

Jubilee flight recalls bravery of Battle of Britain

IN MEMORY OF THE FEW ...

St Dunstaners return to Biggin Hill on page eight



St Dunstan's Review

www.st-dunstans.org.uk

July 2002



FOR BLIND EX-SERVICE MEN AND WOMEN



St Dunstan's Review

No. 915

From the Chairman

JULY 2002

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Top picture:

The Spitfire, Hurricane and Lancaster fly over Biggin Hill in Kent marking the bravery of those who fought in the Battle of Britain. More on page 8.

Cover picture:

St Dunstaner Ron Tingay keeps in the swim beneath the waters of the Ovingdean pool.



THE JUBILEE weekend witnessed a very remarkable outpouring of affection and respect for the Queen. Those of us who were a part of the two million people gathered in the Mall on the day of the procession will long remember the atmosphere with its exuberance, friendliness and high spirits. The Country is indeed fortunate to have such a unifying entity to hold the nation together and provide the vital continuity to span successive governments.

St Dunstan's was just one of many organisations represented on parade as having played a role during the past half century. Although most of you fought for your Country longer ago than that, the world has changed considerably during that period. St Dunstaners have been examples to blind and sighted people alike, demonstrating what can be achieved despite handicap. Each of you has conquered your own Mount Everest in your different ways.

Captain Michael Gordon-Lennox, RN



NOTICE BOARD



HER MAJESTY THE QUEEN

On the occasion of her official birthday, St Dunstan's Chairman Captain Michael Gordon-Lennox, RN sent the following message:

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

"We send Her Majesty all our good wishes."

THE BLESSING OF ST DUNSTAN'S OVINGDEAN CHAPEL - AUGUST 8th

The chapel at Ovingdean has been redecorated and will be blessed by the Bishop of Chichester at 11:30am on Thursday August 8th. Any St Dunstaner who wishes to attend will be most welcome. In order to assist the planning, could those who are intending to come to the service, please, let Linda Barley know on 01273 391412.

EX-PRISONERS OF WAR REUNION 2003

Next year's Ex-POW Reunion will be held at Ovingdean during the weekend April 4th-7th 2003. Tom Hart will be writing to Ex-POWs earlier than usual, in order that you can take the opportunity to book in good time for accommodation at Ovingdean.

Alf Lockhart

Hon. Treasurer

SIGHT VILLAGE 2002

Queen Alexandra College's annual showcase of equipment and services for visually impaired people will be held from July 16th-18th. For further details contact Stewart Morehead or Mark Nickless, Queen Alexandra College, Court Oak Road, Harborne, Birmingham B17 9TG. Tel: 0121 428 5050.

ACTIVITIES WEEK 2002 AND THE GREAT SOUTH RUN

The Sport and Recreation department are hoping to run an Activities Week from Monday September 2nd to Friday September 6th. The programme will include a number of outdoor pursuits and water sports. Participants will need to be fairly independent, as there will be no care services provided.

The cost, based on six nights accommodation at St Dunstan's Ovingdean is £120 per person. If anyone would like to attend the week or would like further information please contact Katy Russell on 01273 307811 ext 1463.

Anyone wishing to participate in the Great South Run in Southsea on Sunday September 8th may like to stay an additional night. Please contact the Sport and Recreation department for details of this ten mile run.

ST DUNSTAN'S MAILING LIST

A mailing list is electronic noticeboard using e-mail where you can pose questions and get answers. Have you ever had a question regarding your visual impairment that you cannot solve or want to share with others? Is there a piece of technical equipment that you have forgotten how to use? Is there a problem regarding, for example, day-to-day living? The idea of a mailing list is to post your query or problem to the list where there is likely to be someone with the knowledge to answer it. Within St Dunstans we have a vast range of experience.

If you are interested in joining, then please send a blank email to vi-std-subscribe@topica.com. This will not automatically subscribe you. You need to reply to a confirmation email they send you and then David Poynor, who is managing the list, has to authorise you to join. All mail will be vetted. This is to stop the mailing list becoming libellous, out of order or used for chat.

DEADLINES FOR FUTURE ISSUES

The final date for submitting items for publication in the August Review is July 9th 2002.

The final date for submitting items for publication in the September Review is August 12th 2002.

