

# St Dunstan's Review

October 2001



## CHRISTMAS CARDS FOR SALE

DETAILS ON PAGE FOUR



CONTENTS

MAKE A WILL  
3

CHRISTMAS  
BOOKINGS  
3

WRITING  
CHALLENGE  
4

MARITIME  
FESTIVAL  
6

SULTAN DOGS  
UNLEASHED  
8

HAPPY BIRTHDAY  
ARTHUR  
13

Cover picture:  
*The Christmas cards  
currently available from the  
PR department.*

Full details on page 4.

# From the Chairman



*Captain Michael Gordon-Lennox  
congratulates Daisy Kenward on  
her recent birthday.*

Since the demise of the Royal Tournament in 1999, the three Services have been taking it in turn to host the public at military events. This year, the Royal Navy organised the International Festival of the Sea, with the Army, Royal Air Force and Joint Commands participating. This was held at HM Naval Base, Portsmouth over the August Bank Holiday weekend. St Dunstan's was there promoting the organisation.

You will read the details elsewhere in the *Review*, but I want to take this opportunity to thank all those St Dunstaners, wives, widows and friends who contributed items for sale on our stand. I am also grateful to the Public Relations department for the preparation and manning of the stand over four long and hot days.

By the time you read this, the evenings will be drawing in and our clocks will go back by the end of the month. I trust you will have enjoyed a warm and pleasant summer. Let us hope we avoid the extremes of weather, which we experienced last year. Do ensure your homes are 'battened down' for the winter and do not forget our Estate Department and your local surveyor is there to offer advice and assistance.

Finally, congratulations to a special lady. Our widow, Daisy Kenward was born on August 28th 1894 and was married to Edward, a First World War St Dunstaner. She has five children, 11 grandchildren, 25 great-grandchildren and 17 great-great-grandchildren. A truly exceptional lady who celebrated her 107th birthday with family and friends and received her fourth telegram from The Queen. On behalf of everyone, I would like to express our belated congratulations to her, together with our very best wishes.

Captain Michael Gordon-Lennox, RN



## NOTICE BOARD



### CAN WE HELP YOU?

Once again I make no apologies for asking you to think about making your Will if you have not already done so. If you have already made your Will is it up to date i.e. has anyone named in the Will predeceased you or would the executor named in your Will still be willing/able to deal with your affairs?

Autumn will soon be upon us followed by all the preparations for Christmas with little time to spare for other matters. Please make your Will sooner rather than later so that your wishes will be carried out when the time comes.

Do remember, St Dunstan's offers you help with the costs of either making a new Will or changing an existing Will by Codicil by offering you a grant towards the costs.

We can, if you wish and time allows, arrange with St Dunstan's solicitors Messrs Woolley Bevis & Diplock of Hove, for someone to meet with you in my office at Ovingdean to take instructions. If this is your wish please let me know and I will make an appointment at a time, which is mutually convenient.

Also, have you considered completing an Enduring Power of Attorney form? In the event that you are unable to deal with your finances at a future date because of health problems your affairs can then be dealt with for you.

If you do not have a solicitor or wish to discuss matters then please either write to or telephone Mrs Eileen Mobsby, Wills & Trusts Co-ordinator at St Dunstan's Ovingdean on (01273) 307811 ext 1445. She will be pleased to assist you.

### MR AND MRS WESTCOTT CALLING

Mr Westcott of Somerset has recently become a St Dunstaner. A time ago, he met a St Dunstaner and his wife from Kent on a cruise aboard the QE2. Mr and Mrs Westcott are anxious to renew the contact. Would the Kent-based St Dunstaner please get in touch with the PR department on 020 7723 5021.

### BOOKINGS FOR CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR PERIODS AT ST DUNSTAN'S OIVINGDEAN

Once again, the Christmas and New Year holidays will be divided in order to allow as many people as possible to stay at Ovingdean.

The Christmas period will be from  
December 13th/14th to 27th/28th/29th.

The New Year period will be from  
December 27th/28th/29th to January 10th/12th.

In order to make the best use of transport, we ask you to please be flexible in your dates. Anyone wishing to spend either of these holiday periods at Ovingdean should contact their Welfare Officer by Friday, October 19 2001. If numbers are too great selection will be based on need.

### ST DUNSTAN'S WEB SITE

From Ray Hazan, Head of Public Relations

We are currently upgrading and revitalising our web site: [www.st-dunstans.org.uk](http://www.st-dunstans.org.uk). It is our intention to extract items and pictures each month from the *Review*, which may be of interest to the general public. Articles would be amended where possible, to provide reasonable anonymity.

If anyone has any objections to being included on the web site in this way, would they please drop me a line at Public Relations Dept, St Dunstan's, 12-14 Harcourt Street, London W1H 4HD.

### REQUEST FOR EQUIPMENT

Do you have any equipment surplus to your requirements and no longer used, which could be used by the Rehabilitation & Training department? Items such as low vision aids, brailers, CCTV's, magnifiers, computers, mobility aids etc would be much appreciated. Please contact Lesley Styche or any of the staff in her department on 01273 307811 if you think you have an item which could be useful to them.

### DEADLINES FOR FUTURE ISSUES

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

The final date for submitting items for publication in the February *Review* is January 9th 2002.



## STORY WRITING COMPETITION

The *Review* is pleased to announce that, once again, it is organising a story writing competition. Entries may be on any subject, fiction or non-fiction and should not have been previously published. The competition is open to St Dunstaners, their wives, husbands, widows or widowers.

