

St Dunstan's Review

May 2001



CONTENTS

FINANCIAL
ASSISTANCE
3

TRAVELLING TO
OVINGDEAN
3

TAPE SAVER
4

MEMORIAL TO
WOMEN OF WWII
5

TRANSATLANTIC
SNORKEL
8

BUFFET WITH
AMPERE
PROTECTION
13

Cover picture:

Ted John and Bill Shea cut
a cake celebrating 25 years
of ham radio at St Dunstan's.
The cake was baked by
Jane Taylor and decorated
by her daughter-in-law.

Full details on page 10.

From the Chairman



Recently, I attended the 25th anniversary AGM of the St Dunstan's Amateur Radio Society. It is not the oldest of St Dunstan's Clubs, activities or reunions by any means. The organisers had gathered together many who had helped the Club at one time or another. It was reassuring to hear the cacophony of voices as past and present exploits were recounted.

It did make me sit back and realise how very fortunate St Dunstan's is with regard to the help we receive from so many quarters. Your wives and families; former members of staff who, in many cases, devoted most of their working life to the organisation; volunteers, especially around Brighton who walk, cycle, read, chat, erect radio aerials and much more; many of you have escorts, helpers and friends where you live; current members of staff who often extend themselves beyond the 'normal' working hours. Finally, the great British public who make our work possible.

Adversity can sponsor so many good qualities, which affect both the giver and receiver. It is hopefully these more positive thoughts, which produce a glow of optimism and reassurance amongst the gloom and doom which seems to surround us at times.

Captain Michael Gordon-Lennox, RN



NOTICE BOARD



REQUESTS FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE by Peter Irven, Head of Welfare

Many will be aware that if you need help with funding an expensive project St Dunstan's may be able to help. However, it should also be borne in mind that any request for funding needs to be passed to the Welfare Committee, through the Welfare Officers or Surveyors, as appropriate. These projects may be such items as essential but expensive medical equipment or treatment, adaptations to the house to improve your safety and mobility, important and costly equipment to increase your independence, and so on.

If you are faced with funding such a project and you feel that you need the help of St Dunstan's to pay for it, I would ask you please to:

- Discuss it with your Welfare Officer or Surveyor.
- Obtain at least two estimates for the job if you are advised to do so.
- Before** accepting a quote or having the job done, ask the Welfare Officer or Surveyor to put the case forward for consideration for financial assistance by the Welfare Committee.

I am sure that you will appreciate that the Welfare Committee has to ensure that St Dunstan's funds are being used where they are most needed. There have been a small number of cases recently where St Dunstaners have had expensive jobs done in their homes, paid for them out of their own pocket, and then asked for financial help from St Dunstan's. To avoid disappointment, I would ask you please to make sure that if you feel that you are likely to need St Dunstan's help, that you enquire first before going ahead with the task.

TRAVEL TO OVINGDEAN BY MEANS OTHER THAN ST DUNSTAN'S CAR by Mike Hordell, Facilities Manager

St Dunstaners and widows travelling to Ovingdean by rail and using a disabled railcard may claim a refund of their fare from St Dunstan's. The Transport department will arrange for them to be met at Brighton station for ferrying to Ovingdean. The refund can be claimed from the Cashier at Ovingdean on production of the rail tickets or an official receipt, which is obtainable at the time of purchase.

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

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

CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR BOOKINGS AT OVINGDEAN

Would readers please note that applications for Christmas and New Year holidays at Ovingdean cannot be accepted until September.

CALLING ALL GOLFERS

Would all existing Golf Club Members please contact the Club Secretary to confirm their contact details as soon as possible. Prospective members please contact the same for an application form. Write to Mike Tumilson, 38 Dilcock Way, Canley, Coventry, West Midlands CV4 8BX or telephone 024 7646 9369. E-mail: mst@euphony.net. There will be an AGM meeting on Friday June 22nd at 46 Nevill Road, Rottingdean. It is hoped that all members will attend and assist in helping to shape the future direction of the Club.

DEADLINES FOR FUTURE ISSUES

The final date for submitting items for publication in the July Review is May 31st.

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

TAPE SENSE

The Persula Foundation enables visually impaired people to purchase blank cassettes and blank recordable CD/Rs at prices exclusive of VAT. Examples include: Maxell UR60 minute ferric tape £0.25, TDK SA90 minute chrome tape £0.49, TDK MD74 minidisc £0.79 and TRAXDATA CDR74 audio recordable compact disc (single) £0.99. These prices include postage & packing.

Once you have made a purchase, you will receive a bi-monthly product list, which will include a wider selection of items, also exclusive of VAT, such as batteries, headphones and tape recorders.

In order to confirm you are visually impaired, your very first order form has to be stamped or signed by your GP or simply send it to the PR department at HQ to get it stamped. Thereafter, your orders can be made by telephone.

To apply for an order form, please contact: The Persula Foundation, Richer House, Hankey Place, London SE1 4BB. Tel: 020 7357 9298.

BRIGHTON BOWLS

The following fixtures have been set for Brighton Bowls. All matches take place at 14.00hrs. For further details contact Iain Millard on 01273 303451.

June 5th	Seaford
June 7th	Hurstpierpoint
June 14th	The Drive
June 18th	East Preston
June 25th	New Haven
July 17th	Seaford (held at Ovingdean)
August 4th	Guildford
August 9th	Marine Gardens
August 13th	Burgess Hill
August 20th	Enfield
September 27th	Saltdean

FEELING THE VICTORIAN VISION

Our Victorian forefathers are examined in a new exhibition at the Victoria and Albert Museum, *Inventing New Britain: The Victorian Vision*. Visually impaired visitors will be able to join a touch-tour on May 23rd (6-7.30pm) and July 19th (2.30-4pm). The event and entry to the Museum are free to disabled people and one carer. For details call 020 7942 2197 or e-mail: bookings.office@vam.ac.uk.

