

# St Dunstan's Review

November  
2000



**Above:** Jamie during his daring desert exploit. Picture by his escort Roraigh Ainslie.

**Right:** Jamie with Prime Minister Tony Blair after receiving his *Unsung Hero of the Year* award.

(Picture is reproduced with kind permission of The Daily Express.)

## HEROIC SONG OF THE SAND

### St Dunstaner Jamie Cuthbertson is named Daily Express Unsung Hero of the Year

**I**n April this year, St Dunstaner Jamie Cuthbertson became the first British born blind person to complete the Sahara Marathon (see May & June Reviews).

With his escort and guide Roraigh Ainslie, Jamie covered the 235km across sand dunes and boulder fields in seven days, raising over £5,000 for the charity Sight Savers International.

Jamie was nominated for the *Daily Express* "Unsung Hero of the Year" award, presented to those who work for others to improve the lives of the sick, handicapped and socially disadvantaged. He was one of five finalists at the Grand Hotel, Brighton on

Tuesday September 26th. You may remember that the Labour Party conference was on at the time, and so it was the Prime Minister himself who presented the award. All contestants received an engraved Edinburgh cut glass bowl. Jamie, who was the only handicapped finalist, received a cheque for £1,000 in addition.

"It was a great evening and I had a chat to Mr Blair and Cherie. They were very pleasant. I was really happy to win."

Jamie has plans for another similar run elsewhere next year. Perhaps the Sahara sun really did get to him!

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## From the Chairman



Last month saw the retirement of our Chief Executive Gerard Frost. He has steered us through some challenging times and we are indebted to him for his efforts on our behalf. We wish him a healthy and happy retirement.

I am very pleased for Jamie Cuthbertson that he should have received an award presented by the Prime Minister. This recognises the extraordinary length, literally, that he went to raise money for charity. In doing so, Jamie's contest across 135 miles of the Sahara desert must be logged in St Dunstan's annals of achievements.

Every year, the Brighton and Hove Health Authority (Nursing), and Brighton and Hove Social Services (Residential) carry out four inspections of Ovingdean. Two of these visits are pre-planned and two unannounced. The premises and its facilities come under close scrutiny. The inspectors are particularly keen on the standard of nursing care. For the past three and a half years, Ovingdean has received unblemished reports. I congratulate Susan Harrison, General Manager and Jackie Greer, Head of Care for this most praiseworthy achievement, for ultimately, it is St Dunstaners who benefit.

Captain Michael Gordon-Lennox, RN



## NOTICE BOARD



### THE WEARING OF SEAT BELTS IN ST DUNSTAN'S VEHICLES

Would everyone please note that, for their personal safety, anyone travelling in a St Dunstan's vehicle provided with seat belts should use them. The only exception is if there is a medical reason to the contrary, supported by a note from a doctor.

Our drivers have been instructed to ensure that all passengers are properly "belted up" prior to leaving for any destination.

### NEW CHAIRMAN OF THE ROYAL NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR THE BLIND

Mr Colin Lowe, CBE has been elected Chairman of the Royal National Institute for the Blind. He succeeds Sir John Wall, CBE on his retirement.

### SLIPS, TRIPS AND AUDIO TAPE

The Department of Trade and Industry has produced an audio tape *Avoiding Slips, Trips and Broken Hips*. It features common sense tips for avoiding accidents at home. To obtain a free copy phone 0870 1502500.

### READY STEADY READ

A general interest magazine specifically aimed at the novice braille or moon reader is now available from the RNIB. *Ready Steady Read* includes a mix of short articles and features. It is aimed at those who have recently taken up a tactile reading method and wish to start with something light. For a sample copy contact RNIB Customer Services on 08457 023153.

### CALIBRE CASSETTE LIBRARY

Calibre Cassette Library holds around 6,000 book titles on standard audio cassette. For details of their catalogue telephone 01296 432339.

### WINTER FUEL PAYMENT FOR PEOPLE AGED 60 OR OVER

This winter the government has increased the Winter Fuel Payment to £150 per eligible household. It will also be paying retrospective payments to those who would have qualified for a winter fuel payment for winters 1997, 1998 and 1999. A helpline 08459 151515 has been set up for people who are aged 60 or over who have any queries about the payment. The line is open Monday to Friday, 8.30-4.30. Calls are charged at local rate.