Please follow these steps when submitting entries:

1. Entries should be typewritten and should not exceed 2,000 words.
2. Please submit your entry under a nom-de-plume.
3. Please write your nom-de-plume and your real name and seal them up in an envelope, which should accompany your entry. Envelopes will not be opened until the judge has made his or her decision.
4. Only one submission per person.
5. Entries must be received by the Editor, *St Dunstan's Review*, 12-14 Harcourt Street, London, W1H 4HD by Tuesday, January 15th 2002.

The winner will receive £50, runner up £30 and the third story selected £20. The first two stories will be published in the *Review*.

## ST DUNSTAN'S SHIRTS FOR SALE

St Dunstan's T-shirts, polo shirts and sweatshirts are now available in medium, large and extra large sizes. The logo is of St Dunstan's badge, the torch emblem, with the wording "Caring for blind ex-Service men and women" underneath.

### Prices as follows:

White T-shirt 100% cotton with blue left-hand chest logo	£4.30
Navy T-shirt 100% cotton with yellow left-hand chest logo	£4.30
Navy polo shirt 100% cotton with yellow left-hand chest logo	£8.30
White polo shirt 100% cotton with blue left-hand chest logo	£8.30
Navy sweatshirt 70% cotton/30% polyester with yellow left-hand chest logo	£9.00

Postage & packing will be added which will depend on the quantity ordered. You will be notified of this charge on your payment request. To order please telephone the Public Relations department on 020 7723 5021 or send in a written order to PR Dept (Shirts), 12-14 Harcourt Street, London W1H 4HD.

## CHRISTMAS CARDS FOR SALE

**Set 1** (Code M1) £2.00 per pack of ten cards (five of each design). Card size 130 x 98mm/5 x 3<sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub> inches.



*Christmas Fanfare*, from an original painting by Kareen Taylerson has a trio of winged angels blowing a fanfare on tasselled trumpets against a gold background with stars. This is surrounded by a scarlet border and flanked by a blue column of holly and baubles.

The second card is an acrylic painting of *Bethlehem*. The travelling star rests over purple towers as doves fly through the sky. At the centre of the town is a nativity scene with the three wise men attending the new born Messiah in the stable.



**Set 2** (Code T2) £2.50 per pack of ten cards (five of each design). Card size 125 x 125mm/4<sup>7</sup>/<sub>8</sub> x 4<sup>7</sup>/<sub>8</sub> inches.

*Robin and Mince Pie* shows a plump red breasted robin sitting on a mince pie with holly. *Christmas Rose* shows the white bloom with red berries. It has a green background framed by a red border.

The greeting reads "With every good wish for Christmas and the New Year". All the cards state that they are sold in aid of St Dunstan's. To place an order please state which set you require. P&P will be added which will depend on the quantity ordered and you will be notified of this charge on your invoice.

**Please do not send payment with your order.** To order please telephone the Public Relations dept on 020 7723 5021 or write to PR Dept (Cards), 12-14 Harcourt Street, London W1H 4HD or by E-mail: roberta.hazan@st-dunstans.co.uk.

# New City Centre System Helps People With Sight Problems Find Their Way

A new "talking lampposts" system that helps blind and partially sighted people find their way around was unveiled on August 21st in Leeds city centre. Many more of the 13,000 blind and partially sighted people in Leeds can now wander around the shops, catch trains and buses in the same way as sighted people, thanks to a new wayfinding system which "speaks" to people in four different languages.

"The system doesn't replace the need for a white stick or guide dog, but it makes a big difference to my confidence," said Swapna McNeil, who is partially sighted, Manager of the Association of Blind Asians (Leeds). "For me it means I can move around in large crowded areas or the bus station much more easily and without being afraid because I know where I am and where I'm going."

The Leeds Community Fund Wayfinding system is made up of more than 50 wall or post-mounted message units, which are triggered to make announcements when a card-carrying user gets within 5-8 metres. Messages about the surrounding area and directions to other nearby locations are given in English, Gujerati, Urdu or Bengali, depending on which card the user is carrying.

By the end of 2001 there will be 60 units in and around the city centre located in streets, the bus and train stations and the University, meaning Leeds has the most comprehensive city wayfinding system in the UK.

The project is a partnership between the Joint Mobility Unit (JMU - a joint initiative between the Royal National Institute for the Blind, Guide Dogs for the Blind Association and the Association of Blind Asians Leeds). The project was funded by the Community Fund (Yorkshire & Humberside). It has been supported by Leeds City Council and units have been bought by companies including Railtrack and Metro. This is just one of the innovative projects the Joint Mobility Unit is involved in. The JMU has set up similar wayfinding systems in a number of shopping centres in Bristol, Southampton, Gravesend and Uxbridge.

For more information contact the JMU on 020 7391 2002 or visit [www.imuaccess.org.uk](http://www.imuaccess.org.uk).

## LEEDS COMMUNITY FUND WAYFINDING SYSTEM

### How does the wayfinding system work?

The Leeds Community Fund Wayfinding system is basically a "talking sign" that speaks a recorded message when a person with a special card comes within range. The Leeds system is made up of wall or post-mounted message units-called RNIB React Units-which are triggered when a user carrying a special card gets within 5-8 metres of the unit.

The unit sends a radio beam like a spotlight, when a card enters the beam area it tells the RNIB React unit to speak; the person using the system does not have to do anything except have the card in their pocket or around their neck.

### What do the units "say"?

Each unit is individually programmed with a message relevant to its location. Information about the surrounding area and directions to other nearby locations are given.

### What if it is noisy?

The unit automatically monitors the surrounding noise and adjusts the volume output to suit the surrounding noise. So, at night when it is quiet it will speak quietly, during the day there may be a lot of traffic noise and the unit will speak at a loud volume.

### What happens if I don't hear the message properly the first time?

As long as the person carrying the card stays within range of the RNIB React Unit beam the message will continue to be repeated.