DERBY SWEEPSTAKE 2001

St Dunstan's Review Derby Sweepstake is now open to St Dunstaners, beneficiaries of the Diana Gubbay Trust, widows and widowers.

This year the race is being run on June 9th. Tickets are 30p each and issued consecutively to a maximum of 25 (costing £7.50). Cheques should be made payable to St Dunstan's and crossed. Loose money should not be sent unless it is registered. The closing date is June 4th.

Each applicant should send their name and address, the number of tickets required, and a stamped addressed envelope, to The Editor, DSS Department, *St Dunstan's Review*, 12-14 Harcourt Street, London W1H 4HD.

Of the total money received, distribution amongst the winners will be as follows:

- 50 per cent to the holder of the ticket drawing the winning horse.
- 20 per cent to the holder of the ticket drawing the second horse.
- 10 per cent to the holder of the ticket drawing the third horse.
- 20 per cent to be divided equally among those drawing a horse which actually starts the race.

No prize won in the sweepstake will be paid to any person other than the person to whom the winning ticket was sold.

The draw will take place in London on June 5th.

URGENT HELP REQUIRED

We will be taking part in the International Festival of the Sea, in Portsmouth on August 24th-27th. We urgently need some products to sell. These must be of a maritime or marine connection such as sea creatures, pirates, boats/ships, Naval personnel (knitted preferably) and anything you can think of which would enhance the St Dunstan's stand.

If you can manage to send something we would be very grateful. We need to have all items in by the end of July.

Please send them to Robbie Hazan, Public Relations Department, St Dunstan's, 12-14 Harcourt Street, London, W1H 4HD. If you have any queries please do not hesitate to contact me on 020 7723 5021.

MEMORIAL TO THE WOMEN OF WORLD WAR II

At the end of the last War, nearly every town and village in the Country either added to Memorials already existing, or erected new Memorials. These were to remember the heroic deeds and names of our brave men who fought so gallantly during World War II. Thus they recorded for generations to come, an almost unimaginable period of our heritage. More than 50 years later, these Memorials have become symbolic of the unselfish sacrifices made by our men so that the modern world may enjoy the freedom and safety we take for granted today. This is undoubtedly a fitting and lasting tribute to those who willingly gave so much.

Sadly, most people of the post war generations are quite oblivious to the incredible work done by women during World War II. This is despite there having been over 640,000 women in the Armed Forces, 56,000 who actually served with the Guns, providing critical Air Defence to the United Kingdom. Thousands more served in the Land Army, ensuring sufficient food was farmed to feed our vast Armies. Others flew unarmed aircraft as replacements for our Air Force (Amy Johnson was lost on just such a flight) and others spent hours dedicated to breaking German codes, which gave us tremendous advantage in the cloak-and-dagger world of intelligence and on the battlefield. More women worked in that very cloak-and-dagger world, behind enemy lines, helping organise resistance groups or passing invaluable information back to the United Kingdom, and placing themselves in great peril. The Nurses with great compassion tended those injured and dying servicemen, many of whom were also in great danger by serving just behind our front lines. Women worked as ARP Wardens, munitions

workers, ambulance drivers and WVS volunteers. In fact the *Daily Mail* recently claimed there were more women involved in World War II than men.

Incredibly there is no National Memorial in the United Kingdom to remind us of the equally heroic work and dedication of these women. There are National Memorials to women in America, Canada, Australia and New Zealand.

The Charity, Memorial to the Women of World War 2, has raised considerable political support, by the way of an Early Day Motion which over 260 MPs across the House signed, to help find a suitable site for the Memorial in Westminster. HRH The Princess Royal has also given the Charity Royal endorsement in the way of Patronage. Furthermore, the Palace has indicated that HM The Queen would like to be able to unveil the Memorial. Already thousands of women veterans have said they will be delighted to attend the ceremony and at last proudly march past their Sovereign and the long awaited Memorial.

The Sculptor's fee for the artwork is expected to be about £180,000. To this may need to be added the cost of making and installing a plinth, professional fees (surveyors etc) and a capital sum of between £4,000 to £10,000 for maintenance of the Memorial in perpetuity. The Project may qualify for a Capital Arts Grant from the Lottery, but to qualify we need to raise at least £100,000.

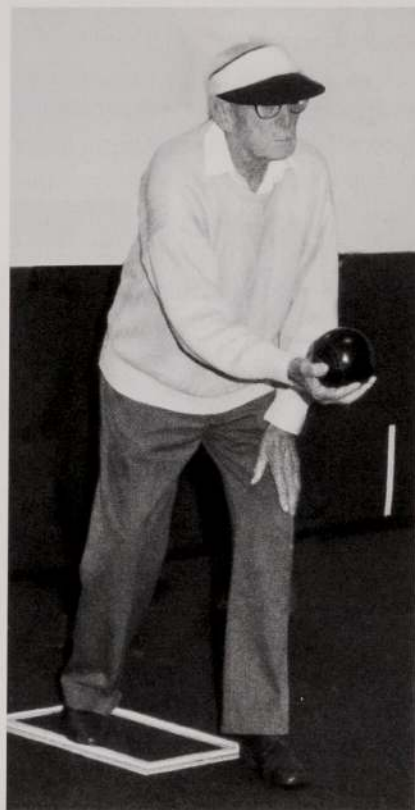
Memorial to Women of World War 2 Fund, c/o HQ York Garrison, Imphal Barracks, Fulford Road, York, YO10 4HD. Tel: 01904 662291. Fax 01904 662655. Registered No:1069791 under the Charities Act 1960.

