

**They shall grow not old, as we that are left grow old:
Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn.
At the going down of the sun and in the morning
WE WILL REMEMBER THEM**



St Dunstan's Review

December 2000

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Cover pictures:

John Painter and his guide
Major-General Dare Wilson
carried St Dunstan's wreath
to the Cenotaph. The cover
also features a familiar
verse from Poems for the
Fallen by Lawrence Binyon.

From the President

Christmas is a family time and Joyce and I will be spending it with our daughter. We both wish every St Dunstaner, their wives, husbands, widows, widowers and families a very merry Christmas.

The 21st century has made a very wet start, but the future of St Dunstan's is looking bright. Joyce and I wish you all a very happy peaceful New Year with good health.

Colin Beaumont-Edmonds

From the Chairman

Following the Annual General Meeting of St Dunstan's on October 26th, I would like to take this opportunity to thank two retiring members of Council. Dr Neil McDonald MA, D.Phil the grandson of Lord Fraser, served for 13 years on the Council. Sir John Wall, CBE, MA (Oxon), served for ten years. I thank them both for their wise counsel and the time they have given to St Dunstan's.

I welcome Colin Lowe, CBE, Chairman of the Royal National Institute for the Blind, to our Council. Colin has a rich experience of all matters relating to visual impairment and we look forward to his contribution.

I am very pleased to welcome our new Chief Executive Robert Leader, who took up his appointment on November 1st. I know he is keen to meet as many of you as possible over the coming months.

As the end of the year approaches, one tends to look back over the preceding 12 months and take stock of what has occurred. As usual it was a year full of activity and achievements. Most notably, in March, we amended our Constitution, which overall, passed smoothly thanks to the understanding by St Dunstaners and the hard work of all departments at Headquarters – thank you everyone.

Jenny and I wish you a very Happy Christmas wherever you are. We truly hope that the coming year will be a good one for us all.

Captain Michael Gordon-Lennox, RN

St Dunstan's New Chief Executive



Robert Leader took up the appointment of Chief Executive and Secretary to the Council of St Dunstan's on November 1st 2000.

Robert spent 12 years in the 70's and 80's redeveloping a

Leonard Cheshire home, of which he was General Manager. He has held senior roles in the NHS in Staffordshire. More recently he worked as Director of the British Forces Germany Health Commission

before becoming Director of the British Forces Germany Health Service. In this post he was responsible for the provision of health care to the 70,000 members of HM Forces in Germany.

He has always been interested in voluntary work and has, amongst others, been involved with the Samaritans, Young Enterprise Scheme, Church restorations and Rotary.

Robert, 53, is married to Sue, a Jockey Club Steward, and has a daughter and a son, both at University.



NOTICE BOARD



SPECIAL GRATUITY TO FEPOWS, THEIR WIDOWS OR WIDOWERS

On November 7th, the Government announced a gratuity payout of £10,000 to ex-Far East Prisoners of War. Only those held captive by the Japanese during the Second World War qualify as follows:

- (a) Surviving former members of HM Armed Forces
- (b) Surviving former service personnel who received payments after the Peace Treaty with Japan, i.e. Some Colonial Forces
- (c) Surviving members of the Merchant Navy
- (d) Surviving widows or widowers of the above persons who would have been entitled under (a), (b) or (c) above, provided they were married at the time of death.

If a widow or widower of the above remarries, they are still entitled. No other next of kin will qualify for payment, neither is a divorcee entitled.

Please have your National Insurance Number (shown on your pension book) and your address ready when you telephone for an application form to:

Free telephone line 0800 169 22 77

Or write to: War Pensions Agency, Norcross,
Blackpool, FY5 3WP

The telephone is manned from 8.00am to 8.00pm.

If you need any assistance, please contact Jeremy Hinton at Headquarters on 020 7723 5021.

You are advised that there is no need to accept any offers of help from outside companies who request a fee to assist you in processing your claim.

ADDITIONAL ACCOMMODATION

St Dunstan's has recently acquired the following:

46 Nevill Road, Rottingdean. This is a six bedroom house, which will provide twin and single accommodation for holidaymakers and trainees, who are perceived to have a considerable amount of independence, when there is a lack of accommodation within the main building. The house is situated behind the windmill at the back of St Dunstan's and is within walking distance, although transport will be provided.

5 Beacon Hill, Ovingdean. This is a three bedroom house for younger St Dunstaners. At present two gentlemen have been identified who need to be closer to St Dunstan's, but who do not require residential or nursing care. The property is within walking distance of St Dunstan's Ovingdean.

CHURCH STRETTON REUNION CANCELLED

Due to low response the proposed Church Stretton Reunion has been cancelled.

WHAT'S ON 2001

These are just some of the events and activities that make up St Dunstan's 2001 calendar. Details of other meetings will appear in future issues. For some club events participants should note that arrival and departure dates are one day before and after those published. All holiday and club activity bookings should be made via Jackie Castle, Bookings Supervisor. Those booking in for club activities are reminded that reserved rooms are only held up to one month prior to the commencement of the activity.

| | | | |
|--|-------------------------|--------------------------------------|---------------------------|
| Archery Club | February 16th-24th | Cardiff Reunion | June 13th |
| Computer Club | March 14th-15th | Newcastle Reunion | June 19th |
| Amateur Radio Society | March 17th-18th | Leeds Reunion | June 20th |
| Bowling Club | (to be confirmed) | Edinburgh Reunion | June 27th |
| Dutch Memorial Laying of Flowers at Ovingdean | April 11th | Action Week | June (to be confirmed) |
| Brighton Reunion | April 4th | Widows' Week (II) | July (to be confirmed) |
| Norwich Reunion | April 18th | HMS <i>Sultan</i> | July 27th-August 4th |
| Widows' Week (I) | April (to be confirmed) | Archery Club | August 26th-September 1st |
| Ex-POW Reunion | April 20th-23rd | Ladies' Reunion | September |
| Walking Holiday | April (to be confirmed) | Brighton Reunion (II) | September 12th |
| Shaftesbury Reunion | April 25th | London Reunion | September 19th |
| Masonic Weekend | April 28th-29th | Physiotherapy Weekend | September 28th-30th |
| Handless Reunion | May 9th-15th | Computer Club | October 3rd-4th |
| Exeter Reunion | May 23rd | Amateur Radio Society | October 6th-7th |
| Liverpool Reunion | May 30th | Widows' Week (III) (to be confirmed) | October |
| Birmingham/Nottingham Reunion (location to be confirmed) | June 6th | Bowling Club | (to be confirmed) |
| Archery Club | June 10th-16th | Remembrance Sunday | November 11th |

BACK IN FEBRUARY

The next St Dunstan's *Review* will be issued in February. As usual all comments, letters and suggestions are welcome. The final date for submitting items for publication in the February *Review* is January 8th 2001.

The *Review* is available on request in braille, large print, on tape and on computer disk.

Contact the Public Relations department for the format of your choice.