### Is the wayfinding system all blind and partially sighted people need to get around?

The system is not intended to replace a white cane or guide dog, it is there to give extra guidance and reassurance by orientating users so they have a clear idea of where they are and where they can get.



# St Dunstan's aboard HMS IFOS

## Ray Hazan and crew at the International Festival of the Sea



Ray Hazan meets some of the local cadets.

The three Services are taking it in turn to organise these 'replacements' to the Royal Tournament. This time, it was the turn of the Royal Navy and they certainly laid on a show! The whole of the HM Naval Base in Portsmouth was opened to the public.

Existing attractions already include HMS *Victory*, Lord Nelson's flagship, HMS *Warrior*, the first ironclad, the *Mary Rose* and museums. To these you must add tall ships and warships. A star of the show was the USS *Winston S Churchill* (DG 81), an American destroyer and one of the first of their fleet to be named after a 'foreigner'. The ship is powered by four gas turbine engines coupled to two underwater propellers. These apparently send up a tail many metres high when the ship is racing at full speed. It carries two helicopters and many types of missiles for both defence and attack.

Musical tastes were fed concerts by bands varying

from The Royal Marines to Hot Chocolate, Spandau Ballet, via Boys Brigade bands and the Beach Boys Inc. Shoppers could buy everything from a St Dunstan's knitted sailor to membership of the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds. Hunger and thirst could be slaked in a myriad of pubs and stalls selling everything from suckling pig to tasteless pasta with candy floss, fudge and nougat for dessert! There were fly-pasts, parachutists, helicopters and UN personnel rescued by Royal Marines. There were carnival processions, sea shanty singers, and characters roaming around in Disneyland style. In short, enough room and entertainment for the 250 to 300 thousand expected spectators. Apart for one afternoon of teeming rain, the sun shone down relentlessly on the 2-hour plus queues for some of the entertainment, especially for the boarding of ships.

St Dunstan's stand was housed in the Marine Bazaar, or should it have read 'Bizarre' marquee. This proved to be a substantially sized sauna with charities and vendors mixed together in friendly atmosphere. Nearly all the items generously made or donated by members of the St Dunstan's family were sold. Literature was dispensed and those ignorant of the charity 'chatted up'. We were extremely grateful to Pat and Peter Westbrook (ex-Fleet Air Arm Field Gunner) who helped man the stand on two of the days. All members of the PR department were involved in the preparation and manning, so many thanks to Robbie, Simon and Margaret. The Festival administration was very efficient and security prominent. One morning, three well-built security guards were seen guarding a tin box. When asked about the contents, it turned out to be a small spider, which had kept the three at bay until an exhibitor, who was a former Royal Marine, of course, freed the insect outside. There was no spitting, hissing or poison but I would imagine there were three rather sheepish security guards!

Participation in these events is not cheap, but thanks to the sale of items, spontaneous contributions and a promised donation from the Festival organisers, we hope to do well. Next we take to the skies when the Royal Air Force host the next spectacular.

# FINE WEATHER FOR A FLYING GAZEBO

## Barbara Degenhardt reports on the Archery Week

August 26th – September 1st

Having become a regular event, the club travelled to Sandwich on August 27th to participate in the Bank Holiday Festival. A most enjoyable competition with the Bowmen of Sibertswold was enlivened by a whirlwind, which swept across the centre of the field picking up chairs, clothing, sunshades and most dramatically the gazebo lent to us by Nigel Whiteley. This flew over the treetops pursued by a posse of panting people. Fortunately without landing on top of the open-mouthed spectators and gasping chasers it finally came to earth. However its mangled frame ill repaid Nigel's kindness.

Oh yes, the archery. Well, St Dunstan's came out on top, but then the team does boast some National Champions! Our thanks to Sibertswold, the family of Tom Hart and the rest of the Festival Committee for their hospitality and hard work. Back at Ovingdean Cliff Ford and Nigel Whiteley won the George Allan



A Sibertswold Archer demonstrates an alternative method of bow release to Derek Hagger.



On the line. Members of St Dunstan's Archery Club prepare to shoot.

and Royal Insurance trophies, in more sunshine than was good for some of us. Even a cloudburst on Friday timed its arrival for lunchtime. On Saturday the weather pulled out all the stops and the sun shone down on the final event of the week, a shoot with three local clubs, Newhaven, Cuckfield and Greenways (the St D's coaches) who came respectively second, third and fourth. 'You know who' won the Cuckfield Cup and the Greenways Salver. After a splendid PBK tea in the Winter Garden Lady Paramount, Annette Collett, a long-standing friend of the club, made the week's presentations. Eric Bradshaw and Tony Parkinson are not yet able to take up their bows but kept us company on the field.

Our best wishes go to all our absent members.



St Dunstan's winning archers and their opponents from Sibertswold Archery Club.



# The Dogs are unleashed once more

## Tom Roddy on this year's camp at HMS Sultan



Sultanate St Dunstaners! Bill Miller, Tony Watson, Des Chandler, Don Planner and Chris Ottewell.

St Dunstan's summer camp took place at HMS Sultan from July 27th to August 4th. There were 33 campers plus 30 helpers from around the UK. After settling in and receiving a briefing we retired to the WO and S/Ratings Mess. Here friends old and new got down to some serious talking and the swapping of stories of things, which had happened during the past 12 months. There were three of us attending from the north-east, namely Steve Nixon, Tony Watson and myself. Steve had been to camp before but for Tony and I it was our first visit.

All the St Dunstaners had an able-bodied person allocated to look after them. These helpers are known as 'dogs' who are ex-Field Gun crew members. Peter Westbrook was our 'dog' and along with the rest of his colleagues, made our stay a happy, pleasant and a carefree one.