ST DUNSTAN'S GOLDEN JUBILEE BADGE

At the beginning of June this year, we celebrated our Patron, Her Majesty the Queen's Golden Jubilee. It was deemed appropriate that we should use this event to recognise all those who have been St Dunstaners for fifty years or more.

A special St Dunstan's badge has been commissioned to mark this occasion. It does not replace the existing lapel badge, but is complementary to it and may only be worn by those who have been St Dunstaners for at least fifty years.

The badge is the same basic shape, size and design as the original but the oval part is segmented into red white and blue, as opposed to plain red, and the number 50 has been incorporated immediately above the central scroll.

The Chairman and Members of Council will personally present as many badges as they can and the remainder will be sent by special delivery.

CONVOY MEDAL

The Russian Convoy Club have striven for years for recognition of what those brave Merchant Navy, Royal Navy, and other servicemen went through to supply Russia during World War II, writes **Jim Pratt, DSM**.

Now President Putin of the Russian Federation has decreed that the Defense of the Soviet Arctic Region medal should be issued to those veterans and the Russian Embassy has requested details of all members who are eligible for the award.

The lists will have to be prepared from members' own applications and they must provide official documentation, ie service documentation, discharge papers, etc.

The application form can be obtained from the Membership Registrar, R.Powell, 51 Priory Oak, Bridgend, Vale of Glamorgan, CF31 2HZ.

CANADIAN LOTTERY FRAUD

Cases continue to occur where a company tries to persuade people to part with a cheque in order to participate in the Canadian Lottery. Be warned that this is a fraud and you should not get involved.

ACTIVITIES AT Ovingdean

by **Dick Lake, Ovingdean Manager**

During my early months here the activities programme that we run at Ovingdean, essentially for the benefit of residential and nursing care St Dunstaners, has really struck me. Under Section 12 of the new National Minimum Standards for Care Homes we are required to ensure that the routines for daily living and activities are flexible and are varied to suit service users' expectations, preferences and capacities. We are encouraged to give opportunities for stimulation through leisure and recreational activities in and outside the home. I believe that we measure up well to Standard 12, particularly, when one takes into consideration not just the "activities programme" but also the gym, swimming pool and craft workshop.

I detect that as the nature of those living in Ovingdean has changed over the years, so has the nature of the in-house entertainment and many people no longer appreciate late night or/and loud performances on a regular basis as they wish for peace and quiet in their home. Certainly, the monthly entertainment programme is arranged with the in-house St Dunstaners in mind. If there are spaces available on outings then those here on holiday can fill the places but priority is always for those in-house. I can see that at times some folks, especially visitors, want something a bit more boisterous and there can be an element of tension. I am conscious we cannot compete, nor should we, with those centres that cater primarily for holidays. We do try to provide a varied and interesting programme and to provide entertainment that will appeal to people on holiday. But our first consideration is to those St Dunstaners living here. However, I am keen to hear everybody's views please.

NEW WAR PENSIONS COORDINATOR

Following the retirement of Ronnie Hordell, Angela Blake has been appointed Cashier/War Pensions Coordinator. Angela joins the Accounts department from Housekeeping, prior to which she worked for Fine Fare at their corporate HQ, Guardian Royal Exchange and Lloyds TSB Card Services before giving it all up to raise a family. We wish Angie all success in her new appointment.

Alan Jennings
Chief Accountant

DERBY SWEEPSTAKE WINNERS

This year's Epsom Derby was won by High Chaparral which put Mr W. Mullins of Royton, Oldham in first place for the *Review* Derby Sweepstake. He won £253.10p. The second prize of £101.24p was won by Mrs E. Reeves of Dresden, Stoke on Trent, while the third prize, £50.62p was claimed by Mr L. Hough, Sowerby Bridge, West Yorkshire.

The remaining Starters' Prize was divided between Mrs B. Tyzack, Harpenden, Hertfordshire; Mrs B. Tickner, Worthing, West Sussex; Mrs M. Nichols, Camberley, Surrey; Mr N. Killick, Weybridge, Surrey; Mr D. Newland-Smith, St Albans, Hertfordshire; Mrs C. Androlia, Birmingham, West Midlands; Mrs E.J. Griffiths, Kidderminster, Worcestershire; Mr W. Burrows, Luton, Bedfordshire; and Mr A. Lockhart, Dagenham, Essex.