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

PRICE INCREASE FOR DRAUGHT BEERS AT OIVINGDEAN

St Dunstan's Ovingdean regret to announce that as of November 13th, the price of their draught beers was increased by 10p per pint. This follows higher charges by the brewery.

WALKING HOLIDAY

If anyone is interested in receiving details about this venture, which is likely to take place towards the end of April next year, will they please contact the Public Relations department at Headquarters. The five daily walks are short and are not all obligatory. It is a fun week, so please feel free to join in!

REMINDER TO ST DUNSTAN'S EX-PRISONERS OF WAR

St Dunstan's ex-Prisoners of War 2001 Reunion will be held at Ovingdean over the weekend April 20th-23rd. It would be most helpful if ex-Prisoners of War intending to be at the reunion would let the Hon Secretary know in good time. He can be contacted at the following address:

Mr T. Hart, 15 Whitefriars Meadow, Sandwich, Kent CT13 9AS. Tel: 01304 612771.

These reunions are usually well attended which means Ovingdean is nearly always fully booked. This being the case, I would strongly advise all who are interested to book early to avoid being disappointed. Booking should be made through the usual channels.

**Alf Lockhart, Hon Treasurer
St Dunstan's ex-Prisoners of War**

CAMP AT HMS SULTAN 2001

The camp at HMS *Sultan* will take place from Friday, July 27th 2001 until the morning of Saturday, August 4th 2001. Will all those wishing to book please contact me as soon as you can, certainly no later than May 9th 2001. Write to Elspeth Grant, High Acre, Catmere End, Saffron Walden CB11 4XG. Telephone 01799 522874.

Elspeth Grant

TUBE MAP

A practical guide for blind travellers navigating the London Underground can be found at www.describe-online.com.

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 (Cards) at 12-14 Harcourt Street, London W1H 4HD.

GLENN MILLER TRIBUTE

In the mood for a moonlight serenade? The BBC Big Band may have the answer when they stage their Glenn Miller Tribute Concert. Old favourites such as *Little Brown Jug*, and *Chattanooga Choo Choo* will be performed at London's Royal Festival Hall on March 7th 2001. Tickets cost between £8 to £28. For details, ring 020 7960 4242.

OFFER OF FREE ACCOMMODATION

A supporter has very kindly offered St Dunstaners the use of some free accommodation. The property is in Broadstairs, Kent and it consists of a ground floor flat with two bedrooms, sitting room, bathroom, kitchen etc. The property has guide rails on all the walls of the common parts. The flat is available until early next year on a short occupancy basis. Anyone interested in taking advantage of this offer should please telephone Mrs Adams on 020 8986 7146.

WOODEN TOY KITS AVAILABLE

St Dunstaners with an interest in handicrafts may be interested in this selection of wooden toy kits, including a small tipper, large tipper, large skip lorry, jeep, locomotive, farm tractor, farm trailer, low loader, fire engine, wagon (for locomotive), wheelbarrow and box trailer. Please apply to Tony James at St Dunstan's Ovingdean on 01273 307811.

BLIND MAN'S DUFF

Two volumes of *Blind Man's Duff* have been updated on audio cassette. The first (STD26A/B) deals with conventional cooking while the second (STD44A/B) covers microwave cookery. Both tapes contain recipes used by Pam Durie in her basic living skills course at St Dunstan's Ovingdean. To obtain a copy send two C90 cassettes for each volume to the Public Relations department at HQ.

HAROLD PAYNE

Ex-Far East Prisoners of War will be sad to learn of the death of Harold Lloyd Payne, CBE on November 1st 2000, aged 80 years. He was the Past President of the National Federation of Far Eastern Prisoners of War Clubs and Associations.

RNIB AUDIO DESCRIBED VIDEOS

A mix of supernatural suspense and romantic comedy are the hallmarks of the latest audio described video releases from RNIB Home Video Service. The videos provide additional narration to fill in detail about facial expressions, body language, actions, scenery and costumes.

The Sixth Sense (£15.99, Order No AVO80) has Bruce Willis as a psychologist, gunned down by a former patient, taking on one last case, an eight year old boy haunted by a dark secret.

Runaway Bride (£14.99, Order No AVO83) reunites Julia Roberts and Richard Gere for a romantic comedy about a woman who loves getting engaged but always gets cold feet on the big day.

The romantic comedy continues as *Four Weddings and a Funeral* (£9.99, Order No AVO16) is re-released while Jeremy Brett makes his mark in the

classic Sherlock Holmes mystery *The Hound of the Baskervilles* (£10.99, Order No AVO84).

Two Disney classics, full of song and timeless fantasy, *Pinocchio* (£14.99, Order No AVO82) and *The Aristocats* (£14.99, Order No AVO81) are also re-released for modern audiences.

These and many other titles can be ordered from RNIB Customer Services department on 0845 702 3153. Videos can also be borrowed for up to two weeks for £2.50 (which includes p&p).

VISUALLY IMPAIRED SHOOTING

Visually impaired people can participate in the sport of air rifle shooting at the purpose-built National Indoor Shooting Centre in Wolverhampton. For further information please contact Tony Taylor on 01902 743562.

CHRISTMAS GREETINGS

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

The Workshop Away Day

by Mary Scourfield, Craft Instructor

On Thursday, October 26th the usually busy workshop was nearly deserted. You remember the Sunday School Outing, well this was our equivalent.

We had been asked by the Hastings Society for the Blind if we would like to enter any articles for an exhibition to see how we fared. However, it met with such a good response that most of those who attend the workshop wanted to go. So 30 of us, complete with packed lunch, headed for Hastings.

The exhibition was small but interesting. It included items from other blind societies in Sussex. Most of us felt that our work was by far the best. Of course, we were biased, but we did receive five 'Best in Shows' and a special mention. These were Sid Doy (papier mâché box), Ron Tingay (child's chair), Dave Thomas (tray), Nigel Whiteley (towel rail), James

Poole (wastepaper basket), and Matt Rhodes had a special mention for the glazes on his pots.

After the exhibition, preening ourselves on our success, it was decided to head for the seafront to have lunch. Some opted for fish and chips, (even Harry Ramsden's can't beat Hastings for fish and chips), some to the pub and some of us took the healthy option.

We then went on an educational trip round the old town. Norman, Nigel and myself had fun exploring the lugger in the museum, where Norman assured me if he fell overboard he could swim - in dry dock!!! Then a brisk walk along the seafront; brisk because although the sun was shining it was very fresh.

It was a very successful day and thanks to all those who helped to arrange it.

BLIND FLYING IN THE VERY TRUEST SENSE

by John Rogers

Rotate," said Julie, I slowly pulled the yoke back and the Cessna 172 just floated off Runway 25 at Orlando Executive airport in Florida. "One hundred feet, 200ft nose up, a little left - you're doing great," said Julie as we climbed away over the lake. "A gentle left turn to cross wind. I'll tell you when John," she said in her usual relaxed and calm way.