### GOSPORT CRUISING

A trip to the Gosport Cruising Club had been arranged. Campers had been given the choice of all or just half a day sailing. Tony Watson and I had chosen the half-day because there were other activities arranged for the afternoon. It was a glorious hot and sunny day and the sea was as flat and calm as the proverbial millpond. Tony and I were lucky enough to take the first trip and were greeted

on board by our hosts, given a refreshing drink and then settled down to a cruise around the harbour. Here we saw lots of different naval ships both large and small. Being ex-Royal Air Force I wasn't aware of the different types that were being pointed out to me. But I needn't have worried because Kevin (one of our helpers and Tony Watson ex-Navy) gave me chapter and verse about all of them.

After the view of the harbour, we sailed around to the beach, shut down the engine and just drifted off the coast. It was lovely and everything was perfect. So much so, that Kevin, Tony and I fell asleep for about ten minutes due to the gentle rocking of the boat and the hot weather. We returned to the club where we were served a refreshing drink and food provided by the Gosport Cruising Club members. We thanked them for our visit and returned to HMS Sultan well satisfied.

The programme for the afternoon was either archery or gliding, I chose the former. The archery session was run by Mrs Isobel Burke and her colleagues and all the necessary equipment was provided. I found it most enjoyable and instructive. The weather continued to be hot and sunny and an excellent afternoon was had by all. Since my return home I have contacted a local Archery Club with a view to be taken on as a visually impaired archer and my training course started on September 3rd.

The rest of the week continued in the same vein. There were lots of visits and sporting events organised. They included musical and dancing evenings in the WO and S/Ranks Mess, supper and a Quiz night in the Wardroom, a trip to the Isle of Wight (where we were guests of The British Legion), a games night in the WO and S/Ranks Mess, a visit to the HM Submarine Museum and to The Guildhall at Portsmouth to listen to the Royal Marine Band concert plus many more. It really was a full programme, designed to ensure that we all had a wonderful camp.

The climax was the presentation night, which took place in the WO and S/Ranks Mess. The following received medals and trophies in these events:



Left: Author Tom Roddy receives his archery shield from Commodore Peter Kidner, RN.

Right: Terry Ottewell came up with 'dog' Don Oliver to receive his kick penalty goal trophy.

### SPORTS RESULTS AT HMS SULTAN

Commodore Peter Kidner, RN, presented the trophies, medals and prizes.

#### ARCHERY

##### Totally Blind

1st with 120 points and 1 gold	Des Chandler
2nd with 88 points and 1 gold	Trevor Tatchell

##### Partially Sighted

1st with 153 points and 1 gold	John Stevens
2nd with 122 points	Steve Nixon
3rd with 116 points	Norman Killick

##### Novice Archer

with 179 points and 2 golds	Tom Roddy
-----------------------------	-----------

On Sunday a match was held of skilled archers against the Havant & Hayling Bowmen. St Dunstan's Team won the match by 57 points and Clive Jones accepted the trophy on behalf of the team.

In Gold Medal place	Clive Jones
In Silver Medal place	Terry Ottewell
In Bronze Medal place	Cliff Ford

#### THE WALK

Gold Medal	Gary Lomas
Silver Medal	Don Planner
Bronze Medal	Clive Jones

The Danny Deacon Veterans' Cup	Arthur Carter
The Charles Stafford Cup for Best Beginner	Clive Jones

#### GOLF

1st with a score of 31	John Stevens
2nd with a score of 41	Des Chandler
Best Amateur with score of 42	Bert Wood

Non-playing caddy who did a magnificent job was 'dog' Gary Roberts. Each of the golfers received a medal and Gary a special prize.

### PENALTY GOALS

#### Totally Blind

Clive Jones

#### Partially Sighted

Terry Ottewell

Sheila McLeod Cup

Clive Jones

for Best Overall Beginner

Victor Ludorum

Gary Lomas

for Partially Sighted

Victor Ludorum for Totally Blind

Clive Jones

### TEAM RESULT

1st	<b>The Rockets</b>
	Tom Roddy (Captain), Brian Lang, Clive Jones, Terry Ottewell, Steve Nixon, Steve Sparks
2nd	<b>The Martians</b>
3rd	<b>The Stars</b>

### DOUBLY HANDICAPPED PRIZE

There was a tie for this and each competitor, Tony Watson and Steve Nixon received a small silver tray.

### PRESENTATION

The final presentation was a cheque for £1,600 which was presented by Mr Mick Monaghan of EDS Centurion, for the purchase of a remedial mattress at St Dunstan's Ovingdean. It was given to Susan Harrison. The sum was collected by our PTI Martyn Webb from the staff at HMS Centurion.

Mick Monaghan helped with the collections from each cost centre manager who, through the EDS Services Director Laurie Redstone, came up with the majority of the money. The final cheque was taken to Ovingdean by Martyn and others involved.

All to soon, on August 4th it was time to say farewell. I would like to express my gratitude, together with my fellow St Dunstaners to all those involved in making camp such a success. There are too many to name individually, so I hope you will all be happy to receive a unanimous 'thank you'.



## Get the Picture? - Access to Digital TV

The Director General, Professor Ian Bruce, Royal National Institute for the Blind, is seeking your support for a major campaign - *Get the Picture?* - to radically improve access to television for blind and partially sighted people. Television is a vital source of information and entertainment and there are currently major new access opportunities available with the introduction of digital technology. But, unless we act now, blind and partially sighted people will be excluded from new developments such as audio description and electronic programme guides, as well as features we take for granted such as talking teletext and easy to change channels.