READY FOR THE LONDON MARATHON?

St Dunstan's running team, including Arthur Harvey, Billy Baxter, Andy Mahoney, Pete Walker and Iain Millard, stretched their legs on an icy 20 mile spin at Worthing on March 25th. Does this mean they had limbered up for the full 26 miles of the London Marathon? Find out next issue ...



BERT'S ON A ROLL THE RESULTS OF THE NATIONAL BOWLING CLUB SPRING TOURNAMENT



Bert Brantingham takes the lead.

The bowling tournament was held at Ovingdean once again and we were very pleased to greet several new members. Unfortunately during the tournament we were saddened to hear of the deaths of two of our bowlers, Bill Collier and Bill Vickery. They will be sorely missed.

After many excellent games the results are as follows:

Totally Blind Singles

Winner Bob Osborne

Runner-up Peggy West

Partially Sighted Singles

Winner Bert Brantingham

Runners-up Matthew Rhodes, Phil Dobson

Pairs

Winners Jack Pryor & Matthew Rhodes

Runners-up Craig Nellor & Sid Wisdom

Triples

Winners Bob Osborne, Elwyn Rees & Matthew Rhodes

Runners-up Bert Brantingham, James Poole & Bernard Pitcher

Bert Brantingham was winner for the second consecutive time, just a few weeks before his 92nd birthday. Not bad eh!

Although we had difficulties early on regarding callers and scorers, everyone rallied round. I will just say a big thank you to one and all, including the staff for the successful completion of the tournament.

The next one will be held on October 26th to November 9th.

Good bowling!

Bob Osborne, Chairman.

LETTER 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: Mrs Doreen Munsey, Honorary Secretary, Port Elizabeth RNA, South Africa.

In 1951-1952, I was a Wren stationed at HMS *Daedalus*, Lee-on-Solent. It was the practice of this station to invite the residents of St Dunstan's for a week's holiday at the camp every year. They arrived on the Friday night, we were all introduced to those very brave courageous men. Within ten minutes we were all chatting away as though we had known each other for years. Some were deaf and blind and they taught us the sign language, others had no arms, no legs, but all that was forgotten. Every day something was organised for them, a trip on the Solent, dances at the various Messes, walks, for those who could, into the nearest village. It was a wonderful week and there was not a moan or complaint from any member of the ship's company. We were all so thankful to be

in one piece. But never have I seen such courage as I did with those men.

It was also my privilege, along with a group of Wrens, to be invited to St Dunstan's one Saturday afternoon. Tea was provided and then the dancing and singing commenced. It was unbelievable and something I shall never forget.

I often think of those wonderful days, and those wonderful men with no arms or legs, blind and deaf, and yet they were still able to laugh and joke. My thoughts and prayers are with you all.

PLEASE NOTE

The postcode for St Dunstan's in Harcourt Street has been changed to W1H 4HD.

Priscilla cleans up Tidy award



Picture courtesy of Surrey & Sussex Newspapers

Priscilla at Salfords Station with sales clerk Wellington Chan.

Priscilla Nobbs of Salfords, Redhill, Surrey has been presented with the Queen Mother's Birthday Award (Special Mention Certificate) for her work helping to keep Salfords Station clean.

The award is issued through the Tidy Britain Group and recognises her dedication to collecting rubbish and separating it for recycling along with helping commuters by handing out timetables to them. "I started years ago when I was fighting for a better service at the station," she said.

The award was presented to her by HM Lord Lieutenant of the Royal County of Berkshire, Mr Philip Wroughton at the Guildhall, Windsor. Priscilla is the widow of late St Dunstaner Robert Nobbs who served in the Royal Air Force.

REUNION ROUND-UP

St Dunstan's Reunion season opened on April 4th with the first Brighton Reunion which was held at Ovingdean. St Dunstan's Chairman Captain Michael Gordon-Lennox, RN presided over a gathering of 40 St Dunstaners, 22 widows and one widower. Escorts, guests and staff members raised the total present to 112. Liz Hutchison, who recently retired, was presented with a bouquet as a token of appreciation for her work in the Welfare Department.



Red Nose antics raise cash for good cause



Billy Baxter on Red Nose Day.

They say laughter is the best medicine and on Comic Relief's Red Nose Day that proved true at Ovingdean. St Dunstaners and staff spent the day in fancy dress, raising £315.99 through sponsorship. Well done all!



Ian, Billy, Susan and Bill were just some of the Ovingdean crowd who got into the spirit of the day.

SNORKELLING ACROSS THE ATLANTIC

John Shouesmith talks to Simon Rogers about a unique voyage beneath the sea

St Dunstaner John Shouesmith joined the Royal Navy in 1949 as a 15-year-old and his initial posting on the battleship HMS *Vanguard* was probably consistent with his idea of a life on the ocean waves. However, he soon found himself being directed into a career beneath the sea. As a result he established himself amongst that most select brand of the Senior Service – the submariners.

“In those days you were drafted to go to *Dolphin*, you ‘volunteered’, so I ‘volunteered’. It’s a different life from the rest of the Navy. You have about a year of training, you go through the 100ft tank, the submarine escape hatch.”

This daunting exercise requires the fledgling submariners to simulate the evacuation of a sunken boat by entering an airlock which is flooded. At this point the only way out is to swim 100ft to the surface.