You may say that there is nothing remarkable in that - happens hundreds of times a day. But for me, a 72-year-old World War II veteran and registered blind person it was the thrill of a lifetime.

My great friend, Mike Bamber, returned to Flight Incorporated earlier this year to continue his Private Pilot's Licence training and (with the kind permission of my wife Thelma) I accompanied him. My first trip to the USA and, as I thought, maybe with a bit of luck I may have one or two trips in a Cessna. So I arrived at Flight Inc full of enthusiasm.

Much to my surprise and delight I flew on all of Mike's training lessons, thanks to the ever patient Julie Knight, Mike's instructor. I suffer with glaucoma and

RP (tunnel vision) and have no sight in my right eye and I can see about two degrees in the centre of my left eye - a bit like looking through a small bore tube.

To actually fly an aircraft was for me beyond belief. On my lesson we flew to the training area at Lake Apopka, about 13 miles away and I carried out some turns including a 360 at a bank angle of 30 degrees (or was it 45, Julie?). Such an experience for me and I have the log entry to prove it!

Everyone was so kind. For example, on one cloudy day when a lesson was not possible we did the unbelievable. We flew to Freeport in the Bahamas for a day. Julie and Jim did the flying and Mike and I sat in the rear seats of the Seminole enjoying every minute. Such a day can only be as a result of the kindness and cooperation of many people. Such a day I will never forget!

Throughout my stay in America I found nothing but kindness, patience and consideration. Thank you all for a great experience, but you will be pleased and I am sure relieved to know that I have no intention of making aviation my career!

Wedded 61 years later

On November 18th, Ted Yeaman married his childhood sweetheart at Alnwick Register Office, 61 years later than intended!

The two were 'school mates' in Alnwick in 1926. Ted enlisted into the Royal Northumberland Fusiliers in 1939 and went off to war. But he was taken prisoner of war by the Japanese, and was posted 'missing, presumed dead'. On his way back from prison camp after the war, Ted wrote to Elsie proposing they should tie the knot if nothing had changed, but he was too late. Elsie had got married. Ted also married later on.

In 1992, Ted became a St Dunstaner after his sight failed as a result of the mistreatment and malnutrition suffered as a prisoner of war of the Japanese. In 1998 he became a permanent resident at

St Dunstan's Ovingdean. By then, both he and Elsie had lost their spouses.

In October this year, he travelled back to Alnwick to visit family and friends. By chance, he called Elsie to see if 'it was convenient to pop over'. Four days later he returned home to St Dunstan's and telephoned her that evening to propose!

"I remember at school she used to be able to sit on her hair - it's a bit shorter now! But she is as bubbly as I remember her."

Ted and Elsie returned to St Dunstan's Ovingdean after the wedding for a week's holiday. On Thursday November 23rd at 10.30am they were blessed in St Dunstan's Chapel. A reception was held after, attended by friends at Ovingdean.

“My Ribbons Are A Bit Faded”

by Chris Ottewell



Billy Orr, his ribbons restored, with Paul Walker. The Korean War Medal is second from right.

I am a relatively new St Dunstaner who, whilst standing at the bar at Ovingdean, overheard this very fruity Irish accent talking generally. I introduced myself and a wonderful friendship was born. Here was this blind Korean veteran who now enjoys life to the full. But sadly during a conversation, it transpired he was upset about the ribbons presented to him by the military of the USA.

Let me explain; Billy Orr was imprisoned by the Koreans in 1951 after the Glorious Gloucesters were captured when they enabled some of the American ground forces to evacuate a position. The details of his incarceration are well documented but suffice to say that some years later the ribbons presented to him by the USA became faded and in fact one ribbon became totally unrecognisable.

I met Billy and said that I went to the USA every year to attend the USA ex-Service Army Convention and would make every effort to try to get some new ribbons for him to wear at the 2000 Cenotaph parade. E-mails started to fly and replies were received but unfortunately it proved very difficult to identify the exact ribbons that Billy had been presented with.

Attending the Convention this year in Virginia Beach I made some more enquiries. After ringing Billy from the US, my wife and I, with some invaluable help, identified the faded ribbon and background. I was then able to supply the exact ribbons that Billy had been presented by the US Army. These were the presentation Unit Citation and the Korean War Ribbon. I presented them to Billy on Remembrance Sunday.

What a pleasure it has been and how satisfied I am that this Korean Veteran can now display new ribbons!

Glorious Heroes

The Gloucestershire Regiment – whose outstanding history earned them the nickname of the Glorious Gloucesters – were hailed as Heroes of Gloucestershire on November 3rd. St Dunstaner Ray Peart proudly represented his regiment at an event that feted the success and history of the county.

The event was held in the Gold Cup Room at Cheltenham Racecourse in the presence of His Royal Highness Prince Michael of Kent. “I found Prince Michael most amicable and had great pleasure in shaking his hand,” said Ray. Other guests included author Jilly Cooper and British Olympic hammer thrower Lorraine Shaw. The event also feted individual acts of courage through the ages.

Bless them all!

Newcastle supporter Reg Goding was travelling by cab across London on his return from a football match a short time ago. The cab driver, an Arsenal supporter, got talking about the finer points of the game.

“Would you be interested in some Newcastle versus Arsenal tickets?” enquired the driver. You can imagine Reg’s reply, but he really thought it was one of those vacant promises.

Well, two tickets appeared a short time ago, refusing any recompense or thanks. Reg is looking forward to attending the game in December.

Has anyone a comparable cab story?

Life and Times of Ovingdean

by Lyn Neville

Greetings from Ovingdean where in the last few weeks we have been extremely happy to be situated on the top of a hill! East Sussex has had some of the worst storms for many years, which has made getting out and about somewhat more difficult than usual. The person to suffer most has been David Vinall who has had to cope with traffic jams, closed roads and generally awful road conditions for him and his drivers. As if this was not enough the gale blew his office window in!

On a lighter note we had our October Widows’ Week and despite being almost washed away with the rain in Hastings and blown away in Eastbourne everybody had a great week. Old friendships were rekindled, much laughter was had over past and present events and lots of dancing and singing went on. I must commend the ladies on their ability to have fun and to shop!

On October 19th we were visited by the High Sheriff of East Sussex, Mr William de Salis and his wife, accompanied by our Chairman, Captain Michael Gordon-Lennox. They had a tour of Ovingdean during which they met and chatted to St Dunstaners both resident and those who had come in especially. Both Mr and Mrs de Salis were very impressed with what they saw.

Christmas approaches fast (too fast!) and we are busy making our Christmas plans. Here are some dates for your diary.

Friday, December 8th 7.30pm
The Music Makers Revival

Friday, December 15th 8.00pm-12.00pm
Combined party for St Dunstaners, friends and staff with music by Rick Bonner

Sunday, December 17th 2.30pm
Chapel concert with tea and cakes in lounge afterwards

Sunday, December 31st 8.00pm-1.00am
New Year’s Eve Fancy Dress Party with dancing and music by Andrew Varley

For any entertainment details please contact Lyn Neville on 01273 307811 ext 3212.