A key focus of the *Get the Picture?* campaign is audio description. As you will know, with audio description there are no longer silent gaps in a programme when "something" is taking place on screen, unknown to a visually impaired viewer. For example, with the audio described *EastEnders* you are told that a gun is pointing at Phil Mitchell out of some bushes, you hear the shot and are told that Phil has been hit and has fallen to the ground, dying. Without audio description all you hear is the shot!

Currently, just two per cent of programmes broadcast on terrestrial digital television are audio described, due to rise to ten per cent by 2010. However, even these are going to waste because nobody has the equipment needed to receive them. The RNIB is therefore calling on the Government to fund the production and distribution of at least 20,000 "plug-in" modules so that blind and partially sighted people can start to access audio description on digital terrestrial television. With your help we can create enough pressure to persuade the Government to act on this issue.

Another important objective of the *Get the Picture?* campaign is to secure a substantial increase in the targets for audio description. Why should 80 per cent of television programmes have sub-titles but only 10 per cent audio description? RNIB is calling for this to be increased to 50 per cent as a matter of urgency.

You can help to create the necessary pressure by writing to your MP and your local newspaper. Please feel free to write your own letter or to use the ones, which can be obtained from St Dunstan's PR department, by adding your name and address. To find

out the name of your MP please either call 020 7219 4272 or visit [www.locata.co.uk/commons/](http://www.locata.co.uk/commons/). A demonstration tape you might like to give to your MP, or any other interested party, is also obtainable from the PR department. It's also really helpful if you let the RNIB know you are participating in the campaign by copying them any correspondence to: RNIB, 224 Great Portland Street, London, W1N 6AA.

If you would like any further information about any aspect of the campaign please contact RNIB's Campaigns team on 020 7391 2184 or email [campaign@rnib.org.uk](mailto:campaign@rnib.org.uk).

This is a very urgent issue, so do please write to your MP today. Experience from past campaigns shows that letters from individuals such as yourself really do make a difference. If funding to produce these modules is not made available in the near future it will be extremely hard to argue for more programmes to be audio described. It may also hinder efforts to ensure that the next generation of digital televisions will automatically allow full access to audio description.

## 50 YEARS AGO

The ban on football radio broadcasts was lifted. However, before that happened, Brentford FC pioneered a form of audio description when manager Jack Gibbons gave a running commentary to a group of blind people. While in the stands they listened to a description of Brentford v Rotherham on a system of headphones.

A five-mile walking race pitted a group of St Dunstaners against six Royal Air Force walkers for the RAF Halton Cup. George Towers of the RAF was first over the line, but St Dunstan's team won the cup by a two-point margin.

"Grandpa" Beaufoy, well known to many St Dunstaners at Church Stretton, was presented to Winston Churchill when he visited Dover, Kent. Mr Churchill was initially unaware that Mr Beaufoy was blind. They had previously met when Mr Beaufoy, who had also been Mayor of Dover in 1919 to 1920, was commanding Dover's Special Constabulary before he was blinded by a German shell.

## Life and Times of Ovingdean

by Lyn Mullins

### TUNA FREE

Welsh Guard St Dunstaner Clive Jones is known for his elaborate dives into the pool at Ovingdean (particularly when pushed by a former PTI) but lately he has been seen in the company of an inflatable dolphin.

A Rehab and Training insider reveals all. "It was Clive's present when he completed training. As Clive kept going on about sharks we thought it would be quite appropriate. It was the closest thing we could get."

The plastic dolphin, named Divinia, was presented to Clive at a pub in Brighton where he had his farewell party. He then had to find a taxi to take him and his new pal home.



*It was hot in France, but St Dunstan's coach provided cool relief.*

The summer has as always been a very busy time here at Ovingdean and this was no exception.

### BOULOGNE

We had a wonderful Widows' Week and a very good trip to Boulogne, which everybody enjoyed despite it being a very hot day. We took the ferry over to Calais, for a change and then made our way up to Boulogne for lunch and a spot of shopping. We all arrived back at Ovingdean late due to delays and very tired but a good time was had by all.

### LADIES' REUNION

Our Ladies' Reunion from July 17th to July 22nd was very successful. It was lovely to meet some new Lady St Dunstaners and have fun with them. Stalwarts Barbara Bell and Margaret Paterson were joined by Kate Hands and Sheila Rodman amongst others. During the reunion we went on a boat trip along the river Medway in Kent. We started off at Tonbridge Castle and cruised out through the open countryside into the garden of England. We had a lovely tea on board the barge and a jolly good sing-a-long on the way back to base.

Other events during the week included the Ladies' Reunion luncheon, musical entertainments and a fashion show evening.

We look forward to seeing all the ladies again next year.



*"Oh no! I've forgotten your water wings," says Clive to a dry-docked Divinia the Dolphin.*

## COLIN BENTLEY

Many St Dunstaners will be saddened to learn of the death of Colin Bentley on September 12th. Colin, the son of St Dunstaner Fred Bentley, has long been associated with the organisation. However, many St Dunstaners will have come to know him during the past 20 years when he organised transport for them and their families throughout the country. Our sympathy goes to Fred, Colin's wife Angela, daughter Lucy and all of the family.



## 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: MRM Tetley, MBE, B.Sc. (Eng.), Grad. Dip. Phys., MCSP Chartered and State Registered Physiotherapist, St Albans, Hertfordshire.**

Are St Dunstaners tough ex-servicemen or modern wets? I have been down at Ovingdean recently, on several occasions, and was extremely surprised to hear how many St Dunstaners are taken to and from their homes by car when there is a perfectly suitable rail service. I can understand that in some cases, there is a need for door to door transport, but I know there are many who are quite capable of travelling independently.