BILLY RIDES AGAIN

St Dunstaner Billy Baxter will be taking part in a series of displays of daredevil dexterity on a motorcycle. He will be riding with the Army Motorcycle Display Team, The Flying Gunners, at the following events:

July 1st-4th **Royal Show**, Stoneleigh, Coventry

August 2nd-4th **Truck Fest**, Edinburgh

August 16th-17th **Shrewsbury Flower Show**, Shrewsbury

August 20th-21st **Cromer Carnival**, Cromer

Check your local press for details and visit St Dunstan's stand at these events.

Billy explains how he dared to drive again on page 20.

TALKING LABELS FOR ALL SEASONS

Sound identification system for clothes, cans and cassettes

VOILA - VOICE LABELLER, as its name implies, is a device with which you can label items with a recorded message. The heart of the system is a battery driven 'pen' resembling an oversized fountain pen. It can hold up to 250 recorded label messages.

The label is like an inch and a half strip of dymo tape with a raised oblong shape on its upper surface. This outline guides the tip of the pen reader so that it will read the magnetic strip within the oblong.

The pen has two buttons near the tip; an on/off button and a record/browse button. The top end of the pen is rectangular in shape and contains a volume switch, batteries, microphone and speaker, plus a 2-megabyte chip to retain all the messages. When you switch on, the voice says 'hello' and you sweep the tip of the pen within the raised oblong of the label. After a bleep, the Voila will tell you whether it is a 'clean label' or will read out aloud the message contents. In either case, you can then press the record button until it says 'recording' and bleeps (rather like a telephone answering machine) and you can record a message for up to 40 seconds. This could be to identify a tin of food with an expiry date, CD's, records, cassettes,

files, etc. You can later browse through your recorded labels if you are searching for items about to reach their sell-by date, erase labels or re-record them.

Labels can be attached to clothing as they are waterproof, but you would need to pierce holes in the tape first in order to sew them onto items of clothing. Indications are that the labels should withstand the dry cleaning process.

The two AA batteries should last for many months but if they fail, or run down, then your recorded messages will NOT be lost. The volume is not overly high for those who are hard of hearing and the system is manageable with one hand. The unit switches itself off after only three seconds, which may take a bit of getting used to in the early stages.

Voila is delivered with batteries, an instructional cassette and 51 labels. Additional labels can be purchased for £15 per sheet of 51.

The cost of the device is £150 plus £5 postage but do speak to your Welfare Officer first as St Dunstan's may make a contribution according to your need.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY, HARRY!

ST DUNSTANER Harry Smith of Aylesbury, Buckinghamshire used his 83rd birthday to raise funds to help his fellow blind ex-Service Men and Women. Never one to do anything in half measures, Harry turned May 23rd - the day before his birthday - into one giant sponsored event.

It included a mix of everyday tasks and vigorous sporting activities. He started with a shopping expedition, followed by bowling, a gym work out and a 400 metre run. However, Harry didn't stop there, he continued with a two-length swim at Aqua Vale Swimming Pool and finally a walk to his local Blind Club.

Harry, who was a Flight Sergeant in the Royal Air Force, was accompanied throughout the day by his guide dog Patsy. His efforts, with the support of the people of Aylesbury are set to raise in excess of £1,200 for St Dunstan's.

Well done Harry, many happy returns of the day and we trust that you had a well-earned rest on May 24th!

However, it was St Dunstan's who received the generous present!



Shopkeeper Jo Prior of Sensations presents Harry and Patsy with a cheque supporting his birthday efforts. **Below: Harry dives in.**



Does Anyone Remember Me?

Mr Frank Barton of Hull is asking if anyone remembers him. He came out of Dunkirk with 39 Bty, 19th Field Regiment RA and REME Normandy to Hamburg. If you do know him he would be delighted to hear from you. Please contact Robbie Hazan on 020 7616 7933.

One must stop meeting like this ...

HIS ROYAL HIGHNESS Prince Charles shakes hands with St Dunstaner Bill Griffiths at the Second Sir Laurens van der Post Memorial lecture held at St James's Palace on April 8th.

Bill, who was a Far East Prisoner of War with Sir Laurens, attended the event with his daughter-in-law Christine.