The High Sheriff chatting to Bert Wood and Ron Cattell during his visit to St Dunstan’s Ovingdean.

Edward Waller retires

On November 26th, Edward Waller retired after 23 years service with St Dunstan’s.

Edward started with St Dunstan’s on March 29th 1987 working on the lift, but soon transferred to the workshop, where, with his engineering background he was of great value. When Edward joined the workshop it was very different from what it is today. Then it was very much a male domain. At that time he trained St Dunstaners in picture framing, with as many as five trainees at a time. He also did wonderful ironwork and engraving.

Over the years Edward’s job has changed, as the workshop has evolved. For the first time Edward had to work with women (horror of horrors)!

During his time with St Dunstan’s, Edward has not only instructed in picture framing, wrought ironwork and latterly woodturning, but he has been a great help to St Dunstan’s staff, especially assisting us in the new craft workshop when there were jobs that needed a man’s help. Edward also undertook the thankless task of being the Health and Safety Representative for the workshop; always doing a very thorough job, though I’m sure we weren’t always very co-operative.

So thank you Edward, from each and every one of us, especially those of us in the Rehabilitation and Training department for your help over the years. We all hope you have a very long and happy retirement.

REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY

November 12th 2000

by Ray Hazan

Despite the worst attempts of the weather to delay, frustrate and cancel travel, 111 St Dunstaners, widows and widowers attended the Cenotaph parade on November 12th to pay their respects to the war dead. More groups than ever were present in Whitehall. Though not reflected in the parade, apart from the young age of many of the spectators, the emphasis this year was reminding youth of the consequences of conflict.

Several St Dunstaners attended the afternoon and evening performances of the Festival of Remembrance held in the Royal Albert Hall and found them moving occasions. The Saturday evening meal at the Posthouse Regent's Park was a boisterous occasion as friends met up and both memories and throats were refreshed later in the bar!

In the end, the rain respected the memories of our comrades and held off on Sunday. A cool but not unbearable breeze blew down Whitehall as Big Ben sonorously toned eleven o'clock as a backdrop to the crash of the King's Troop Field Gun. Many mental images must have flashed through the minds of those present during the two minutes silence. Perhaps some blocked out horrors that few could ever conceive. Some were no doubt thankful, that despite their injuries, at least they survived. It was a personal moment for each individual, but a collective nationwide tribute.



Jamie Cuthbertson and Major Roraigh Ainslie on Horseguards. Stan Grimsey is just behind.

In total contrast, the march past by some 170 groups and associations, took place to the accompaniment of blaring trumpets and beating drums. The Chairman was unable to march himself due to a 'difficult' knee and his place was taken by our Vice-Chairman, Michael Delmar-Morgan. On his right, marched our President, Colin Beaumont-Edmonds, MC. On his left were Jamie Cuthbertson and Major Roraigh Ainslie, Royal Engineers, who had completed the Sahara Marathon together.

The wreath was handed over by John Painter, escorted by Major-General Dare Wilson, CBE, MBE, MC, MA, DL and Norman Hopkins. We were privileged to have General Sir Peter de la Billière, KCB, KBE, DSO, MC in the contingent who was pushing the wheelchair of Matthew Rhodes, who at 25, was our youngest St Dunstaner on parade.

This year our contingent needed three drill Sergeants from the 1st Battalion Scots Guards to keep us in order! It was not revealed whether this was due to the size of the contingent or previous behaviour! But it worked and the contingent was much more orderly this year. There were the usual crowds lining the pavements, in no way diminished in numbers or youth. HRH Princess Anne took the salute as we re-entered Horseguards.

There seemed to be delays in getting back to the hotel and so it was not until 1.30pm that Tom Taylor was invited to say grace.

The Chairman was the first to speak after the meal. He started by congratulating all those who had battled against the travel odds to be there. He acknowledged the presence of honoured guests and received much support when he thanked the escorts. Jim Dooley and Alan Tilby were especially thanked for the provision of electric wheelchairs on the parade. There was further applause for the three Scots Guards Sgts, Joe Crook, Windy Miller and Mark McHale. Further tributes were paid to Jeremy Hinton and his staff, who had organised the occasion and to the hotel staff under Lydia Dumont. The Chairman much regretted that Raymond Baxter was unable to be on parade this year due to being in hospital and sent best wishes on behalf of all present.



The Princess Royal took the last salute. At the head of St Dunstan's 111 strong contingent were President Colin Beaumont-Edmonds and Vice-Chairman Michael Delmar-Morgan.

The Chairman summarised some of the achievements of the year; Jamie Cuthbertson who had received the "Unsung Hero Award" from the Prime Minister. It was Jamie's 40th birthday the following Monday and Stan Grimsey's 83rd on the 12th. The room sang 'Happy Birthday' twice over.

Further references were made to the London Marathon completed by Andrew Mahoney, Don Planner, Gerry Jones, David Powell and the Ovingdean Sports department team; Jim Johnson's John O'Groats to Lands End walk; Derry Lavolette's rifle shooting; Steve Nixon and Gary Lomas in the London to Brighton bike ride; and Gwen Obern 'being stitched into immortality' when her portrait was included in a Welsh millennium tapestry. The Chairman paid tribute to Gerard Frost, our recently retired Chief Executive and warmly welcomed Robert Leader. The Chairman then welcomed and introduced a new escort, one of St Dunstan's Vice-Patrons, Admiral Sir Jock Slater, GCB, LVO who recently retired as First Sea Lord.

Sir Jock started by promising to pay St Dunstan's £25 for every minute he spoke over six minutes. As a Scot, he thought this unlikely to happen, but that was not allowing for a faulty microphone, which then intervened! "Lawrence Binyon's words so famous in the 20th century 'We will remember them' ring out today as strong as ever, in this new century. As a Vice-Patron of St Dunstan's, I was honoured to march with so many of you this morning. Remembrance, in my view, is not only a day for looking back, but very much a day for looking



St Dunstan's widows were represented on parade.



Sir Peter de la Billière and Peter Irven with St Dunstaners Matthew Rhodes and Steve Finlay.



Left: *St Dunstaner David Taylor with his son Arnold. David was the eldest St Dunstaner on parade.*
Above: *Norman Hopkins who served in the Royal Tank Regiment was one of St Dunstan's wreath layers.*
Right: *Jeffrey Mason at ease on Horseguards.*

forward with confidence, optimism and pride. That is why we need to maintain and are encouraging this year, younger generations to embrace the ideals of remembrance. In my view, remembrance should not only focus on those who lost their lives in conflict, but also on those who in so many ways have been affected by conflict and strife."

Sir Jock said he was pleased with the amendment to our Constitution. "This will put added pressure on people in all aspects of our work. This is my



St Dunstan's new Chief Executive Robert Leader greets George Tytler and Elsie Aldred.

opportunity, as one of your Vice-Patrons, to pay tribute to all those who work at all levels with St Dunstan's and for St Dunstaners." Sir Jock paid tribute to all who contributed to our cause. "They deserve our heartfelt thanks."