I use the train to go all over the British Isles by myself. Admittedly I have a guide dog most of the time but I have done it without. I have two plastic eyes so there is no peeping! It only takes a little organisation. With a white stick, a tongue in the head plus knowing a few telephone numbers, it is relatively easy if at times a little inconvenient. But at least it saves money. Seriously, I cannot see that it is very difficult to take a taxi from your home to the local station or get a neighbour to drop you there. Ask the taxi driver to leave you in charge of a member of the station staff. You do not even have to go to the station to purchase a ticket. When you order one over the phone (if you have a Disabled Persons Railcard and let them know, you and your escort are entitled to a third reduction) it is cheaper and you get it delivered to your house by mail. All you then have to do is get put on a train and sit there until you get to London or Brighton and waylay another member of the public to take you to a taxi rank. HQ, if necessary, will meet you and help you across London.

I would not consider carrying a suitcase because it is likely to knock someone and it leaves you with only one hand. A large haversack frees both hands and as it is behind you there is no risk of bumping it into anyone especially if you are carrying a computer.

To me the purpose of St Dunstan's is to take you from the battlefield, retrain you and put you back into Civvy Street so that you can look after yourself. You can go back to Ovingdean occasionally to meet up with friends who are members of the same club and over a pint in the bar discuss how they cope with new problems.

I look upon the money St Dunstan's has as a safety net for those with multiple disabilities. St Dunstan's is to be congratulated on having a flat at Ovingdean where newly blinded folk can learn how to look after themselves. It should be part of retraining to teach them how to travel using a stick and a tongue. As part of a retraining exercise they could go from Ovingdean to HQ and back alone. It is also up to the St Dunstaner if possible to keep himself supple and strong both physically and mentally.

Is transport and its costs to the charity getting out of hand?

### Note from the Editor

You can apply for a Disabled Persons Railcard by phoning 0191 269 0303 and they will send you an application form. The railcard will cost you £14.

**From: Mrs R.T.M. Duncan, Omagh, Co Tyrone.**

Thank you so much for sending me your notice regarding your Christmas cards, which I love. I am so pleased to support such a wonderful cause.

I met a man at Headley Court RAF Rehabilitation Unit, (he had been blinded in a car crash) straight from St Dunstan's. You had preserved his sense of humour and taught him so much. He was the most popular guy there, it was difficult to get a seat near him at our breaks. He recognised everyone by their voices and we all thought he was the greatest!

## REUNION ROUND-UP

There were 31 St Dunstaners and 13 widows at the Exeter Reunion on September 5th. As usual this included a strong contingent of Royal Marines. Lt-General Sir Maurice Johnston was the Member of St Dunstan's Council presiding.

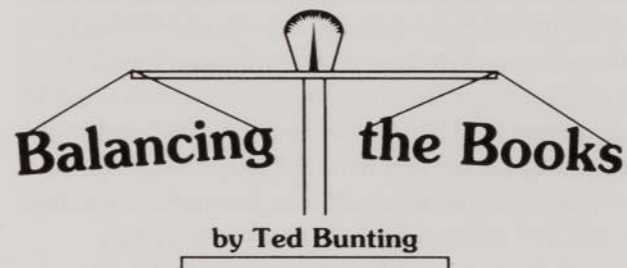
The second Brighton Reunion at St Dunstan's Ovingdean on September 12th was attended by 39 St Dunstaners and 17 widows. Air Chief Marshal Sir John Gingell was the Member of St Dunstan's Council presiding.

## SIGNALLING A SPECIAL BIRTHDAY

### St Dunstaner Arthur celebrates 103 years



*High speed pioneer!  
St Dunstaner Arthur Halestrap  
worked on developing  
communications systems that  
we now take for granted.*



### A Perfect Spy

Author: John le Carré

Reader: Andrew Timothy

Catalogue Number 7532

Duration: 24 Hours

"If you are going to shave someone," the confidence trickster told his son, "you must first rub the soap well in." The chip off the old block took the lesson willingly to heart, as he also absorbed hundreds more in similar vein; they were later to serve him well in his chosen career of espionage, where falsity, hypocrisy and instinctive dishonesty are positive aids to promotion.

But in the practised cheat and liar whose story *A Perfect Spy* is, is there a fundamental abhorrence of his own profession? That was the question that occurred to me. The author gives many clues but leaves his reader to form his own conclusion, entertaining him on the way as only the master raconteur is able to do. For I believe this book, despite its title, is not chiefly about spying at all, but is more a shop window where a novelist of rare talent has spread his wares.

This is the first time I have read John le Carré, but, God willing, it will not be the last. This is a brilliant book with humour, suspense and such a wonderful command of the English language that I enjoyed it from beginning to end. Not only that, (and I've never said this of a novel before) like a beautiful song or a Shakespeare sonnet heard for the very first time, the moment it ended I felt I'd like to hear it all again.

St Dunstaner Arthur Halestrap of Kings Sutton, Banbury, Oxfordshire celebrated his 103rd birthday on September 8th. He marked the occasion with 46 members of his family some of whom travelled from Somerset, Yorkshire and Bristol to join him at The Crewe Arms, Hinton-in-the-Hedges, Brackley, Northamptonshire.

Born in 1898, Arthur of Banbury, Oxfordshire served in both World Wars. From 1916 to 1919 he served in the Signals Section of the Royal Engineers.

During peacetime he worked for Marconi, developing communication links across the world, including India, Australia, Canada and the Falkland Islands. "We were involved in developing computers, high speed traffic," said Arthur. "Everything started with a dot and dash."

In 1942 he was commissioned into the Royal Signals. He worked in the intelligence field as a trainer and chief signals officer.

## A medium to suit your needs

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

Also available on tape and in braille is *Nuggets*, a mix of interesting features. Other magazines available on tape via St Dunstan's are *Computer Talk*, *Sapper*, *Soldier*, and *FEPOW Post*. For details contact the Public Relations department on 020 7723 5021.