There are many other aspects to the training, but it is all essential for those men who will set sail in the truly closed environment of the submarine. It is no day trip and John adds that the longest he has been “dived”, that’s the time submerged, was 12 weeks and four days. That’s three days short of a quarter year spent underwater!

John’s main task involved weapons. “But that’s on top of being an Able Seaman as well,” he adds. “There are no passengers on a submarine, everyone has got a job and you are expected to have a good grounding in other people’s jobs as well.”

Over the next quarter of a century, John would see service on a variety of “boats”, as submarines are traditionally called, such as HMS *Resolution* and HMS *Sea Devil*, the last of its class to remain operational. “The *Sea Devil* was a very happy boat,” said John. “But the Padre at St Ambrose in HMS *Dolphin* wouldn’t display the crest in the church



The HMS Tally Ho breaks surface.

because it was the devil. It was the one and only submarine to be excluded. That’s because the Church and the Devil don’t mix.”

John adds that he himself is Church of Turkey. This declaration actually recalls a Kirk in Rothesay on the Island of Bute in Scotland. “If you had a bed there for the night you were always sure of a bun and a bit of turkey. Any submariner who served there will remember it very affectionately, you could always crash there.”

Another boat provided John with the opportunity to take part in an extraordinary venture.

The year was 1958 and the submarine was the *Tally Ho*. John recalled that it had two crests, one a hunting horn, the other a fox, with a bushy tail disappearing into the hedges.

HMS *Tally Ho*, also known as P97 and P317, was launched on December 23rd 1942. Like all ‘T’ Class submarines it was devised for long-range patrols and weighed in at 1,330 tons on the surface, 1,585 tons when submerged. She was renowned for two decisive strikes against enemy vessels. In 1944, barely a month apart, while patrolling off Penang in the Malacca Strait, she sank the Japanese cruiser *Kuma* followed by the Italian submarine *U-IT23*.

A compliment of six officers and 55 ratings could

spend up to 42 days beneath the waves in the 280ft long submarine.

In 1958 it was decided to “snort the Atlantic” on a journey from Bermuda to Portsmouth. Instead of relying on stored air reserves, the boat would draw oxygen straight from the surface using a snorkel.

This move effectively set the depth for the duration of the voyage; normally the vessel could penetrate over 350ft below the ocean surface. “We travelled at periscope depth, so we could keep the snorkel up. It was very uncomfortable. There was a lot of condensation, well you are working under a vacuum. It’s like being in a rainstorm, your ears become so pliant.”

Comfort aside, the journey ran smoothly. “Food was very good,” said John. “Mostly dehydrated rations, anything else goes off pretty quick in a submarine.”

However, he did have some qualms about the duration of the trip. “There was a big chart that mapped our course, and each day it would be marked with a tiny line indicating the distance travelled.” John held his arms wide to indicate the size of the chart, followed by a thumb and forefinger with the slightest of gaps contrasting the minute mark that would log their progress.

After nearly three weeks the *Tally Ho* reached Portsmouth to great applause. It had crossed nearly 3,500 miles in this unique fashion.

So why did the *Tally Ho* cross the Atlantic in this manner. It seems the answer is akin to the mountaineer who climbs Everest because it is there. “I think it was an experiment,” said John. “I think they wanted to know how far we could go. Nobody had done it before.”

Message from the Head of Fund Raising

The Spring Campaign is now almost complete and, as always, the general public and organisations have responded very generously to our Appeal. The new Gift Aid Declaration scheme, which was introduced in April 2000 by the Chancellor of the Exchequer, has involved an enormous amount of work and has generated 75 files of completed Gift Aid Declarations. The eventual tax reclaim on these is likely to exceed one million pounds.

The Agency staff support which we have needed over the last few months is finally winding down and currently there are only four who remain working for us. Since last September around 50 Agency employees have assisted in the department which perhaps illustrates the very considerable workload undertaken during this period.

By the time this piece is published, Maureen Green will have retired as a Banking Co-ordinator in the Fund Raising department. Maureen moved across from the Accounts department in 1996 and I am most grateful for all her hard work during this time. Everyone in the department will very much miss her warmth and wonderful sense of humour. We are very sorry to see her go and wish her a long and happy retirement.

Over the last several years we have been most loyally supported by one of our volunteers, Dorothy

Ridley. She comes in to help on a regular basis, usually once a week, and is never deterred by even the worst weather conditions. Dorothy served as a nursing sister in the Merchant Navy during the Second World War and spent much of her time in hospital ships off the coasts of South Africa and Malta. She is shortly to attend a reunion in Malta and this will surely be a great trip down memory lane for her.

Finally, I am delighted to say that the redoubtable Mary Saunders has volunteered to raise funds for St Dunstan’s once again this year. Mary lives in Cowes in the Isle of Wight and secures her pitch at Osborne House, Queen Victoria’s former residence, on a regular basis. Mary collects there every year for a different charity. She last collected for St Dunstan’s in 1999, when she raised in excess of £5,500, and we are very pleased that she has chosen to support our Charity again this year.

Pat Moore-Searson

NUGGETS

St Dunstan’s general interest digest *Nuggets* is available in braille and audio cassette formats. If you would like to receive the publication, contact the Public Relations department on 020 7723 5021 and state which format you prefer.

SILVER TRANSMISSIONS

St Dunstan's Amateur Radio Society AGM was a celebration of 25 years of service to its membership

by Arthur Taylor (Short-Wave Listener)



RNARS Chairman Mick Puttick and Bill Shea.