Marines who were both "killed" are reunited

A ROYAL MARINE St Dunstaner was reunited with a comrade he believed killed during the D-Day landings. Almost 60 years later, Trevor Ireland of Garn Dolbenmaen, Gwynedd discovered quite by chance that Vince Horton was still alive. Likewise Vince believed that Trevor had perished in June 1944.

A friend of Trevor's met Vince at the funeral of another former commando. As a result Trevor was able to trace him through his regimental association. "I called him up and said 'What the hell are you doing on this earth, what part of heaven did they pull you out of?' We were holding back the tears when we met," Trevor told the *Review*.

The duo served in 48 Royal Marine Commando, a unit of 400

men put together specifically for D-Day. As they landed on Juno Beach 48 men were killed and in the following days another 221 perished. They were separated during an attack on a gun position that had targeted Allied ships.

Trevor was caught up in mortar fire, while Vince trod on a landmine and lost both legs.

"When someone told me Vince had been killed I took their word for it," said Trevor. "Still it was great to be able to get in touch with him again."

Having resumed contact by telephone, the pair were reunited at Portsmouth with the intention of returning to Normandy for a Remembrance Service. However a traffic accident in France meant that they were unable to complete the trip as planned.

NORTH-WEST ARCHERY WIN

by John Lilley

THREE OF ST DUNSTAN'S archers were invited to take part in The DSE North West Archery shoot on May 12th. We were greeted by the Chairman who also was the judge for the day. Assheton Bowmen made us all feel at home.

The weather was nice and warm as we took to the line to shoot. The archers were Clive Jones, B1 Winner, David Poyner, B2 compound winner and John Lilley, B2 recurve winner.

Our spotters done us proud! Clive's spotter was his brother who came up from South Wales, good old Tony, and not to forget our coaches that turn us into trim archery machines for these shoots. Thanks to Brian Mills, the Chairman of the club that put on the shoot for the DSE with the help of his members.

These boys automatically enter the DSE national shoot in the summer. **More archery on page 12.**

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

From: Trevor and Ann Berry, Liverpool, Merseyside

We want to thank everybody who attended the Liverpool Reunion making it such a great event. Thank you to those who came from Headquarters, especially Ray for his fantastic speech and his wife Robbie. Thanks also to our fellow St Dunstaner Ted John for his response to Ray (a hard to follow act). Likewise to Susan Harrison who sat at our table and was never lost for words. Thank god and special thanks to Welfare Officer Carol Henderson and her friend Mary for all the hard work and organisation which must have been required for the event which was a very happy one. The meal was absolutely fantastic. And may I add my own special thanks to my wife for everything she's done for me.

From: Colin and Pearl Mills, Rotherham, South Yorkshire.

Pearl and I would like to thank everyone for their kind thoughts and expressions of condolence during the last few dark days when we had to say goodbye to our dearest daughter Ena. We are trying to come to terms with it, but it will take a while.