### NO NUISANCE CALLS WITH TALKING CALLER ID

Blind and partially sighted can now know who is calling before they pick up the phone thanks to the announcing caller identifier available from the Royal National Institute for the Blind.

The Talking Caller ID available from the RNIB is connected to the telephone and announces the telephone number of the person calling in a clear, easy to hear voice before the call is answered. This offers choice in deciding whether to take the call and can help cut down nuisance phone calls.

The device works in conjunction with Caller Display, available from most telephone and cable companies. Costs vary according to telephone service providers but is below £5 a quarter and free in Ireland.

The call identifier is £20 and is available from RNIB Customer Services on 08457 023153.

### POSTCODE CHANGE FOR HQ

Please note that any correspondence addressed to St Dunstan's headquarters should now use **W1H 4HD** as the postcode. The old PO Box number has been phased out, otherwise the address remains as before: St Dunstan's, 12-14 Harcourt Street, London W1H 4HD

### DEADLINES FOR FUTURE ISSUES

The final date for submitting items for publication in the February *Review* is January 8th 2001.

The final date for submitting items for publication in the March *Review* is February 8th 2001.



Gerard Frost presenting Tom Roddy with his St Dunstan's badge.

### RETIREMENT OF GERARD FROST

Gerard Frost completed his accountancy studies in Sussex, before moving to Oxford in 1967. He joined the Oxford University Press as Chief Accountant. When he joined St Dunstan's in March 1986 as Chief Accountant, the department was small and the challenge great. He built up the Accounts department gaining the loyalty of his staff on the way. Computerisation was a major concern and systems had to be implemented, staff trained whilst keeping an overall eye on the fortunes of St Dunstan's. His attention to detail has proved invaluable over the years, as many of you will know.

He worked alongside Bill Weisblatt, the previous Secretary, for eight years. When Bill retired in July 1994 Sir Henry Leach, St Dunstan's Chairman at the time, offered Gerard the post of Secretary, as the position was then called. In 1997, his title was changed to Chief Executive. During his time with St Dunstan's, Gerard has witnessed many changes – from the sale of Pearson House to the amendment of our constitution. He was a great support to Captain Michael Gordon-Lennox when he took over as Chairman.

Gerard retired on October 31st. He is looking forward to having the time to research his family history and pursue his interests in classical music.

We wish him a long, fruitful and satisfying retirement.

### CHURCH STRETTON REUNION

A reunion for those people who trained or worked at Church Stretton is planned for Tuesday, May 29th to Thursday, May 31st 2001 at the Longmynd Hotel, Church Stretton. Enquiries can be made to Bill Shea via the PR department at St Dunstan's Headquarters.

## GERRY IS TOP OF THE CYBER POPS

Pop pickers take heed! The voice of St Dunstaner Gerry Brereton can be heard on a webpage promoting a collection of popular Fifties hits. Computer users can listen to a Real Audio or Windows Media extract from Gerry's *Hold Me, Thrill Me, Kiss Me*.

Gerry, who recently celebrated his 79th birthday, is in good company, tribute to his success at the time, since he is surrounded by the likes of Alma Cogan, Cleo Laine and Johnny Dankworth, Stan Kenton, Nat King Cole and Nelson Riddle. The webpage, part of the CDNOW site is promoting a compilation CD, *1953 Original Chart Hits*, now officially deleted.

*Hold Me, Thrill Me, Kiss Me* is one of 14 singles released on Parlophone by Gerry. Other tracks released that year included *From Here to Eternity*, *Smile* and *Pray For Me* (recorded with the Luton Girls Choir). Gerry served in the Royal Pioneer Corps until he was injured on manoeuvres becoming a St Dunstaner in 1945. He launched a career as a singer playing venues such as the London Palladium and front-lining a number of shows on BBC radio.

## REUNION ROUND-UP

The second Brighton Reunion was held at St Dunstan's Ovingdean on September 13th. Sir John Gingell was the Member of Council presiding and 40 St Dunstaners and 14 widows attended the event.

The season closed with the London Reunion at the RAF Club, Piccadilly where 14 St Dunstaners and 16 widows gathered on September 27th. St Dunstaner John Walbrugh was the Member of Council presiding. The event was enlivened by a poetry recital by St Dunstaner Ernie Bowditch who recalled his first job, aged 14, as a pageboy at the RAF Club.