## WHERE DO ALL THE SUNBEAMS GO?

by Jean Godfrey

Little tiny sunbeams go like everyone  
Waiting for the shadows soon to come along,  
As they hurry by the skylight – up and up and away,  
Past the whispering twilight of another passing day,  
And far beyond the brink of shadows magic run,  
And deep into the depth of the quietness  
That always comes along:  
Until the smallest ray of sunbeam caught  
Against the downers thumb,  
And was blessed and said "Goodnight",  
Just like everyone ...



# WELCOME TO ST DUNSTAN'S

## August 3rd

**Colin Frampton** of Abbots Barton, Winchester, Hampshire, served in the Royal Hampshire Regiment, the Royal Army Medical Corps and the Royal Army Service Corps. In civilian life he was a farm worker and driver. He and his wife have three daughters, three granddaughters, two grandsons and one great-granddaughter.

**William Holland** of Wallingford, Oxfordshire served in the Royal Air Force from 1940 to 1946. He completed an operational tour with 77 Squadron, Bomber Command and was then posted to an officer training unit. He was involved in a serious crash in 1943. He retrained as a radar equipment specialist and completed a tour with 199 Bomber Squadron. At the end of the war he was posted to Cocas Keeling. Leaving the service, he became a draughtsman and later joined the Atomic Energy Station at Harwell. Mr Holland has two daughters.

## August 16th

**Roy Edgar** of Stanmore, Winchester, Hampshire joined the Liverpool Scottish TA, part of the Queen's Own Cameron Highlanders. He served as a Company Quartermaster Sergeant until he was commissioned in 1943 and posted to the 1st Battalion King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry as a Platoon Commander in North Africa. He took part in actions in Sicily, Southern Italy including the Anzio Landings. After the War he worked as a clerk before setting up a firearms business with his brother. He moved to Rhodesia and later South Africa working in the building trade. A keen swimmer he enjoyed the outdoor life. He and his wife Myra have a son and daughter, three granddaughters, two grandsons and a great-grandson.

**David Paterson** of Newton Abbot, Devon served in the Royal Air Force from 1942 to 1948. He became a glider specialist taking supplies into the Burmese jungle. He enjoyed making working models and engineering related projects including static steam engines. Mr Paterson has four daughters, one granddaughter and four grandsons.

## August 17th

**Dorothy Easterbrook** of Herne Bay, Kent was a Civil Servant in Woolwich during January 1941 when injured by an incendiary bomb that exploded as she attempted to render it safe. Her interests included gardening. She has a son serving in the Merchant Navy.

**Richard Garnett** of Fleetwood, Lancashire served in the Royal Army Medical Corps from 1940 to 1945. He completed the normal 12 month basic nursing course in three months. After a convoy trip to Iceland and the USA, his unit set up a 600 bed tented hospital in Gambia. After a year, they moved on to Italy. Mr Garnett was evacuated after breaking his arm. In civilian life he returned to work in a Grocers shop, eventually owning two shops. He has also been a Sunday school teacher, scout and youth leader. He was a keen cyclist.

**Thomas McLoughlin** of Spital Wittal, Merseyside served in the Royal Army Medical Corps from 1942 to 1947. He was posted to India for the second advance into Burma and took part in the Arracan Campaign. He later moved to the Chinese border where he was injured and his right eye was damaged. He worked as a Storeman for Plessey and later in the Meccano factory. His interests have included DIY, tinkering with cars and reading. He and his wife Edith have two daughters and one son.

**Raymond Swindell** of Willingdon, Eastbourne, East Sussex served in the Royal Engineers from 1943 to 1947. Promoted to Sergeant he took part in Normandy on D-Day +1 and fought through to Bremen clearing mines, obstacles and laying pontoon bridges and roads. After the war he returned to his apprenticeship as a barber before working in retail. He is a member of the Eastbourne Blind Society and an active member of their bowls team. Mr Swindell and his wife Eleonor have a daughter, two grandsons and one granddaughter.

**Kenneth Teale** of Throckley, Newcastle-upon-Tyne served in the Pioneer Corps from 1940 to 1944 and the Royal Army Medical Corps from 1944 to 1946. In civilian life he was a bus driver. His interests

include trams, steam traction and vintage transport. He has a daughter, two grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

**John Tiffin** of Hook, Hampshire served in the Army from 1940 to 1958. Having joined the Royal Hampshire Regiment he transferred to the Royal Corps of Signals. Deployed with the 5th Battalion East Yorks in 69 Infantry Brigade on D-Day, he served throughout the campaign. After the war he did tours with the British Army of the Rhine and in the Far East Land Force. He left the army as a Sergeant and became a hotel manager in Malaya. He continued in the hotel trade before becoming a NAAFI district manager in Germany and the Middle East. He retired after being the manager of a stately home in Hampshire. He enjoyed sport and is a member of The Royal British Legion.

## August 31st

**Edward Ginn** of Brighton served in the Royal Air Force from 1941 to 1946. He undertook wireless training and was then posted to North Africa, joining his unit in Algiers. He later served in Sicily and Malta. After the war he joined the Civil Service National Insurance Department, later transferring to the Insolvency Service. His interests have included playing the piano and fishing. He and his wife Doris have two sons, one daughter and five grandchildren.

**George Oliver** of South Woodingdean, Brighton served in the Royal Engineers from 1949 to 1950. He completed a specialist survey course before being posted to Egypt. In civilian life he completed his lithographic apprenticeship and worked for various printing companies. His interests have included sailing and shooting. He and his wife Irene have two sons, two daughters and three grandchildren.