In the days leading up to March 17th, there was an air of anticipation wafting along the corridors at Ovingdean. Members and guests began to arrive for what promised to be one of the most successful meetings that the Society had ever organised.

The 25th Annual General Meeting of the Society was opened promptly at 10.30am by the Chairman, Bill Shea (G4AUJ). On a personal note, he said that he would like to take the opportunity of thanking the Society and those members who sent messages of condolence and floral tributes when his wife, Joan, died last September. He added that he would like everyone to know how much all these were appreciated.

The Secretary, Ted John (G3SEJ) reported that Eddie Wilson, one of our Honorary Life Members, had constructed a VK2 ABQ aerial at a cost of £50, which is working perfectly. To celebrate this anniversary, the call sign GB25STD had been allocated to us.

Brian Freeman, an honorary member of the Society presented a plaque, which he handed to Beryl John who described it as a photograph taken from a copy of the *Review*. It showed the late George Cole on the Open Day in May 1994, a picture taken in the shack showing Arthur Holmes, Bill, Ted and herself, plus another of Ray Peart in operation. The Society badge is in one corner and there was a very good photo of Ovingdean. The plaque is signed by Brian Freeman, Eddie Wilson and John Houlihan. It has been dated March 1st 2001 "Congratulations on your 25th Anniversary". Incidentally, at one point it was suggested that there should be a group name allocated to our team of three grateful lifers and from the floor somebody called out "Freeman, Hardy and Willis." Presumably, they will now be stuck with that for a very long time indeed. The meeting closed at 11.15 with the existing Committee being re-elected.

A total of 63 people sat down for the meal. The guest list had been chosen to include all of those people and organisations who had given their time and support to the Society, since it was formed back in 1976. It would, of course, be quite impossible to name every individual, but in the case of Admiral of the Fleet Sir Henry Leach we will make an exception. An important group were the widows of St Dunstaners who, sadly, had gone "Silent Key" over the years.

Existing and former staff from Headquarters and Ovingdean were well represented and so were our sister organisations, the Royal Navy Amateur Radio Society (RNARS) and RAF Amateur Radio Society (RAFARS). Unfortunately, Jack Cooper of the Royal Signals was unable to attend.

A really superb meal was then served by PBK with their high standard of skill and excellence that earned the tribute of Bill Shea in his speech of welcome. He also gave a note of praise and thanks to Jane Taylor for the cake that she had made for the occasion. This had been suitably decorated with the assistance of her daughter-in-law Patricia, who had made a replica of the St Dunstan's crest by copying it from a lapel

badge. In an interesting and informative speech he welcomed the guests and listed the names of many of those who had been of such valuable assistance to the Society over the past 25 years.

Replying for the guests, David Castleton remembered one incident in particular when they had contacted a young South American lad. They gave him their location and, in the usual polite way that they have in the amateur radio world, they invited him to pay them a visit. To their surprise, he said "Thank you I will do that, I am staying in Rottingdean."

Bill then resumed his speech by giving an account of how a band of enthusiasts had got together with the intention of forming the Society. Unfortunately, 25 years had taken its toll and the only surviving members of that original group were Ted John and himself. He recalled the invitation given to the Society by King Hussein of Jordan (JY1), for them to visit his country and a party had gone on a very memorable trip in 1990. In 1999 he, Ted and Beryl had attended the Memorial Service to the King at St Paul's Cathedral and afterwards they had met Prince Raj (JY2RZ), the President of the Jordanian Amateur Radio Society, on the steps of the cathedral.

He then paid a tribute to Ted by saying that in 25 years our very popular Secretary had not missed one function that had been organised by the Society. In this, he had been ably supported by his wife Beryl. Jane Taylor advanced almost hidden behind an enormous bouquet of flowers and presented them to a visibly astonished Beryl.

Bill then invited the Society's President, Captain Michael Gordon-Lennox, RN, to make a presentation to Ted. He said, "I have got this to give to you, it is a crest inscribed as follows "Presented to E.C. John, MBE, G3SEJ in recognition of 25 years devoted service to St Dunstan's ARS." But, there was more to come as the President went on to say "I have here a framed photograph of an Aircraft Carrier, HMS *Implacable* and also a crest of the same ship with a very imposing tiger's head painted on it." Finally the President said that he would like to add an item of his own and he asked all to stand and raise their glasses to Ted and wish him another 25 years. Now, under normal circumstances nobody in the Society could so much as sneeze without Ted getting to know about it, but on this occasion he did not have an inkling of what had been planned for him. He stood to thank everyone but it was a very

emotional moment and he was briefly overcome. Ted said that he had never had so many people raise their glasses to him before.

The event was about to close when Mick Puttick, the Chairman of the RNARS stepped forward. "On behalf of the Royal Naval Amateur Radio Society, I would like to congratulate St Dunstan's on their 25th anniversary and we would like to present this glass plaque and it is engraved 'Presented to the St Dunstan's Amateur Radio Society on their 25th anniversary from the RNARS'."

So ended one of the most memorable occasions that the Society has ever staged. The GB25 call sign ceased on April 6th but it will be available to us again from September 29th to October 28th and anyone wishing to stay on at Ovingdean outside the dates of the October meeting (5th-7th) should inform Ted John.

THINK OF A NUMBER

With grateful thanks to Matt Rhodes, who forwarded the following:

HOW DO YOU STAND OUT?

Are you amongst the two or 98 per cent?

Answer these questions and then compare your replies with those on page 15.

Think of any number from 1 to 10.

Multiply it by 9.

If there are double figures, add the two digits of your answer together.

Take your single digit answer and subtract 5.