Sir Jock reminded the audience that Sir Edwin Lutyens had designed and built the Cenotaph exactly 80 years ago. British Forces continued to fight all over the world and in many dangerous situations. Our armed forces were the envy of many. "We are fortunate to have organisations such as St Dunstan's to back them up and come to the aid of those in adversity. Long may it continue!"

The response on behalf of St Dunstaners was given by Mike Tetley, who had landed at six o'clock that morning from a physiotherapy conference in Australia. Mike divided St Dunstan's into three parts; St Dunstaners, staff and the buildings. On such a day, Mike thought not just of fallen comrades, but enemies as well. Terrible dilemmas are faced during conflict and Mike found himself surrounded at St Dunstan's by others who had been through similar situations, and that was a great help to him. Others showed there was life after blindness and what was possible. He praised the sports department because "St Dunstaners get fat! I am reminded that if a fat man can't control what goes into his mouth, never believe what comes out of it!" Mike paid tribute to staff at all levels for the help and trust they give



Sir Jock Slater in conversation with St Dunstaner Terry Bullingham during lunch.

St Dunstaners. The third part of the equation was the building at Ovingdean, "which all should know their way round by now."

After a couple of stories concerning the Kenya Regiment, of which Mike was a member, he concluded by saying, "Gentlemen, I hope you will join me in a toast to St Dunstan's. Long may it continue as long as there are soldiers who need it. They have been a wonderful help to all of us."

The Cenotaph Remembrance weekend has become one of the most important features of the St Dunstan's calendar. None more exemplified than by the couple from the North East who travelled six hours by coach to attend and finally got home at midnight on Sunday.

Jamie Cuthbertson writes:

I just wanted to thank St Dunstan's for the most enjoyable weekend just past. I found the Festival of Remembrance and the Cenotaph parade very humbling experiences. Amongst the other 'real' veterans both Roraigh and I felt very honoured to be given pride of place at the head of the St Dunstan's column.

Thanks also for the fine accommodation, food and drink throughout the proceedings. Well done everyone involved.

Thank you all once again.

Jamie & Shauna Cuthbertson

St Dunstan's National Bowling Club

by Bob Osborne, Chairman

Once again the National Bowling Club's Bi-Annual Tournament has been most successful. We were pleased to welcome six new members who acquitted themselves well. Unfortunately three members were taken ill, and were unable to complete their matches. We wish them all a quick recovery to full health.

The winners were:

Totally Blind Singles

Winner John Perfect
Runner-up Tom Whitley

Partially Sighted Singles

Winner
 Bert Brantingham
 (making his St Dunstan's National Bowling Club Tournament debut. The victorious 91-year-old is pictured receiving his prize from Jackie Greer).
Runner-up
 Craig Neller



Pairs

Winners Bob Osborne and Craig Neller
Runners-up John Perfect and Mansel Lewis

Triples

Winners John Perfect, Mansel Lewis and Iain Millard

I would like to thank John Mugan, Edna Cope and also Reg and Vi Bradford who have been helping us for many years.

I must now thank our wives, without whom this Tournament would not be possible. Also our Secretary Rita Pryor, Mary Whitley and Liz Surridge who assisted Joan Osborne in getting the games played on time. Thanks must also go to our "tea ladies" and scorers. The staff were their usual helpful selves and this was much appreciated.

Information about the Spring Tournament will be sent to all members in due course and will be published in the *Review*.

Lookout, there's HTML about!

Computer Club October 4th-5th
by Ray Hazan

This was not a computer virus warning, though non-computer users may regard it as such! They were two of the programs studied by the Computer Club enthusiasts.

We were pleased to welcome two newcomers – David Stevenson and Nigel Whiteley – swelling our largest attendance yet. The group were most grateful to IT instructors Janis, Paul and Brad. Several computers were set up in the Green Room, due to current building work rendering the annexe out of bounds. Despite much noise and interruption, all struggled valiantly on and none sidled off secretly to partake of the rich aromas emanating from the training kitchen next door!

Tom Taylor had kindly brought a copy of 'Lookout'. This is a Windows screen reading program written by Paul Blenkhorn, the author of HAL. At £80 it costs a mere fraction of the current Windows screen readers. It was a most impressive demonstration, though there appear to be key combination conflicts which require further investigation. The program should, however, allow beginner's access to computers without being scared off by the initial outlay.

A planned demonstration of the Grizzly Gulch Wild West Extravaganza was not possible due to the peculiarities of some of the Ovingdean computers – sorry Janis! This is a game designed for the blind and based on real sounds. The player is sent on missions by the Marshal to deal with nasty robbers and murderers by shooting them. In order to purchase a six-shooter, or a horse, you must make money and a visit to the 'saloon' enables you to play poker, blackjack, the slot machines or a shell game. It is better to play using stereo headphones as you need to determine from which direction you are being ambushed by the baddies. The game requires 185MB of hard disk space and your sound card must be able to support Direct X 6 drivers, which are provided on the CD if you have not already got them on your system. The disk costs £40 and is VAT exempt. Details are given at the end of the article.

Brad gave us of his rich experience and knowledge in a wide variety of hard and software problems. He could not recommend the upgrade to Windows Millennium as the improvements were largely

concerned with graphics and visual based programs. Terry Walker recorded the session and a tape is available by contacting him on 02392 594380 or by e-mail teemail@btinternet.com.

We were very lucky to receive a visit from Shamus Reddin of Concept Systems who gave us a tutorial on HTML – Hypertext Mark-up Language. This is fundamentally a word processing language or convention, which is used to write web pages or can be read by the browser on your own home system. Terry Walker describes the beneficial way in which Shamus led the session:

"Returning from the recent Computer Club meeting at Ovingdean, I cannot help but comment on how the meetings are improving year on year. This one has been of real value. The main feature I speak of is, dare I say it, 'Mass Participation'. It was most satisfying to know that there were two people sitting at each computer, the whole group getting hands-on experience. All were backed up with an instructional release to follow very shortly. Planning a web page is something new to each of us. With every member of our steadily growing group being trained simultaneously I feel like shouting from the rooftops: 'At long last we are all learning the same product!' In my experience it has not previously been possible to talk to St Dunstan's computer users without at least one or two who are using something other than the item in question."

We were also pleased to receive a visit from Iki of CVIP Computers Ltd, together with his wife Gabriel. Regrettably, the new Voice Diary Imp was not available, which was Iki's original intention for joining us. He did, however, have a dummy casing of the new model and was able to describe its new features and answer questions on existing models and their software.

An evening get-together has become a regular feature. As usual, the buffet was very well presented. Everyone enjoyed the evening with friends. We were pleased that Paul was able to join us and hope Janis and Brad can make it next time!