### CHRISTMAS CARDS FOR SALE

We are taking orders for St Dunstan's Christmas Cards which come in two colour designs. One is titled *Stained Glass Peace* and features a watercolour image, the other is *Three Wise Men*, a gold on black silhouette of the star-following travellers. The cards measure 3 7/8 by 5 inches. A pack of ten (which includes five of each card and envelopes) is priced £2 (including p&p). To place your order please send a cheque to the PR department at 12-14 Harcourt Street, London W1H 4HD.

# 11th Meeting of the International Congress of War Blind Organisations

by Ray Hazan



Representatives of the IKK organisations prior to laying wreaths at the Cenotaph.

This was referred to in the Chairman's notes (see *October Review*) and took place at Ovingdean from September 23rd to 26th.

From the Thursday onwards, the lounge began to echo with English spoken in either a Canadian or Philippino 'twang'. The majority of delegates arrived on the Saturday, mostly without experiencing any delays. Finally all 34 delegates and escorts from war blind organisations in Canada, Finland, France, Germany, Hungary, Italy, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Russia and the USA were safely collected.

The Chairman of St Dunstan's welcomed all at the opening dinner and it was a babble of many languages, which filled the dining-room that evening as many old friends met up. We were very pleased to welcome a Canadian St Dunstaner, a member of the Sir Arthur Pearson Association for the War Blind, as they are known over there, Nova Gagne and his wife Claudette. Nova was serving as a medic with the Canadian Navy when his ship was torpedoed. A newcomer was the Executive Director of the American Blind Veterans Association, Thomas Miller, blinded in Vietnam.

The delegates were hardly allowed to sleep in for it

was an early start to London on Sunday. At 11.15 all stood shoulder to shoulder as the Vice Presidents of the IKK, from Germany, Poland and Italy laid a wreath on behalf of the IKK and Ray Hazan, as President of the IKK laid a wreath on behalf of St Dunstan's. Corporal Harkness-Smith of the 1st Battalion Scots Guards, in full ceremonial uniform played the Last Post. The Metropolitan Police held up all the traffic in Whitehall as we stood in real silence for a minute. Hardly had the notes of the "reveille" faded, when the traffic rolled again!

Everyone really enjoyed their boat trip from Embankment to Greenwich, which had a very interesting commentary on the buildings and history of London. It was a sleepy and silent coach load of delegates who made their way back to Ovingdean.

The first working day of the conference was devoted to delegates reporting on the activities of their various organisations during the past three years and they presented a brief summary of their war pensions and benefits. There was a wide variation. The French were now taking in those blinded as a result of their military service, rather than just the war blind. The Germans were now accepting anyone who had lost their sight as a result of industrial accident – not confined to the military. In Pakistan, the ex-Service blind are not allowed by law to form themselves into an association. The Polish War Blind Association, 81 years old, receive no state funding at all and must organise themselves through volunteers alone. The top French war pensions, paid to the most severely handicapped, were likely to be capped and travel concessions for escorts of blind people abolished. The change to St Dunstan's constitution was described as well as the strong objection to a possible intention to pay one-off compensation for injury rather than a pension in future cases.

The conference was joined for part of Monday by military attachés from Canada, France, Germany, the UK, Finland and Italy. The whole group was later shown around Ovingdean and were favourably impressed with all the facilities.



Germany's Heinrich Johannning presented a token of appreciation to St Dunstan's for hosting the conference.

The second day was devoted to the future of the IKK. It was unanimously agreed that the IKK should continue to represent the Service blind and look to forging links with other relevant organisations in view of diminishing numbers of blind ex-Service people. With this latter in mind, the conference was addressed by Lt Col Jerome Church, General Secretary of the British Limbless ex-Servicemen's Association. Commodore Toby Elliott of Combat Stress described the work of his organisation. None

of the other countries have similar bodies.

The conference closed by passing two resolutions, which basically requested governments and politicians who declared war or conflict to be responsible for their actions in providing free rehabilitation, training and services for those who suffer as a consequence of war or conflict.

Ray Hazan was re-elected President of the IKK for the next three years and Vice Presidents were elected from Italy, Poland and Germany.