Obituaries

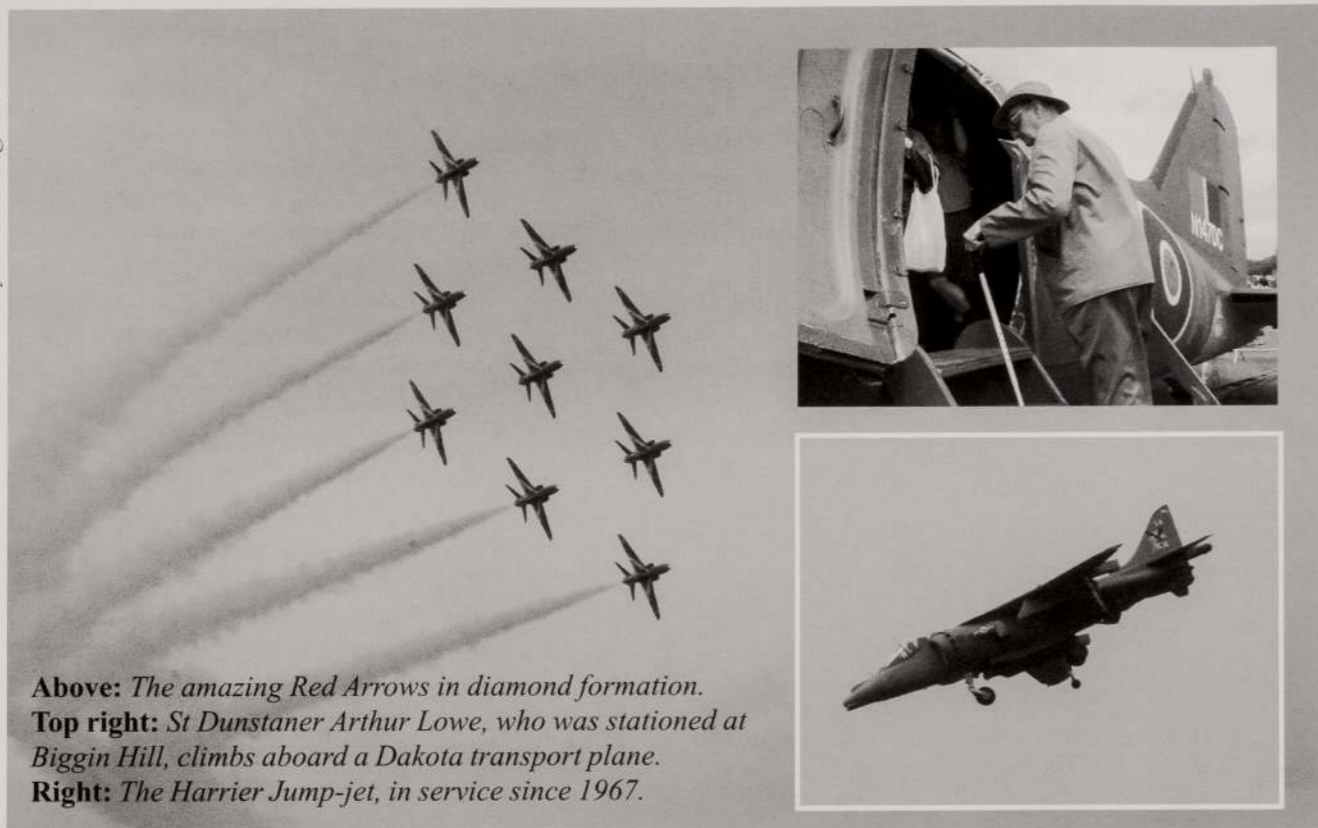
We regret to announce the deaths of two former staff members. St Dunstaners in the Midlands will remember Stanley Booth as their Area Surveyor for many years. He passed away on June 9th.

Others will recall Violet Frape who worked at Pearson House. She passed away on June 6th.

Life and Times of Ovingdean

by Lyn Mullins

Pictures by Simon Rogers



Above: The amazing Red Arrows in diamond formation.
Top right: St Dunstaner Arthur Lowe, who was stationed at Biggin Hill, climbs aboard a Dakota transport plane.
Right: The Harrier Jump-jet, in service since 1967.

DURING THE WEEK of Her Majesty's Golden Jubilee we had various events happening to celebrate the occasion.

On Tuesday May 28th, we were entertained by Vanguard Productions theatre group with their Jubilee variety show and on Sunday June 2nd the newly refurbished chapel was the scene for a special jubilee concert by



RAF St Dunstaner Walter Harse recalled being stationed at Biggin Hill prior to a Mediterranean posting.

the Brighton Welsh Male Voice Choir. Tea was then served afterwards in the inner garden as it was a glorious day.

On Monday June 3rd a group of St Dunstaners went along to the special Biggin Hill Air Show which was celebrating the event and had an excellent day out.

Highlights of the event included a deafening display by a Harrier jump-jet, hovering, diving and flying backwards over the Kent countryside.

Also making their mark on the skies were the Red Arrows whose airborne acrobatics left trails of red, white and blue smoke as they

looped-the-loop, crossed each others flight paths and flew upside-down at every opportunity.

Finally, a Spitfire, Hurricane and Lancaster took to the air for the Battle of Britain Memorial flight. RAF Biggin Hill was very much in the thick of the Battle repelling more of the enemy than any other base. The commentator paid tribute to those who lost their lives in those dark days.

Back at Ovingdean, in the evening there was a celebration dance and buffet with Rick Bonner.

The Gardening Week, which was held in May, was a great success and we have been asked for a repeat in the Autumn so watch this space! A full report appears on page 22.