Terry fully concurred with Colin Beaumont-Edmonds; "I go home with yet another small piece to my jigsaw of knowledge, which serves to build me a better

picture." Once again, the club is indebted to Janis, Paul and Brad for enabling us to thoroughly indulge our hobby! The dates for next year's meetings are **Wednesday/Thursday, March 14th-15th** and **Wednesday/Thursday, October 3rd-4th**.

Please remember rooms will be reserved for Club activities until four weeks before the activity date.

USEFUL INFORMATION:

Shamus Reddin can be contacted on:
shamusr@conceptsystems.net

HTML Web Tutorial and other interesting program's can be downloaded from a very 'blind-friendly' web site: www.tlorimer.btinternet.co.uk

The Grizzly game and other useful catalogues of 'talking' items can be obtained from Computer Room Services, 77 Exeter Close, Stevenage, Hertfordshire SG1 4PW. Telephone Voice: 01438 742286. Fax/BBS: 01438 759589. Mobile: 07956 334938. E-mail: Steve@comproom.co.uk
Web site: www.comproom.co.uk

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Letters to the Editor are always welcome.

Send a letter, tape or disk to 12-14 Harcourt Street, London W1H 4HD. Fax: 020 7224 9616.

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

From: Gary Ogden, Bristol.

I have been training at St Dunstan's on and off for the last 12 months. I have been learning cooking skills, typing, computers and the most important, mobility.

I have never done woodturning before and I took to it like a duck to water. I made a fruit bowl, which I entered into the Arts and Craft competition. I won first prize. It gave me a great sense of achievement.



I wanted to give something back so I decided to make a trophy using the woodturning lathe. It has turned out really well. I have given it to St Dunstan's to use as an in-house competition trophy, so people will have something to aim for when playing games or sports. I hope it gives others as much enjoyment winning it as it has given me making it. Thank you St Dunstan's.

From: Clifford Gower, Westbury, Wiltshire.

In mid-October Irene and I joined a party of members of Wiltshire Blind Association for a week's holiday at the Belmont Hotel at Llandudno, North Wales. One evening over a drink I got into conversation with a couple from nearby Trowbridge, namely Terry and Margaret Barby. Terry explained that he was in a reserved occupation during the Second War but now was beset by rapid loss of sight due to macular degeneration. He said to me "I understand Cliff that

you are a St Dunstaner, I have some very happy memories of St Dunstan's in Regent's Park.

I was born in 1912 and I lived with my family in Regent's Park, my father being on the staff of Bedford College. By the time I was about ten years of age St Dunstan's had been established a few years. By then I had become a frequent visitor to the Home. I would take a St Dunstaner on each arm and either take them for a walk or put them into a boat with an oar each, I would sit facing them steering the boat. To get them to row in unison was hilarious but we had lots of fun. After it was 'mother's orders' that the men were brought home to tea. The men were always so grateful for all we did and always so cheerful."

From: W.F. Shea, Great Totham, Maldon, Essex.

I would like to thank the Chairman, Members of Council, Staff at HQ and Ovingdean, St Dunstaners and Widows for their messages and thoughts after the very sudden and unexpected death of Joan. Your messages and thoughts were a great source of comfort to my daughter, Jane, grandchildren, Lucy and James and myself. Your messages have been so numerous it would take me a very long time to reply individually, so please accept this as a very sincere thank you. Very best wishes to you all. God bless.

From: Bernard and Marie Blacker, Saltdean.

We would like to thank all those who sent messages and inquired after Marie during her recent stay in hospital. We are also very grateful to all the staff at Ovingdean, who look after us so well. Thank you all.

Welcome to St Dunstan's

Kenneth Brooke of Sheffield, South Yorkshire joined St Dunstan's on October 23rd. Now aged 80, he served in the 5th Royal Inniskilling Dragoon Guards from 1938 to 1946. Deployed to France, he was evacuated from Dunkirk. His unit returned to France with Cromwell tanks in July 1944. Serving as a wireless operator and loader, Mr Brooke was wounded in Germany. Leaving the Service he joined the Post Office, working as a postman and sorter until retiring in 1985. Mr Brooke and his wife Betty enjoy walking in the Peak District, dancing and gardening. They have one daughter and four grandchildren. Some St Dunstaners will recall Mr Brooke's father, First World War St Dunstaner James Brooke.

Jack Bryant of Southsea, Hampshire joined St Dunstan's on October 30th. Now aged 78, he served in the Royal Marines from 1936 to 1948, having joined as a Bugler when he was 14. He was serving on HMS *Barham* when war broke out. After training, he joined the battleship HMS *Howe*, serving in the Mediterranean, Indian Ocean and Sumatra. Later his ship joined the British Pacific Fleet at Okinawa. Leaving the service he opened a watch, clock and jewellery shop in Portsmouth which he ran until his retirement in 1986. Mr Bryant has a son and daughter.

Jessie McNulty of Normanby, Middlesbrough served in the Auxiliary Territorial Service from 1942 to 1946. She was a shorthand typist in the HQ for the Central Commission for Germany and deployed with them to France. She was with the first ATS party into Berlin. After the war she worked for ICI. Mrs McNulty, who has four sons, is a keen walker.

Royal Artillery Memorial unveiled

One of the most striking features of Hyde Park was unveiled 75 years ago. The War Memorial to the Royal Regiment of Artillery was unveiled by the Duke of Connaught. Attending the ceremony in 1925 were 12 St Dunstaners who had served in that regiment. At that time 105 Royal Artillery men had become St Dunstaners.

A Guard of Honour had been drawn from the Royal Artillery Depot, Woolwich and after he had

James Moffatt of Shoreham-by-Sea, West Sussex served in the Honourable Artillery Company (11th Regiment Royal Horse Artillery) from 1940 to 1943. He served in the 8th Army from January 1941 and was wounded defending Tobruk. He suffered severe shrapnel wounds, fractures and burns from a German tank attack. After his discharge, he joined the Super Lamp Metallic Company, an electrical wholesaler and remained with them as branch manager until he retired in 1974. Mr Moffatt, now aged 84, has three sons.

Duncan Newland-Smith of St Albans, Hertfordshire served in the Royal Army Ordnance Corps from 1940 to 1941 and then the Royal Army Medical Corps from 1941 to 1946. An optician in civilian life, he initially trained as a vehicle mechanic but was posted to the Middle East and transferred to the RAMC. He served with them as a Sergeant in Tripoli, Naples, Rome and the UK. In civilian life, he returned to his work as an optician. He and his wife Joyce have a son and daughter. Now aged 86, Mr Newland-Smith is involved with the National Trust, Talking Newspapers, Citizens' Advice Bureau and the Footpath Society.

James Pegler of Hendon, London served in the Auxiliary Pioneer Corps from 1940 to 1946. An Ammunition Handler for artillery shells and free fall bombs, he took part in the Normandy landings and operations into Germany. After the war he worked for Barnet Council painting street nameplates, motorway bridges and other road signs. A Liverpool supporter, his interests include boats, listening to the radio and talking books.

inspected them, His Royal Highness, who was Field-Marshal of the Regiment, turned to the St Dunstaners and formally saluted them. Wreaths were carried to the Memorial on the gun that fired the first British shell on August 22nd 1914. The horses leading the gun team had served with the Expeditionary Force throughout World War I.