Such a conference makes one realise the good fortune of St Dunstaners with their own independently funded organisation and its ability to organise its own training and welfare services. Elsewhere in the world, it is the war blind themselves who have formed their own bodies in order to exert pressure on the State to provide their needs. In some countries, such as Canada, the State will pay for all items such as IT equipment. In the Philippines, ex-Service blind exist on \$40 a month.

On one matter, all were agreed; the warmth of the hospitality and the helpfulness of all the staff at Ovingdean was supreme and helped to make the conference a happy, useful and informative meeting with ties of friendship renewed. The members of the IKK are, after all, linked by the common bond of being both visually handicapped and ex-Service irrespective of nationality.

## St Dunstan's Golf Club v RAF Coltishall

by Graeme Wilson

On Saturday, September 2nd at the new Costessey Park Golf Club in Norwich, eight members of the St Dunstan's Golf Club, plus four members from our home course at Rusper, undertook a challenge match against RAF Coltishall and Costessey Park.

A lot of excellent golf was played despite some rather inclement weather in the late afternoon and the fact that the last group, which contained a St Dunstaner plus three sighted players, were forced to play the last two holes in the dark!

After an excellent dinner in the clubhouse the prize-giving ceremony took place.

Mike Tumlinson, who played in the last group and had

been ably assisted by his guide Angela Templeman, won the prize for the best score by a St Dunstaner - an impressive feat considering Mike has only been playing golf since April this year. (Handicap Secretary please note!) It is also pleasing to note that every St Dunstan's team member won a prize.

Our heartfelt thanks go to the following people: the CMC, members and staff of the Sgts' Mess for looking after us so well; the Director of Golf, Captain and Ladies Captain, members and staff at Costessey Park for their warm and very generous hospitality; Mr Patrick Snowball and Norwich Union who kindly provided all the prizes: and finally to all our guides without whose assistance our participation would not have been possible.

## Welcome to St Dunstan's

**Doreen Emmonds** of Churton, Chester joined St Dunstan's on September 20th. Now aged 75 she served in the Royal Air Force from 1942 to 1946. After the war Mrs Emmonds worked as a shopkeeper, nanny and secretary before joining Unilever as a bookkeeper. Her interests include gardening. Mrs Emmonds has a son and daughter.

**Major Henry Jackson** of St Albans, Hertfordshire served in the Royal Artillery, Royal Army Education Corps and the General List from 1939 to 1946. Now aged 83, he trained as a Gunner before moving to Iraq in 1941 in the RAEC. He was commissioned in 1944 and granted the honorary rank of Major. After the war he joined the Iraq Petroleum Company, working in Dubai, Baghdad and Homs in Syria. He and his wife Hilda have travelled extensively.

**David Saunders** of Aylesbury, Buckinghamshire served in the Royal Air Force from 1937 to 1946. He was deployed as an Air Frame Fitter with 85 Squadron on the British Expeditionary Force. Mr Saunders was later posted to Duxford where he helped to fit the first Beaufighter. After the war he worked at London Airport before joining Airtech, Hoddenam where he became Quality Control Manager. Now aged 79, his interests include winemaking and sequence dancing. Mr Saunders and his wife Greta have one son.

**John Shepherd** of Hodge Hill, Birmingham served in the Royal Army Ordnance Corps and then the Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers from 1941 to 1946, serving in India as a Warrant Officer. After leaving the service, he joined the Gas Board as a fitter and was in charge of mechanical maintenance for the West Midlands when he retired. Now aged 79, his interests include amateur radio and building electric organs. Mr Shepherd has two sons who served in the Royal Navy. He and his wife Rose used to teach old time and sequence dancing.

**Dr Ronald Tipple** of Crapstone, Yelverton, Devon served in the Royal Navy from 1940 to 1971. Now aged 86, he served initially on a minesweeper which was blown up and later in the Atlantic, North Africa, Sicily, Italy, Korea, Japan, Hong Kong, Malta and the UK. Leaving the service as a Surgeon Captain, he worked as a GP. He was working for the DHSS when he retired aged 74. His wife Mary served as a Wren and they have three daughters and one son.