Translate your number into a letter - 1=A, 2=B, 3=C, 4=D and so on.

Think of a country beginning with that letter.

Take the last letter of the country and think of an animal.

Take the last letter of the animal and think of a fruit.

Now look at page 15 to see how you fared.

PLAY GOLF WHEN THEY ARE BLIND ! HOW DO THEY DO THAT?

by David Morris



Blind golf is played to Royal & Ancient rules and, despite some popular misconceptions, is played with standard golf clubs and normal golf balls. Golf balls with bells or beeping sonar transmitters simply don't exist. Blind golfers do however have one secret weapon to help them - a sighted guide. Blind golf is widely considered to be a team rather than individual sport. The guide and his golfer share the responsibility of trying to

negotiate the golf course in as few strokes as possible. The mental side of the game is played by the guide whilst the physical side is played by the golfer.

It must be appreciated that most people who play golf understand the frustration and exhilaration that can be experienced within the same round. As in most sports these emotions can only be more intense when team members are affected. Therefore the feeling of your mistake costing the partnership dearly can be disappointing. But when success arrives there is an immense sense of achievement by both player and guide, which outweighs all else.

Guides come from all walks of life, but are usually a father, mother, son, daughter or friend. Although not essential, a guide's knowledge of the game and their own skill as a player should improve the performance of the team. It is also obvious that excellent communication between guide and player is crucial and is best illustrated by looking at what is needed in order to hit just one shot. The guide walks the player to the ball, describes the required shot and distance - they then discuss the information and select the correct club. The guide aligns and positions the player, stands back waiting for the agreed shot to be played and hopes! After the stroke the player expects the guide to become an instant sports commentator.

If you have ever attempted to describe an event as it is actually happening, you will realise how difficult this is. It may start with "what a great shot" then "the ball's flying towards the green" then silence, followed by "what an unlucky bounce, its gone into the bunker." Both player and guide then smile!

Putting is where teamwork comes into its own, and whilst teams vary in their approach, basically the guide is responsible for the line of the putt, and the player for the distance the ball has to travel. The technique most teams use is to walk from the ball to the hole in order to determine the distance and then add or subtract, depending on whether the putt is uphill or downhill. A blind golfer never has anything but a straight putt, as it is the responsibility of the guide to read the green and allow for the break so, if both get it right, the ball should go in the hole every time! A post-mortem will be held if the putt is missed.

Guides also have to be as fit as Olympic athletes for the thousands of deep knee bends they perform during countless hours of practice, in properly aligning and positioning the blind player. There is no reason why a blind golfer cannot hit a golf ball as well as a sighted player. The standard of play amongst blind golfers is high, with some of the better players having handicaps as low as 16, good enough to give a sighted amateur a run for his money! Don't imagine that all blind golf members played the game before losing their sight. Many players only take up golf after being registered blind.

One thing is certain if guides don't have a sense of humour when they begin to guide a blind player they develop one quickly. As without this sense of humour, what would a guide do when, stooping to line up the first putt of the tournament, their trousers rip.

Both guide and player realise that if they can attain a standard acceptable within normal golf clubs they will have achieved a level that is an inspiration to others, giving a different perspective of what blind people are capable of doing. We the blind golfers with our guides believe we are a team and as such will succeed or fail together.

OF BUFFETS AND BUFFERS

by Ray Hazan

The gathering at Ovingdean on March 14th and 15th saw one of the best attended Computer Club meetings. We were grateful to those who had made long journeys to attend and hopefully all returned home the richer in knowledge.

Brad has become an invaluable member of the 'tutor' team and he fielded most of the sessions. We had an in-depth look at anti-virus programs and the need to protect your system cannot be over emphasised. The Norton Anti-Virus 2001 received a strong recommendation. Anti-hacker programs such as Atguard and Zonelabs Alarm were mentioned for those spending more than just a few minutes on the web. Brad also covered CD drives in detail and those who already have such devices were able to recommend the best programs for use with screen readers.

VALUABLE DAY

The members were very grateful to Jo Paton of the Apart Consultancy. He gave a valuable day to speak and demonstrate various programs, which he, as a totally blind consultant, trainer, vendor and agent uses. He will advise and install systems especially for visually impaired people.

A very pleasant buffet supper was enjoyed in the Winter Garden and we do not believe the ladies present were bored by too much 'shop'. These are ideal occasions when Club members can relax informally, in peace and comfort and eat as much or as little as they wish.

As always, many snippets of information were learnt, some of which are included as follows:

- The 'Second Chance' program to make a back-up of your system is no longer being produced or supported.
- You may be able to shorten your boot-up time by editing your MSDOS.SYS file to make any 'logo' or 'buffers' commands read 0 (zero).
- Enditall.exe. A useful piece of software to ensure all programs are closed down before carrying out an installation, for example.

- Remote Headphones and keyboards, which can be linked to your computer via radio frequencies, mean that if you don't need to see the screen you can operate your computer from anywhere in your home. The two items will cost a total of around £180.

- The Surgemaster will protect your system from 'spikes' in the mains power supply. It has eight sockets and two telephone connections. The company will pay £10,000 in case of damage due to a power surge. This protective extension costs £40.

- The Eudora e-mail program is available from www.qualcomm.com. There are three versions - Light and Sponsored, which are free, or the PRO version.

- Here is a link to NASA TV. It's very interesting as it is possible to listen to NASA space centre communicating with the crews on the space shuttle and the international space station. You also get a commentary from the space centre in Houston, Texas. You may experience long periods of inactivity with no speech when the crew is at rest. The link uses Windows Media Player and is at: <http://spaceflight.nasa.gov/realdata/nasatv/index.html>.