Stay on Bluebell track

Pictures by Jenny Low



A GROUP OF St Dunstaners revisited the age of steam at the Bluebell Railway line on May 8th, courtesy of the "Not Forgotten" Association.

Pictured above, organiser Rosie Thompson chats with escort Vera Bunker, and St Dunstaners Arthur Whittington and Alf Waters while they wait on the platform for the train. Left, Louie Brooks and St Dunstaner David Taylor enjoy the ride.

Wedding bells at Ovingdean

CONGRATULATIONS to Phil and Patsy Dobson who married in Brighton on June 8th. After a Civic Service, the couple received a blessing from Father Tony Otterwell in St Dunstan's Chapel. Bestman and Phil's fellow St Dunstaner Steve Sparkes provided guests with an analysis of the Groom's dialect.



Ten Questions on...

The Armed Services Compiled by Harry Beevers

- 1) In World War II, which expression was used in the RAF for the rear gunner in a bomber?
- 2) From which country did the Gurkha troops originate?
- 3) Which present-day Royal Navy warship shares its name with the flagship of the English fleet which defeated the Spanish Armada in the year 1588?
- 4) Which British regiment has been dubbed "The First of Foot, the Right of Line, Pontius Pilate's Bodyguard"?
- 5) Which was the first RAF war-plane to exceed a speed of 300 m.p.h. in level flight?
- 6) Which British fighting force was formed in the year 1664 during the reign of King Charles II?
- 7) Which subsequent Archbishop of Canterbury served in the Scots Guards in World War II winning the Military Cross?
- 8) The SBS is the naval equivalent of the SAS, for what do the letters SBS stand?
- 9) What was the name of the P-51 U.S. single-seater war plane the prototype of which was built in 117 days and came into operational service in 1942 and was still in use in some regions in 1977?
- 10) The museum at Yeovilton in Somerset is devoted to which branch of the services?

Answers on page 30.

A FLIGHT TO REMEMBER

by Ray Hazan



THE WIDE OPEN and peaceful expanse of the airfield was suddenly shattered by the whine of a turbine engine starting up. As the main rotor was engaged, the cabin started vibrating gently. Minutes before, with Richard Banham, part-time helicopter pilot, part-time actor in the driving seat, Gerry Jones, Emma Covell and I had been strapped into a Gazelle helicopter. This is a 30-year old four-seater Army aircraft. You are surrounded by perspex and it must have offered marvellous views. Over a period of 40 minutes we swooped and manoeuvred over the Plain following descriptions by both Richard and Emma.



St Dunstaner Gerry Jones feels his way round the controls of the helicopter.

"You will need to lift your feet up over the skid; turning left, now; it's a great view from up here; now we are going to dive down to build up a bit of speed." In front was St Dunstan's skiing organiser Gerry Jones and besides me, our ski guide Emma Covell. But there was not a snowflake in sight! Salisbury Plain undulated away towards a clear blue horizon – a wonderful view from hundreds of feet up in the air.

We were the guests of 7 Regiment Army Air Corps (Volunteers) and Major Neil Graham, REME, in particular. Neil, who was also one of our ski guides earlier this year, generously invited us to visit Netheravon. For Gerry this was both a nostalgic and emotional visit as he had flown Scout helicopters from the very airfield. The camp is also noteworthy, as it is where the Royal Air Force was hatched from the Royal Flying Corps.

The flight was only a beginning of the kindness and hospitality extended by the Regiment. They have made St Dunstan's their chosen charity and WO1 Mark Hoyle presented us with a cheque for £387 they had raised thanks to some athletic prowess!

Later we lounged on the lawn in front of the Mess, no doubt resembling those pilots of yester-year, reminiscing and listening to the rattle of the many parachutes which dropped continually onto the field, Netheravon being the HQ of the Red Devils and Army Parachute School.



Captain Richard Banham and WO1 Mark Hoyle present Ray and Gerry with £387 for St Dunstan's.

It was warm enough later in the evening to enjoy a cocktail party outside and very much appreciate the Beating of the Retreat by the Regimental Band. The Sunset Hymn is a real tear-jerker and to then additionally hear the sounds of a fly-past by a Sioux, Scout and Alouette helicopter, plus a fixed-wing Beaver and Chipmunk, most of which Gerry had piloted in his time, was an emotional close to a perfect day, if you take 2am as the 'end of play'.