**Donald Bagley** of Pendeford, Wolverhampton joined St Dunstan's on September 26th. Now aged 71, he served in the Royal Navy from 1947 to 1949. An Able Seaman, he served at Devenport. His demob was delayed until the incident with HMS *Amethyst* and *Black Swan* on the Yangtze River was resolved. In civilian life, he worked as a sales representative for an electrical goods company. After losing his sight he became Appeals Organiser for the Midland Society for the Blind. He and his wife Sylvia have two daughters, two grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

**John Buckley** of Watersheddings, Oldham, Lancashire followed a family tradition when serving in the Lancashire Fusiliers from 1961 to 1963. He trained in Newcastle where he won a boxing medal for "best fight of the night". He was then posted to Osnabruck where he joined the boxing and rugby teams. He worked as a stonemason for 20 years and then as a machine operator for Slumberland Beds for 18. His interests include gardening and collecting coins. Mr Buckley and his wife Yvonne have two children and two grandchildren.

**Veronica Mathè** of Felpham, Bognor Regis served in the Women's Royal Naval Service from 1942 to 1945. She served as a signaller to HMS *Sparrowhawk* and later posted to C-in-C Portsmouth, the HQ preparing for the D-Day Landings. Now aged 77, Mrs Mathè became closely involved with the West Sussex Association for the Blind as a member of the Executive Committee, Management Committee and Chairman of the Bognor Regis Area Committee. She and her husband have four sons.

**Joan Pendle** of Horndean, Hampshire served in the Royal Air Force from 1942 to 1944. Now aged 78, she served as Leading Aircraftwoman driving a variety of lorries and cars. In civilian life, she worked as a hairdresser and postlady. Mrs Pendle's interests have included badminton, table tennis and bowls.

**John Sullivan** of Wickford, Essex served in the Royal Army Medical Corps from 1939 to 1946. A member of St John's Ambulance and trained nurse, he was posted to Egypt and also served in Tobruk and India. Back in the UK he ran a garage, produced lampshades and taught mechanics. Now aged 82, his interests include gardening and dancing. He and his wife Kathleen have three daughters.

## Margaret Waller tells how she and husband Bob tackled a classic trail through the Yorkshire moors, the Cleveland Way

# WE DID IT OUR WAY!

Bob and I have been walking for over 10 years now, starting about when Bob first had problems with his eyes. We have now progressed to the long distance trails, and this year's target was the Cleveland Way. This runs for 110 miles, from Helmsley, in the Yorkshire moors, to Filey on the coast. We had a wonderful week, being very lucky with the weather and had good accommodation every night. We started in slight drizzle which soon cleared, from Helmsley Market Square, through woods and farmland, passing the magnificent ruins of Rievaulx Abbey. Our first night was at Hambleton, site of an old racecourse and still a riding centre. The evening was spent in the inn with local jockeys eagerly watching the racing channel. Browsing through the bookcase in the B&B I found a large print copy of a guide to the Way written by a man with retinitis pigmentosa who had walked the Way a few years ago, giving details of paths and steps to be negotiated.

Next morning we did a detour to see the White Horse of Kilburn and then headed for the village of Osmotherley, round the Yorkshire escarpment. We were very high up here and took full force of the gales that were blowing, having difficulty standing up at times. We topped up our supplies from a little shop in Osmotherley which was in a real time warp, with sagging floorboards, and museum-piece shopfittings, served by an equally old, but lovely little old lady. We stayed the night in the Youth Hostel, a converted mill.

Overnight rain cleared as we set off on one of the hardest days of the walk, 20 miles to Kildale. The gales were still blowing, but we had wonderful views over the heather-clad moors, and we could see rain falling to either side of us.

We had strenuous climbs over Scarth Wood Moor, Scugdale, Round Hill and Carlton Hill but a real bonus awaited us at Three Lords Stones - a walkers/cyclists cafe in an old bunker near three huge rocks which mark the boundaries of three old estates. This boosted us up for the climbs over Cringle Moor, Hasty Bank, and the impressive Wainstones, then up

Tidy Brown Hill, down into Kildale and then back up again to our accommodation in a lovely farmhouse cottage. The moorland paths have been flagged for many miles making for pleasant easy walking. At Kildale we had another good meal, a chin-wag with fellow walkers who we were leapfrogging along the route, and then discovering that our host used to watch speedway in Middlesbrough at the same time as Bob, many years ago.

Next day, we were still climbing, straight up to Captain Cook's Monument, followed by Roseberry Topping (Britain's Matterhorn, with its curved peak top). From here we crossed Black Nab, into Guisborough Woods. It was quite spectacular emerging from these through a craggy outcrop to our first view of the sea, having crossed right across the North Yorkshire Moors. From here we passed through Slapwath into Skelton Green for an overnight stay with a lovely lady from Kent who made us welcome with a "snack" of quiche and salad, tea and cakes, before a roast lamb dinner, followed by a late supper.