The vast memorial features statues of Artillery men who lost their lives in the trenches.

Tribute to Stanislaw Sosabowski

Details from <http://www.sosabowski.com>

Dr Major Stanislaw Janusz Sosabowski of Wimborne, Dorset died on November 6th, aged 83. He had been a St Dunstaner since 1946. Having been educated at the renowned Adam Mickiewicz High School, Warsaw he passed the Military Medical Academy (SPS - Szkoła Podchorząży Sanitarna) in 1935 and became a Cadet Officer. He also enrolled as a student at the Faculty of Medicine, Josef Pilsudski University, Warsaw. During the day he studied as a carefree undergraduate albeit in uniform, before returning to the barracks for an evening of drill.

At the start of World War II, as Senior Cadet Sergeant he was assigned to the 1st Regional Hospital, Powaski in charge of Hospital Evacuation Train No 2, transporting wounded to the East. Dr Sosabowski was then reassigned to the 2nd Company Railway Engineers as Medical Officer and promoted to 2nd Lieutenant, Regular Army Medical Corps. In October, Warsaw capitulated. Stan and his father were incarcerated in the German Prisoner of War Camp at Zyrardow but escaped after two days. However, they were unsuccessful in their attempts to flee Poland.

In 1940, Dr Sosabowski found work as an assistant at the Surgical Isolation Ward, Ujazdowski Hospital, Warsaw. This proved the ideal cover, allowing him to continue his medical studies and join the Underground Army - the ZWZ (The Armed Resistance Movement).

Towards the end of 1942 as Section Commander - Special Operations Executive - known also as Andrew's Group or Kolegium A - he led a band of 30 freedom fighters in a series of acts of sabotage, diversion and execution. This included disabling goods trains on their way to the Russian Front, destroying fuel depots and aircraft factories.

In August 1944 Operation Tempest, better known as the Warsaw Uprising, saw a brave attempt by the Home Army to wrest control of Warsaw from the retreating German Army. It was a forlorn effort. During this time, Dr Sosabowski's group defied overwhelming odds to storm a German held Customs Building and Waffen SS storage depot. They continued with a further assault liberating 50 Jewish prisoners. The next day, two nurses joined the platoon, one of them was Krystyna Sosabowska, his wife! Tragedy followed this reunion as two days later when they attacked a well defended school. Dr Sosabowski was badly



Stan Sosabowski during an archery shoot.

wounded in the face. He was taken to the St Lazarus Hospital, Wola with Krystyna but they had to flee when an SS execution squad combed the building killing all they could find. In January 1945 Dr Sosabowski was flown to Scotland through the intervention of his father Major-General Stanislaw Sosabowski, CBE. Despite strenuous efforts it was too late to save his sight.

Joining St Dunstan's, he trained as a physiotherapist, taking a position as Assistant Superintendent Physiotherapy at Hillingdon Hospital. He also established a private practice. In 1967, six months' internship at Hillingdon Hospital led to the recognition of Dr Sosabowski's Polish Medical Diploma by the British Medical Council, a very rare event, allowing him to practice medicine in the UK.

He competed in the grounds of Buckingham Palace with St Dunstan's Archery Club. He took part in Remembrance ceremonies in Holland, Poland and Scotland, commemorating his father, founder and CO of the First Polish Independent Paratroop Brigade.

Dr Sosabowski was a member of his local Home Army Association, the British Medical Association, the Chartered Society of Physiotherapists, the Graduates' Association of the Warsaw Military Medical Academy, and an honorary member of the Parachute Regiment Association. He was decorated with The Virtuti Militari Cross Class V, The Home Army Cross, The Cross of Valour (twice), The Defence of Warsaw Cross, The 1939 September Campaign Cross, The Polish Army Medal, and The Golden Badge of Merit of the First Independent Polish Parachute Brigade. He was given the title of "Righteous" by the Israeli Authorities.

DANCING IN THE DARK

Neil Swan with the latest fund raising news

This charming photograph shows Zena Steele, the mother of Mrs Ashford dancing in aid of St Dunstan's back in 1919 at the age of ten years and 11 months. Mrs Steele's husband was himself in the Royal Flying Corps and he died a few years ago aged just short of 100. She died in August this year at the age of 91.



The new St Dunstan's film *Night or Day..?* is now complete and should be on general release by the time you read this. The sound track is also available on audio cassette. Both the video and audio cassette are available by contacting the Fund Raising department at Headquarters. The film was commissioned to help create a greater awareness of St Dunstan's within the Services. It has therefore been sent to all Units.

As the average age of Service audiences is likely to be well under 40 the film places more emphasis on the younger St Dunstaners. However, It especially sets out to show how blinded ex-Service men and women have overcome their disabilities and gone on to live rewarding and fulfilling lives. We are indebted to all those who assisted in the making of the film.

Mrs Ashford is carrying out a promise to herself that St Dunstan's would be the Charity she and her family would support in her mother's memory, hence this story and the picture. Mrs Steele was always very keen on drama, dance and generally visual things, although she had sight problems in her later years.

CHRISTMAS QUIZ

Our December quiz carries some seasonal spice. We have three cash prizes for the St Dunstaner, wife, husband, widow or widower who can answer these tinsel teasers. First prize is £10 with two prizes of £5 for the runners-up. Closing date is January 4th. (In event of a tie, the winners will be drawn from a hat). Answers should be sent to the Public Relations Department (Quiz), 12-14 Harcourt Street, London W1H 4HD.

- 1) Which Greek letter gave us an informal Christmas?
- 2) Who is the patron saint of Russia?
- 3) When did December fall in the Roman calendar?
- 4) Which Duke of Bohemia, murdered by his brother, is celebrated in a seasonal song?
- 5) Who were Caspar, Melchior and Balthazar?
- 6) What did the BBC start on December 23rd 1922?
- 7) What do botanists call holly, pine and spruce?
- 8) Who wrote *The Seed and The Sower*?
- 9) Where would you celebrate Hogmanay?
- 10) Who was crowned in Westminster Abbey on Christmas Day 1066?
- 11) Name the warm ocean surge that occurs around Christmas, affecting the world's climate?