- The Norton Utilities disk contains several programs to repair or back-up your system. The special offer from Novatech is unlikely to be repeated, but please direct enquiries to them via: www.novatech.co.uk or by telephone on 0845 3450088.

Thanks to all who made the event possible and do book in for the next Computer get-together on October 3rd and 4th. If you wish to follow up on any of the above then please contact me at HQ on 020 7723 5021 extn 7930.

New from the Keyboard Tutorial

John Wilson has just completed another tutorial for use by visually impaired people. It covers many different types of sound playing, copying, converting, sound

editing and so forth. The tutorial has 18 main sections, around 160 sub-sections and over 44,000 words.

It is available as a plain ASCII text file by e-mail, as a text file on floppy disk, as a reading on compact cassettes and as a text and speech file on CD-ROM. The CD-ROM version also includes some freeware

software for making MP3s, playing audio music, converting MP3s to HI-FI stereo, CDs, etc. The prices range from £15-£20.

Any interested person should please contact John Wilson on: Tel: 0113 2575957 or on E-mail: jwjw@cwcom.net.

GUARDING HITLER'S HENCHMAN

Rudolf Hess gained his place in history as one of Adolf Hitler's notorious lieutenants. He had taken down the notes that became Mein Kampf and was Deputy Fuehrer for six years.

On May 10th 1941, 60 years ago, he unexpectedly flew to Britain to petition Churchill with his own peace proposals and was held a prisoner of war until 1945. He was tried at Nuremberg as a war criminal and sentenced to life imprisonment.

A quarter of a century later, St Dunstaner Robert Taylor who had not long joined the Staffordshire Regiment was one of many Servicemen charged with keeping Hess imprisoned in Spandau Prison, Berlin.

"I was a guardsman at Spandau, being laymen we didn't realise the politics of it all, we were just there to do a job. He was Hitler's right-hand man, there would have been trouble if he'd got out."

Security was maintained with strict proficiency. There were hourly checks by telephone to confirm conditions at the gaol and any breach was to be met with an extreme response. "We were told to

challenge anyone who came over the fence, if anyone broke in we were to shoot first and ask questions later," said Robert.

"We were told not to have any contact with Hess. I saw him walking in the yard several times but I never spoke to him." It seems there were incentives to keep a distance from the infamous inmate. "A mate of mine got 28 days for passing him a cigarette."

Guarding Hess wasn't a purely British concern, America and Russia were involved as well, exchanging duties on a fixed rota. "It was interesting when we had to change over with the other sides who were also guarding him. There were three towers and we rotated the duties. The Americans were great, the Russians weren't very talkative though.

"Berlin was amazing. We'd come there through Derby to Dover where there were just a couple of pubs around. Suddenly there were 4,000 nightclubs to go to."

For the last years of his life Hess was the only prisoner left in Spandau. He died in 1987.

newsagents. He was keen on football, snooker and gardening and enjoys talking books. He and his wife Phyllis have three daughters, two sons, ten grandchildren and one great-grandchild.

March 27th

Peter Burdon of Blackpool, Lancashire served in the Army Catering Corps attached to the King's Own Scottish Borders Regiment from 1950 to 1952 and then with the Parachute Regiment (TA) as the CO's driver until 1957. After leaving the Service he

became a driver for the Steel Transportation Company. He then joined Silver Blade in Leeds, later part of the MECCA organisation, acting as general manager to a number of their entertainment centres. He then ran a nightclub and later a public house before retiring in 1995. He has three sons, a daughter and five grandchildren.

Peter Knowles of Worthing, West Sussex served in the Royal Army Service Corps from 1948 to 1950. He trained as a driver and completed his service at the Staff College, Camberley. Having originally trained as a mechanic repairing lorries at Dagenham Motors, he returned there after leaving the Service. He subsequently worked as a machine operator at a chewing gum factory and later joined Beechams until retirement. Mr Knowles was a keen fisherman and keeps racing pigeons, rabbits, chickens and dogs. He has two sons and one grandson.

Diana Gubbay Trust for the Blind

March 27th

Stephen Donohue of Woodbury Salterton, Devon served with the Metropolitan Police Force from 1982 until 1995 when he retired in the rank of Detective Constable. He was initially posted to Clapham and after six years transferred to detective duties at Shepherds Bush. He joined the Regional Crime Squad in 1992 and retired with an Exemplary Certificate of Service. He is a member of the Jubilee Sailing Trust and very keen on ten-pin bowling. He also takes part in scuba diving and enjoys walking. Mr Donohue is married to Julie.

50 YEARS AGO

Air Commodore G. Bentley Dacre, CBE, DSO who had been Commandant at Church Stretton and Ovingdean was appointed Deputy Lieutenant of the County of Sussex. The London Club's seven mile walking race was started by Richard Dimbleby. The event was won by Tommy Gaygan and "Dusty" Miller.

AND THE ANSWER YOU THOUGHT OF ...

Response (continued from page 11)

If you chose Denmark, Kangaroo and Orange, then you are amongst the 98 per cent. If you thought differently, then you are amongst the alternate thinking two per cent.

FAMILY NEWS

BIRTHS

Congratulations on the birth of:

Callum on January 6th. He is the great-grandson of Ann Moore of Oxhey, Watford, Hertfordshire, widow of *Alan Moore*.

Maya on March 11th. She is the great-granddaughter of *Bill and Hildegard Carthy* of Gloucester, Gloucestershire.