Next morning we still managed to eat a full breakfast before setting off for a pleasant wooded stretch to Saltburn-by-the-Sea. This little resort is in an international competition for its wonderful seafront flower beds. More climbing now up onto the cliffs, following an old mineral railway into industrial dereliction at Skinningrove. Then up onto Boulby, the highest cliffs in Eastern England. Next port of call was Staithes, a fishing village, up and down into Port Mulgrave, and then into picturesque Runswick Bay, staying at Cockpit Cottage.

The weather changed overnight and the next day proved very difficult, overnight rain and lingering sea mist rendering the narrow cliff-top paths into a slick of greasy mud. It was a real roller-coaster day, continually up and down steep ravines, into Whitby, which was packed with holiday-makers. We made a quick escape from the crowds, out past the Abbey, and on to Robin Hoods Bay. Alas this lovely village seemed to be spoiled by crowds of people, plus renovation work, and again we were glad to escape. The next stretch of cliffs were too dangerous to

negotiate, so we had a long detour to Boggle Hole, a youth hostel set deep in a ravine.

Next day the weather was still wet and misty, the cliffs too dangerous to walk, so we took the steep hill, reputedly 1 in 2½, away from the old mill, and picked up the old railway line. We followed this for nearly 10 miles into Scarborough. Here we were footsore and weary, so we treated ourselves to a ride on an open top bus along the sea-front for a couple of miles. Slightly refreshed it was back up onto the cliffs, now on a better path, though still sticky in places. It was another long day, 21 miles into Filey, but we had good weather, saw some lovely rock formations, sandy coves and beaches, and lots of seabirds.

The last stretch seemed to go on for ever, but we finally reached Filey Brig with its commemorative stone, posed for photos, rewarded ourselves with our last barley sugars before dropping back down into Filey for a well earned rest, and a welcoming



St Dunstaner Bob Waller out on a moorland trail.

landlady who prepared a late meal for us. It was a memorable, tiring week which we thoroughly enjoyed, but three days later we were still walking because of the fuel crisis. Perhaps we should have left the Cleveland Way, and continued on onto the Wolds Way. Perhaps next year ...

## Life and Times of Ovingdean

by Lyn Neville



September got off to a very musical start with a visit from The Band of HM Royal Marines. They played a bandstand type concert in the inner garden (pictured above) and the music was superb, ranging from traditional marches to The Beatles. There was truly something for everyone. PBK provided a lovely cream tea and the weather stayed fine for us. Captain Gordon-Lennox, Chairman welcomed the Band to Ovingdean on behalf of St Dunstaners. Everyone had a great afternoon.

The musical theme continued when the Not Forgotten Association arranged a tea party for St Dunstaners and members of other ex-Service homes in the south east at Ovingdean. It was a most enjoyable afternoon with music by a local brass band, Brighton Brass.

September 16th was the 60th anniversary of The Battle of Britain. A group of St Dunstaners was invited by the Burgess Hill Royal British Legion to a ceremony at the War Memorial in Burgess Hill and for refreshments at the British Legion club afterwards. Despite the petrol shortage, which had also affected us, and torrential rain, our St Dunstaners went along to mark this very important anniversary.

On October 2nd at the monthly residents meeting, Ted and Mona Finch (right) presented a donation of £500 from the Lakenheath Enlisted Spouses Club at Brandon, Suffolk. General Manager Susan Harrison thanked him on behalf of all St Dunstaners.



There is a Christmas party for all St Dunstaners, family and friends on December 15th. This promises to be a night of great music, tasty food and good company!! Please contact Lyn Neville at St Dunstan's Ovingdean (01273 307811 ext 3212) for tickets.

## Neil Swan reports on the latest Fund Raising activities

# DRIVEN TO WIN



Ovingdean's local bobby, PC Nigel McNeill collars a couple of likely suspects for speeding. The two men under arrest in jest are our own Ken Moss and sports car winner Spencer Stevenson.