The next morning at breakfast a rook or crow accidentally flew into the dining-room and was unable to escape. He had obviously ignored directions from the control tower and was way out of the circuit! It made a somewhat incongruous end to a very perfect experience. St Dunstan's is so grateful to those who support us and make our work possible.

THE HANDLESS REUNION

May 8th-14th 2002

by Ted Miller

ON WEDNESDAY afternoon of May 8th, we arrived at Ovingdean for our annual reunion. We had travelled down with Bill and Alice who picked us up in Leamington about midday, so we had plenty to talk about on the journey. It's so nice to meet Pam and Wally. Bill and Alice, and Gwen and Ann after not seeing them for a year.

A Group meeting was arranged on Thursday morning, so we all met in the Conference Room on the fourth floor, where we talked over the plans for the rest of the reunion. In the evening we had supper in the Winter Garden laid on by Paul and Trevor.

On Friday we left Ovingdean at 10am for a trip out to Worthing with David, our driver, and Paul the orderly. We had a trip round the countryside until it was time for lunch at Amberley, near Arundel. The Cross Bush hotel made us very welcome.

On Saturday, the Group met in the Conference Room and in the evening we left Ovingdean for a dinner at the Grand Hotel, with David and Paul as our escorts. We had a very nice evening and were entertained by a band and a singer, we stayed there until nearly 11pm, again we were made very welcome.

Sunday morning was free and in the afternoon we had a ride out to Lewes where we had a snack in the 'Whye Garden Centre' where they have such a

wonderful collection of plants. We were back in Ovingdean in time for supper and then spent the evening in the lounge entertained by the Park Lane Duo band which was very nice, before we had a few drinks and then back to bed.

On Monday morning there was a meeting in the Conference Room for the group only, and in the afternoon they met Sir John Gingell, our President, and Mr Robert Leader, to discuss if we had any problems. At 7 o'clock we all met in the Winter Garden for our farewell dinner with our guests. The main speaker here was Captain Michael Gordon-Lennox, who talked about St Dunstan's future. Then Sir John Gingell said a few words and toasted the Queen. We also had a very entertaining speech from Gwen. Our other guests included Lady Gingell, Mrs Sue Leader, Mr Tim Osborne, Mr and Mrs Dick Lake, Mr and Mrs Jeremy Hinton, Carol Maloney, June Chill, and David Vinall and Paul Cartwright our escorts who were so helpful.

Our special thanks to Paul and Trevor who always put on a lovely meal for us and to all the staff who make our reunion so enjoyable. We have such a lot to thank St Dunstan's for.

PS We were so sorry that Audrey Gaygan could not be with us as she didn't feel well enough to come, but we send her our love.

FLAMING JUNE!

Barbara Degenhardt reports on the Archery Week

O THER ADJECTIVES were employed to describe storm force winds and heavy downpours when visitors from all parts of the country turned up to shoot the annual outdoor competitions. Had it not been for the McKinley Sports Hall, which normally provides shooting for eight St Dunstaners, a few dozen disappointed archers would have had wasted journeys. However with typical adaptability the events were held with varying degrees of success for the home team.

Saturday started the week with visiting teams from Newhaven and Ditchling making the largest number of archers shooting on the Ovingdean ground.



St Dunstaner Phil Taylor takes aim on the green at Ovingdean on a pleasingly sunny day.

Fortunately the wind was just about manageable because we could not all have crowded indoors. The conditions obviously suited the visitors as they walked off with the prizes.

On Sunday Taverham Archers from Norfolk, windswept and relieved to arrive safe and sound, joined Greenways and us indoors. By shooting in two sessions and the visitors suggesting that we shoot to a finish despite their long return journey, we managed to complete the competition. We were delighted to have for our Lady Paramount and Lord Patron Mr and Mrs Williams who had been present at the inception of the Club in 1977. They presented awards to the winners - who were not St Dunstan's.

Wednesday saw the Army and RAF presenting themselves for battle, soaking wet from the waves which some observers swore were pouring over the cliff tops. Despite a broken ankle Major Wendy le Gassick, our Lady Paramount for the day presented the prizes, but not to St Dunstan's - the RAF won that day. One of the Army members is keeping in touch with us in order to learn to coach VI archers.