- 12) King John was not a good man, but what did he want for Christmas?
 - 13) Who composed the *Christmas Oratorio*?
 - 14) What is Hard Sauce?
 - 15) Which King of the Franks was crowned Emperor on Christmas Day?
 - 16) Who wrote *Christmas Eve and Easter Day*?
 - 17) On which day did those in service traditionally receive their gifts?
 - 18) What sounds like a prize bird on Christmas Island?
 - 19) Who wrote *White Christmas*?
 - 20) Who was famed for his Christmas circus at Olympia, London?
 - 21) What comes before the Twelfth Day of Christmas?
 - 22) Why were windows bricked up on New Year's Eve 1695?
 - 23) What did my true love send on the First Day of Christmas?
 - 24) Which knight normally appears in a Mummers' Play?
 - 25) Who wrote *Auld Lang Syne*?
- BEST OF LUCK AND MERRY CHRISTMAS!**

Balancing the Books

by Ted Bunting

Calling the Horses

Author: Peter O'Sullivan
Reader: Peter O'Sullivan
Catalogue Number: 8474
Duration: 16.5 hours

Nobody, I'm sure, can have heard Peter O'Sullivan describing a horse race without being aware of his expertise and passion for the racing game. His perfect timing as the runners near the winning post, and his unerring accuracy of identification no matter how many they might be, has rightly earned him the undisputed title, "The Best".

He has a pleasant voice too, in addition to a reputation as a good storyteller, so I was confident that a book of his life, with the bonus of being read by the great man himself, was a certain winner.

But how many punters have known a horse that definitely should have won? This is not a biography of Peter O'Sullivan; because his life-line, insofar as it is relevant to the narrative at all, is no more than a line followed from this race meeting to that race meeting, stopping off to view the morning gallops en route, and hardly having time to snatch a wink of sleep in between.

Imagine meeting as seasoned racegoer who can remember every horse he ever backed, and what beat it if it didn't win ... Peter O'Sullivan can do that with ease! Not only that, he knows its sisters and uncles too, what jockey ever perched on its back, and can add what it ate for breakfast for good measure.

'The Sport of Kings', as Sir Peter freely admits, has also been called, 'The Great Triviality', and having heard his book I now understand why. I cannot deny that there are numerous interesting and amusing little anecdotes contained in *Calling The Horses*, but, by golly, you have to be a dedicated follower of the Turf to enjoy what comes in between.

50 YEARS AGO

F.C.W. "Micky" Fullbrook of Penge found success at the Olympia Dog Show where his red cocker was "Very Highly Commended". He won a similar award at the Beckenham Open Show the week before.

St Dunstan's Bridge Players finished in a draw in the first round of the London Business Houses league match. Frank Rhodes and Dusty Miller won the Pearson Competition for pairs.

St Dunstaner J. Blackwell recounted the following incident: "A customer entered my shop but made no reply to my offers to serve him. I began to feel worried, picturing a possible hold-up. I rang for my wife, who dashed in and saw a deaf-and-dumb man trying to make me understand what he wanted. This strange episode makes me smile now, but I was also very touched as he made my wife understand that he felt very sorry for me. I personally was most sympathetic with him, knowing that I was far less handicapped."

Rufus Shaw of Burnley took part in the guard of honour at Chester when the King inspected the 1st Royal Dragoons. His Majesty shook hands with Mr Shaw.

FAMILY NEWS

BIRTH

Congratulations on the birth of:

Katy Wiles on October 4th. She is the first great-granddaughter of Kathleen Wiles of Quintrell Downs, Newquay, Cornwall, widow of *George Wiles*.

DIAMOND ANNIVERSARY

Congratulations to:

George and Ann Taylor of Loose, Maidstone, Kent on November 9th.

ACHIEVEMENTS

Congratulations to:

Karen on her BA (Hons) degree in Business, Marketing and Spanish. She is the granddaughter of Anne Moore of Oxhey, Watford, Hertfordshire, widow of *Alan Moore*.

Richard Ford on gaining a BA (2:1) in History at Exeter University. He is the grandson of *Ernie and Betty Ford* of Middlesbrough, Cleveland.

DEATHS

We regret to announce the death of:

Winifred Higgs on October 16th. She was the wife of *Edward Higgs* of Wokingham, Berkshire.

Leo Gimbrere on November 9th. He was the husband of *Alice Gimbrere* of Sheringham, Norfolk.

Amy Cook of Brentwood, Essex on October 23rd. She was the widow of *Alec Cook*.

Florence Watkins-Grafton of Epsom, Surrey on October 25th. She was the widow of *Arthur Watkins-Grafton*.

Annie Mawson of Sheffield, South Yorkshire on November 5th. She was the widow of *Jack Mawson*.

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.

Reginald Theobald

King's Royal Rifle Corps

Reginald Albert Theobald of Ipswich, Suffolk died on November 2nd, aged 82. He had been a St Dunstaner since 1944. Originally an architect's assistant, Mr Theobald enlisted in the King's Royal Rifle Corps in 1939 and served as a Rifleman in the Liaison Regiment. In 1943 he was blinded in Tunisia when a grenade exploded. He joined St Dunstan's at Church Stretton and trained as a physiotherapist. He put this training into action at East Suffolk & Ipswich Hospital and also developed his own private practice. Apart from Masonic interests his hobbies included organ music, sailing, and gardening. Our sympathy goes to his widow Margaret, son Peter, daughter Elizabeth and all other members of the family.

Dr Major Stanislaw Sosabowski

*Regular Army Medical Corps
and Polish Underground*

Dr Major Stanislaw Janusz Sosabowski of Wimborne, Dorset died on November 6th, aged 83. He had been a St Dunstaner since 1946. As a Cadet at the

Military Medical Academy, he also studied medicine in Warsaw. After the outbreak of war he joined the Regular Army Medical Corps, and served in the Polish Underground after Poland fell. After training at St Dunstan's, he became a physiotherapist. A tribute appears on page 17. Our sympathy goes to his sons Stanislaw and Macey and all members of the family.

Wilfred Till

Grenadier Guards

Wilfred Cyril Till of Wedley Castle, Birmingham died on November 7th, aged 90. He joined the Grenadier Guards as a 19 year old in 1929, serving with them as a Lance Corporal in the UK, Egypt, France and North Africa. While in North Africa he was run over by a German tank. Mr Till was discharged in 1945. Our sympathy goes to his son Colin, daughter Glenys and all other members of the family.

Frederick Charlick

Royal Engineers

Frederick Charlick of Christchurch, Dorset died on November 12th, aged 72. He had been a St Dunstaner since 1976. Having joined the TA, he was embodied on the outbreak of hostilities, serving as a Sapper with the Royal Engineers. He was taken prisoner in Hong Kong on Christmas Day in 1941. The malnutrition and mistreatment he experienced while held in Hong Kong and later Tokyo caused some loss of vision, though he experienced some recovery after liberation. After being discharge in 1946, he joined the GPO working as a clerical officer. His interests included DIY. Our sympathy goes to his widow Eileen, son Douglas, daughter Julie and all other members of the family.

Alan Moir

Royal Air Force

Alan Arthur Moir of North Common, Bristol, died on November 13th, aged 78. He served as a Corporal in the Royal Air Force from 1939 to 1946. During that time he was based in the UK, Canada and Europe. He joined the Gloucester Police Force after the war and served a full career, including six months attached to the Nyasaland Police Force. He retired with the rank of Sergeant. A member of the St John Ambulance Brigade, he was Commander of the Order in Avon. His interests have included bridge, model making and sea fishing. Our sympathy goes to his widow Joan and all other members of the family.