On Wednesday September 13th, Spencer Stevenson took possession of the MGF sports car he had won in the Ken Moss prize draw competition. The event was held at Ovingdean at the same time as the Brighton reunion. It was well attended by members of the Press and Rover. Ken Moss – the current accompanied and unaccompanied World Land Speed record holder for the blind – presented the car keys to Spencer.

It really was by chance, for it was a St Dunstaner who drew the winning ticket, that the car was won by an ex-Serviceman. Spencer served for 22 years in the Royal Navy, 15 of them in Polaris submarines. On hand for the presentation was Geoff Wickens, General Sales Manager with Rover. Ken dressed for the occasion exactly as he was on October 16th 1999 – the day of his record-breaking runs at Boscombe Down Airfield.

Individual Service Units continue to raise money for St Dunstan's by taking part in sponsorship and other fund raising events and I would like to cite three recent examples. RAF Infrastructure Organisation and Royal Engineers (Airfields) made £3,072.18 at their charity event – Exercise Ironman 2000. As reported in the July Review, this money is to be used specifically for a gymnasium leg press machine and other gymnasium equipment at Ovingdean.

Six Royal Engineers from 101 Headquarters Squadron Royal Monmouthshire Royal Engineers (Militia) based in Monmouth did a sponsored cycle ride from Brecon to Cardiff. They completed the 55 miles in just under 5 hours, making almost £500 for St Dunstan's.

HQ LAND competed in the Fire Service's Three Peaks Challenge in which teams have to climb Ben Nevis (4,406ft), Scafell Pike (3,206ft) and Snowdon (3,560ft) all within a single 24-hour period, inclusive of travelling time! Their two teams respectively gained 4th and 11th places out of a total of 91 entries raising £565 for St Dunstan's.



Support for St Dunstan's has also been forthcoming from industrial quarters, particularly Compaq Computers during a recent golf day. The "hole" result was shown when Rod Curry, Senior Account Manager and Martin Buckley, Manager Defence Group Sales ( pictured above) came to Harcourt Street and presented a cheque for £700.

The main annual campaign obtained further good support from the general public, most of whom have completed Gift Aid Declarations, which will considerably enhance donation values.



The Fund Raising crew sorting recent donations.

It is anticipated that a new film about St Dunstan's will be on general release by the time this Review goes out. The aim of this film is to increase awareness, among the three Services, about the role of St Dunstan's in providing support to individual Service men and women. It features many St Dunstaners and records their remarkable stories of faith, courage and invincibility.

Leaving the best till last, I hereby reproduce part of a report that appeared in the *Daily Telegraph* recently:

"A lapdancing club has applied to the local council for a variance to its licence to allow blind patrons to touch performers.

The Pussycats club in Hove, East Sussex, complained that the strict, no-touching clause in its current licence discriminated against the blind. Kenneth McGrath, director of the club, took up the issue with Brighton and Hove Council after two blind men visited Pussycats with a stag party of sighted friends. They wanted to touch the girls, explaining that, if they could, it would give them a better idea of what the exotic dancers looked like.

The club's licence forbids any physical contact between dancers and guests except when customers feel the need to place banknotes in the dancer's garters.

Mr McGrath said: 'Both men said they very much enjoyed the dances and sensed highly the proximity of the dancers and, in particular, enjoyed the smell of their perfume. Given their disability, they felt controlled touching ought to be permitted for registered blind persons only and with the dancer's consent.'

A council spokesman said: 'We would consider any application for a variance of the lapdancing licence once we receive it.'

If the two blind men were St Dunstaners, then it is certainly a different way of attracting publicity! The day after the report was published a letter appeared in the National Press complaining that this would be discrimination against sighted people.

## CLUB NEWS

### AUTUMN ARCHERY

Fresh from their success in Sandwich, Kent, St Dunstan's Archery Club stayed on target for a week of archery at Ovingdean.

### George Allan Trophy

1st	Cliff Ford	1547
2nd	Sid Doy	1525
3rd	Terry Ottewell	1522

### Royal Insurance Trophy

1st	Nigel Whiteley	1534
2nd	Terry Ottewell	1526
3rd	Sid Doy	1482

### Spurway Trophy

1st	Steve Moseley	1691
2nd	John Lilley	1656
3rd	Bert Wood	1640

### Four-way shoot

St Dunstan's	5983
<b>Team:</b> Tony Parkinson, Dave Poyner, Steve Moseley & Nigel Whiteley	

Cuckfield	5798
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**Team:** Phil Varden, John Grout, Jonathan Grout & James Fullford

Greenways	5790
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**Team:** Enid Andrews, Dave Hapgood, Vic & Yvonne

Newhaven	5554
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**Team:** Alf Sefton-Smith, Steve Linsdale, Chris Linsdale & Alan Smith

## FAMILY NEWS

### BIRTH

#### Congratulations on the birth of:

Baylee Ridgway on September 19th. She is the first great-granddaughter of *Cliff and René Gower* of Westbury, Wiltshire.