DIAMOND ANNIVERSARY

Congratulations to:

Albert and Doris Partington of Bolton, Lancashire on March 29th.

SPECIAL ANNIVERSARIES

Congratulations to:

Cedric and Vera Mays of Steeple Bumpstead, Suffolk who celebrated 65 years of marriage on March 30th.

Ted and Iris Miller of Leamington Spa, Warwickshire who celebrated 61 years of marriage on April 7th.

ACHIEVEMENT

Congratulations to:

Anna Cowan who has been awarded a BA (Hons) 2.2 degree in Hospitality and Tourism Management from Anglia Polytechnic University. As part of her degree, Anna submitted a dissertation entitled *Is Current Legislation Sufficient to Meet the Needs of Visually Impaired Hotel Guests*. In researching her dissertation, she visited St Dunstan's where she was given much useful information and advice. Anna is the granddaughter of Evelyn Cowan of Rottingdean, Brighton and the late *John Cowan*.

DEATHS

We regret to announce the death of:

Ethel Colman on March 8th. She was the wife of *Eric Colman* of Harrogate, North Yorkshire.

Phyllis Hart on February 14th. She was the wife of *Ronald Hart* of Cheam, Surrey.

Doris Price of Hathern, Loughborough, Leicestershire on March 14th. She was the widow of *John Price*.

Lily Hall of St Athan, nr Barry, South Glamorgan on March 18th. She was the widow of *Alfred Hall*.

Our sympathy goes to their families and friends.

Welcome to St Dunstan's

March 15th

George Naisbit of Worthing, Sussex served in the County of London Yeomanry (The Sharpshooters) from 1939 to 1946. After training he travelled via Capetown to North Africa and joined 8th Army as a tank commander. He took part in El Alamein and deployed to Sicily where he was wounded with shrapnel to the right eye. He rejoined the unit in Italy and then returned to the UK. Landing on D-Day +1, he suffered further injuries but rejoined his unit as they fought into Germany. After the war he became a painter and decorator. Later he and his wife bought a

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.

Arthur Butler

Royal Army Ordnance Corps

Arthur Percival Butler of Darlington, County Durham died on March 15th, aged 85. He served as a Lance Corporal in the Royal Army Ordnance Corps from 1941 to 1946. After training he joined 25 ASD in Wales where he maintained ammunition stores. Having left the service he worked in the electroplating industry and later managed a petrol station.

Lt Col Bryan Abbott, OBE

Royal Artillery

Lt Col Bryan Abbott, OBE of Brighton died on March 22nd, aged 87. He was a member of the TA from 1937 to 1940 when he was commissioned into the Royal Artillery. He served in North Africa, Crete, Greece and took part in the invasion of Sicily. He returned to the UK to take part in D-Day and the campaign in France and Holland. He was Mentioned in Despatches. After the war he joined the Colonial Service, later entering the Diplomatic Service. He also served at the High Commission in Delhi. Lt Col Abbott was awarded the MBE in March 1945 and in June 1957 he received the OBE in recognition of his work in Nigeria. Our sympathy goes to his widow Margaret, daughter Dorothy and all other members of the family.

Glyn Rees

Royal Army Ordnance Corps

Glyn Rees of Cardiff, South Glamorgan died on March 21st, aged 71. He served as a private in the Royal Army Ordnance Corps from 1947 to 1949. Our sympathy goes to all members of the family.

Reneè Mercer

Royal Air Force

Reneè Mercer of Hailsham, East Sussex died on March 24th, aged 80. She served in the Royal Air Force from 1942 to 1946. Initially a driver, she was sent to Cranwell to train as a Radar Operator. She was then posted to Devon & Cornwall. After leaving the

service she joined the Women's Auxiliary Police Force until it disbanded. She then worked as a telephonist within the force at Tonbridge. Her interests included cycling, swimming and tennis. Our sympathy goes to her daughters and all of the family.

William Collier

Royal Engineers

William Collier of Clayton, Manchester died on March 25th, aged 58. He had been a St Dunstaner since 1991. Having worked as a docker he joined the Royal Engineers in 1964 but was injured during a boxing match. His interests included bowls and fishing. Our sympathy goes to his brother John and all other members of the family.

Louis Cheong

Royal Army Ordnance Corps

Louis Kiung Lim Cheong of Camberley, Surrey died on March 31st, aged 70. He had been a St Dunstaner since 1991. He was born in Penang but moved with his family to Singapore. As a teenager he was involved in smuggling food and drugs to British Prisoners held in Changi. Mr Cheong worked as a civil servant before joining the British Army in 1961, originally with the Royal Army Service Corps. He was subsequently re-badged as Royal Army Ordnance Corps and served in the UK, Germany and Malaysia. Promoted to Sergeant, he was involved as a Personal Assistant/Chief Clerk in Staff HQ and the Army Legal Services. In 1978 he was awarded the Long Service and Good Conduct Medal. He retired in the rank of WOII in 1983 and joined St Dunstan's Estate department. Mr Cheong's interests included cooking, badminton, football and swimming. Our sympathy goes to his widow Catherine, daughters Veronica, Maria and Christina, son Christopher and all of the family.

William Vickery

Royal Engineers

William John David Vickery of Plymouth, Devon died on March 31st, aged 83. He had been a St Dunstaner since 1981. Having enlisted in 1939, he served as Lance Corporal with the Royal Engineers. He was wounded in France in 1940, resulting in the loss of his right eye and again in Sicily in 1943. Discharged in 1947, he returned to work with the local council. His interests included gardening and bowls. Our sympathy goes to his sons David and Roger, daughter Roslyn and all other members of the family.