**Albert and Ruby Stubbs** of Pershore, Worcestershire both became St Dunstaners on the same day. Mr Stubbs joined the Royal Signals in 1935 and trained as Linesman. He was posted to India and later deployed with the joint Persia/Iraq Force. After the war he served in Germany, UK, France and Singapore. He was commissioned as a Quartermaster in 1959 and served with Gurkha Signals, the TA in Germany and as Camp Commandant in Brunei before retiring as a Major in

1972. His interests have included playing golf, DIY and caravanning. Mrs Stubbs joined the Royal Air Force in 1941 to 1942. She served in London and Aberdeen, monitoring convoys and flights from radar tracking. Her interests have included golf and painting. After losing her sight she took up pottery. Mr and Mrs Stubbs have a son, daughter and three grandchildren. Their daughter is a retired Major from the WRAC and their son an ex-Royal Navy helicopter pilot.

**Ralph Vernon** of Peterborough served in the Royal Air Force from 1957 to 1960. He was posted to El Adem, Libya as a cook and then moved to Cyprus during the emergency. After leaving the service he spent two years with the British Antarctic Survey Team in South Georgia. He remained in catering in various capacities including head chef at Keele University and running a vintage pub in Shropshire. He then worked as distribution controller for the RNIB Talking Book Service until retirement. His interests include amateur radio.

**Edna Wheatley** of Chesterfield served in the Womens Royal Air Force from 1941 to 1944. She was posted to Bomber Command near Doncaster and then Spalding Moor and Brighton manning watchtowers and maintaining radio contact with bomber crews. After leaving the service she worked for the Food Office in Hemsworth on the rationing systems. Her interests have included rambling and embroidery. Mrs Wheatley has a son, daughter, two grandchildren and one great-grandson.

---

## FAMILY NEWS

### BIRTHS

#### Congratulations on the birth of:

Carla Anne on August 6th. She is the third great-grandchild of Anne Moore of Oxhey, Watford, Hertfordshire and the late *Alan Moore*.

Amelia Felicity Pepper on August 16th. She is the granddaughter of *Ted and Barbara Pepper* of Boston, Lincolnshire.

### SILVER ANNIVERSARY

#### Congratulations to:

*John and Winifred Anderson* of Denton, Greater Manchester on August 21st.



## RUBY ANNIVERSARY

### Congratulations to:

*George and Rowena King* on August 28th.

## SPECIAL ANNIVERSARIES

### Congratulations to:

*Joseph and Amy Harris* of Tavistock, Devon who celebrated 64 years of marriage on September 4th.

*Ernest and Eunice Johnson* of Cherry Hinton, Cambridge who celebrated 62 years of marriage on September 6th.

*Joseph and May Gregory* of Lache, Chester who celebrated 61 years of marriage on September 18th. It was also Joseph's 82nd birthday.

## ACHIEVEMENTS

### Congratulations to:

Yvonne Puplett who obtained a 2:1 in English Literature and in Media and Cultural Studies at Birmingham. She has just started work for a publishing company. Her sister Claire who works for GWR in radio advertising won a national award. They are the daughters of *Keith and Tonnie Puplett* of Werrington, Peterborough, Cambridgeshire.

Matthew John on passing out from Britannia Royal Naval College, Dartmouth as a Sub-Lieutenant on August 2nd before His Majesty The Sultan of Brunei. Previously Matthew obtained a B.Eng degree at Hull University. He is currently serving on the destroyer HMS *Exeter*. Eventually he hopes to join the submarine service. His sister, Helen Ruth also joined the Royal Navy three years ago. They are the grandchildren of Alice Inness of Batley, West Yorkshire and the late *John "Jock" Inness*.

## DEATHS

### We regret to announce the death of:

**Winifred Smith** on August 15th. She was the wife of *Frank Smith* of Sutton, Surrey.

**Margaret Dickerson** of Fishponds, Bristol, Avon on August 21st. She was the widow of *Frederick Dickerson*.

**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.**

### **Sekwele Khiba**

#### *Native Military Corps*

Sekwele Zachariah Khiba of Mount Fletcher, KZNatal, South Africa died on March 10th, aged 76. He had been a St Dunstaner since 1945. He served with the Native Military Corps during World War II until an explosion blinded him. He trained in basketry at a workshop in the Transvaal. Our sympathy goes to his widow Elizabeth and all of the family.

### **Donald Gaudhe**

#### *Canadian Forces*

Donald Gaudhe of Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada died on March 30th, aged 74. He had been a St Dunstaner since 1990. He was a regular attendee at national reunions of the Sir Arthur Pearson Association. Our sympathy goes to his widow Jean and all of the family

### **Major Malcolm Meerendonk, MBE**

#### *Royal Army Education Corps*

Major Malcolm Meerendonk, MBE of St Lawrence, Isle of Wight died on August 16th, aged 79. A Private in the Royal Fusiliers from 1941 to 1942, he was commissioned into the Indian Army where he served in a number of Gurkha units. In 1947 he joined the Royal Army Education Corps and retired as Major in 1977. In civilian life he worked as a Registrar for Kew and Chancery Lane. His interests included mountain climbing and he was a Fellow of the Zoological Society. Our sympathy goes to his widow Phyllida and all other members of the family.

### **John Beattie**

#### *Royal Artillery*

Jack Beattie of Mobberley, Knutsford, Cheshire died on August 20th, aged 81. He had been a St Dunstaner since 1945. A Photographic Assistant before enlisting with the Royal Artillery in 1940, he served as a Gunner. In 1945, his regiment was in Italy when an exploding mine wounded him. He was discharged in 1946. After training at St Dunstan's he became a Poultry Keeper. His interests included woodwork. Our sympathy goes to his sons John, Malcolm and Colin, daughter Kathleen and all other members of the family.