### GOLDEN ANNIVERSARY

#### Congratulations to:

*Reginald and Joyce Palmer* of Downham Market on September 23rd.

### SPECIAL ANNIVERSARIES

#### Congratulations to:

*William and Frances Allen* of Farnham, Surrey who celebrated 62 years of marriage on October 1st.

*Frederick and Florence Morgan* of Filton, Bristol who celebrated 62 years of marriage on October 1st.

## ACHIEVEMENTS

### **Congratulations to:**

Hannah Foxley on achieving a 2.1 in Finance at the University of Birmingham. She is the daughter of *Bill Foxley* of Crawley, West Sussex.



Julia Symons (*left*) who recently returned from New York after touring with the Army Ladies' Hockey squad. Julia is the granddaughter of *Caroline Bulbrook* and the late *George Bulbrook* of Downham Market, Norfolk. She has represented both the Army and Combined Services at the sport for two years. Officer Cadet Symons

was awarded a cadetship to the Royal Military College of Science where she is studying for an honours degree in civil engineering. She also plays hockey for the RMCS Men's Squad in the Universities' League.

## DEATHS

### **We regret to announce the death of:**

**Joan Shea** on September 14th. She was the wife of *William Shea* of Great Totham, Essex.

**Agnes Savory** of Dorking, Surrey on September 18th. She was the widow of *Sidney Savory*.

**Marjorie Smith** of Tunbridge Wells, Kent on September 20th. She was the widow of *Gilbert Smith*.

**Gladys Carpenter** of Ipswich, Suffolk on September 26th. She was the widow of *Alfred Carpenter*.

**Marjorie Morton** of Peterborough, Cambridgeshire on October 10th. She was the widow of *Frederick A. Morton*.

**Gwen Harley** of Port Shepstone, South Africa on October 10th. She was the widow of *Robert Harley*.

**Ken Forrest** on May 25th. He was the brother of *Nancey Taylor*, wife of *Tom Taylor* of Preston, Lancashire.

**Stephen Dangerfield**, grandson of *Reg Goding* of Rottingdean, East Sussex who died tragically in a motorcycle accident, aged 29.

**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.**

### **Robert Ashmore, AE**

*Royal Air Force*

Robert "Bob" Clive Ashmore, AE of Ovingdean died on September 24th, aged 82. He had been a St Dunstaner since 1977. Having worked as a tool setter, Mr Ashmore served as an Auxiliary in the Royal Air Force from 1936 prior to being embodied on the outbreak of hostilities. He received the Air Efficiency Award while serving as a Corporal. Posted to Java he was taken prisoner in 1942. The privations he experienced while held at Java and Amboina led to his loss of sight. After the war he worked for Dunlop. His interests included gardening. Our sympathy goes to his sons Gerald, John and James and all other members of the family.

### **Peter Price**

*Royal Army Pay Corps*

Henry Peter Price of Southend-on-Sea, Essex died on October 9th, aged 83. He had been a St Dunstaner since 1990. Mr Price served in the Royal Army Pay Corps from 1940 to 1944. After the war he returned to work at Quest International, part of Unilever and was their Personnel Manager when he retired. His interests included gardening. Our sympathy goes to his widow Ethel daughter Maureen, son Peter and all other members of the family.

### **Walter Rundle**

*Royal Air Force*

Walter Richard "Billy" Rundle of Paignton, Devon died on October 10th, aged 89. He had been a St Dunstaner since 1966. He served as a Leading Aircraftman in the Royal Air Force from 1941 to 1946. He was in Europe in 1943 when injured by a mine explosion. His interests included gardening and he regularly attended his local blind club. In 1971 he won the All Devon Domino Championship. Our sympathy goes to his sons Geoffrey and Brian, daughter Geraldine and all other members of the family.