number: 7713

Duration: 22 Hours 17 minutes.

Superb, excellent, first-rate, marvellous, and so on; there are many words of commendation I could employ but no single one which can fully express how good this book really is. Wilbur Smith always tells a rattling good yarn but with this one he has surpassed even himself.

Beginning in Victorian times when Cecil John Rhodes and his followers were attempting to make Africa British from "Cape to Cairo" (and make a fortune for themselves on the way) the author gives a pocket history of Rhodesia from its foundation to its eventual transition into today's Zimbabwe. But the way he tells it is as a fast moving adventure story, action packed and with success and failure hope and despair on a personal as well as on a national level. He also conveys in a truly remarkable way, the complex emotional relationships between the white empire builders, their heirs and the blacks whose ancestral lands they claimed and exploited for personal wealth.

The Angels Weep is quite a long book that defies an adequate summary in only a few words. It frequently describes acts of an extremely brutal nature and equally vicious reprisals too, but its fascination is more compelling than I've found in a book for many a long day and I would urge anyone to put it on their reading list without delay.

QUICK MUSIC QUIZ

A few teasers hitting a musical note.

- 1) Who sang *Underneath the Arches*?
- 2) Who wrote and originally sang *Blue Suede Shoes*?
- 3) Who needed *Help!*?
- 4) Who sang *My Boy Lollipop*?
- 5) Which opera singer sang in the rain at Hyde Park?

Green-fingered Stan



Stan Grimsey tending the raised flower beds on the patio outside the second floor at Ovingdean.

St Dunstaner Stan Grimsey has developed green fingers to go with his twinkling toes. Stan is well known as a master of the dance floor but lately he has been turning his interests to cultivating a sensory garden at St Dunstan's Ovingdean. His efforts have blossomed in spectacular style on the second floor patio which sports a series of raised flower beds.

The flowers were donated by Paul James of PBK though he insisted that Stan make the actual selection. They travelled down to a local garden centre to choose a range of plants with strong scents.

A GOOD LOOK ROUND THE HILLS

Sydney Scroggie of Strathmartine, Angus, has always made a hobby of the hills, sleeping rough, and with one pal or another, latterly his wife Margaret, generally prowling around in the Scottish wilderness.

Sydney's local hills are called the Sidlaws and the highest of these is the 1,492 foot Craigowl. He and Margaret have been on, whether in summer or winter, not less than a hundred times.

You get grouse up there, kestrels, buzzards, foxes, a dwindling population of white hares, but in spite of

the proximity of Dundee very few humans. Next to Craigowl is a hill called Baludderon, notable for the screens on its summit. Here a ceremony was conducted recently, the unveiling of an indicator which tells what you are looking at in every direction. From Ben More to Mount Keen, Lochnagar to the Lomonds, there's not a hill shown on it, by the bye, that Sydney and Margaret haven't been up in their day. It is yet another St Dunstan's triumph, is it not, that this indicator has been dedicated to Sydney, and will henceforth be known as Syd Scroggie's Cairn.

His father prowled these hills, his father's father, Sydney's own family, and now his grandchildren, aged 4, 3 and 1, have already been introduced to them. The Scottish press, pricked up its ears when it heard of these goings-on on Baludderon Hill, but Sydney and Margaret, have the inner thing, inaccessible except to practitioners, which constitutes the background to Syd Scroggie's Cairn.

Using it you can get a good look round certainly, but there are depths within depths where the hills are concerned. These are only understood by the likes of a Scottish St Dunstaner and his wife Margaret who gets him around.

FAMILY NEWS

GOLDEN ANNIVERSARIES

Congratulations to:

Geoffrey and Olive Hagger of Overstrand, Norfolk on June 17th.

Thomas and Irene Johnson of St Annes on Sea, Lancashire on June 22nd.

Thomas and Mary Whitley of Bishops Stortford, Hertfordshire on July 8th.

EMERALD ANNIVERSARY

Congratulations to:

Dennis (Jack) and Lilian Williams of St Julians, Newport, Gwent on June 16th.

DIAMOND ANNIVERSARY

Congratulations to:

Thomas and Grace Renshaw of Radcliffe on Trent, Nottinghamshire on June 23rd

ACHIEVEMENTS

Congratulations to:

Daniel Perfect on gaining his BA(Hons) in Politics and Policies. Daniel is the younger grandson of *John and Audrey Perfect*, Yealmpton, Devon.

Siobhan Lockhart, granddaughter of *Alf and Elsie Lockhart* of Dagenham, Essex, on obtaining a BSc (Hons) in Psychology.

DEATHS

We regret to announce the death of:

Mrs Gwendoline Vincent of Cricklewood, London on June 16th. She was the widow of *Ronald Vincent*.

Mr Alfred Martin of Havant, Hampshire on June 19th. He was the widower of *Dorothy Martin*.

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.

Charles Redford

Royal Electrical & Mechanical Engineers
Charles Arthur Redford of East Molesey, Surrey died on June 27th, aged 83. He had been a St Dunstaner since 1950. Having worked as a fitter and capstan lathe operator, he enlisted with the Royal Electrical & Mechanical Engineers in 1942, serving as Corporal before his discharge in 1946. After training at St Dunstan's he worked in the motor and aviation industries. Our sympathy goes to his widow Elsie, daughters Phyllis and Maureen, son Richard and all of the family.

Bruce Louis

Royal Army Medical Corps
Bruce Francesco Louis of Bare, Morecambe, Lancashire died on June 30th, aged 69. He served as a Private in the Royal Army Medical Corps from 1948 to 1950. He later worked as a bus driver. Our sympathy goes to his widow Jennie, their two sons and all other members of the family.