Although St Dunstan's did not win the home competitions they must still be proud of themselves. Victims of their own rapidly improving skills, all competitions against sighted archers are conducted on a handicap basis and the handicaps are reduced nearly every time they shoot.



The RAF team kept those arrows flying and proudly claimed their trophy at the end of the afternoon.

All events were celebrated with magnificent buffets from PBK, but the culinary prize went to Nigel for his three cakes celebrating our 25th anniversary. Several drivers had to sober up before leaving. (The dried fruit was supposed to be soaked in a pint of whisky, rum and brandy - not a pint of each, Nigel. Oh, I don't know though.)

The highlight of the week? The red face of a spotter calling a senior officer 'Maj' in the mistaken belief that it was a nickname. Or was it that gigantic terrier being called Cuddles?

BRITISH BLIND SPORTS NATIONAL OUTDOOR ARCHERY CHAMPIONSHIPS

Immediately after the Ovingdean week, Brian drove archers and spotter/coaches to the English Sports Centre in Shropshire. Once again our members came away with a cupboardful of silverware, and an unofficial record for vociferous enjoyment of good company. It was no example for our senior members to set the English Lacrosse team - if only those young men had not worn targets on their t-shirts ...

CONGRATULATIONS to:

- | | | |
|--|----------------|------------------------------------|
| B1 Recurve | Terry Ottewell | British Champion |
| | Clive Jones | Bronze |
| B1 Compound | Norman Perry | British Champion |
| B2 Compound | Derek Hagger | British Champion and Record Holder |
| | David Poyner | Silver |
| | Nigel Whiteley | Bronze |
| (All three broke the previous British record.) | | |
| B2 Recurve | Steve Moseley | British Champion |
| (Non-tactile i.e. uses a bowsight instead of touching an aiming device.) | | |

St Dunstan's won every category they entered. Now if we had some women archers ...



Top: Major Wendy le Gassick cuts the commemorative cake made by Nigel Whiteley.

Above: Army team archer Catherine Owen recalled her late Great Uncle St Dunstaner Joe Humphrey.

Left: St Dunstan's team - Dave, John, Derek and Bert - receive their medals from Major Wendy.

THE DIGITAL WORD

by Ray Hazan

UNDOUBTEDLY, the late Lord Fraser of Lonsdale (Chairman of St Dunstan's 1921-1974) and father of the Talking Book Service, would have approved of today's developments in the library. The RNIB Talking Book Service is in the process of converting their 45,000 readers onto the new digital format of talking books, which will give the reader greater access to the recorded word.

In the 1920's, Lord Fraser experimented with the 78-rpm records and succeeded in extending their playing time from three to twenty minutes with a talking book in mind. Today, that vinyl disk has reduced in size to five-and-a-quarter inches, is called a Compact Disk (CD) and can hold up to 20 hours of high quality recording. Add features which sighted people enjoy, such as skimming text, placing bookmarks, speeding up and slowing down playback, plus a modern computerised distribution system and you have today's RNIB Talking Book Service.

Why did the library have to contemplate such a costly and massive conversion?

The existing Clarke and Smith system, based on reel-to-reel tape, is well over 20 years old and no longer being supported. Although the TB2000 playback machine designed by the library itself, using the existing 12-hour cassette, was a great improvement on the old mark IV, neither could take advantage of all the benefits

Relaunch of RNIB Talking Book Service



The new Talking Book Machine can even play regular music CDs.

that digital recording has to offer. In fact the then Sound Recording Board, a committee which oversaw the library operations, was discussing the successor to the Clarke and Smith system back in the 1980's before CDs had even come onto the market. The UK was in the forefront of getting the digital format known as DAISY (Digital Accessible Information System) adopted by talking book libraries worldwide. Although here in the UK they experimented with playback machines, it is the Canadian Victor system which has been adopted by the United Kingdom.

The RNIB Talking Book Service has had to develop on three fronts – recording or conversion of previous analogue master tapes onto digital format, the playback unit and distribution of books.

A year ago, the recording studios moved from Great Portland Street to the former Classic FM studios in Camden, London. Ian Turner, Talking Books Development Manager who has worked for the studios for 34 years, showed me around. The building is 'blind accessible', says Ian proudly. Stairs are marked 'tactile-ly' as well as with colour contrasting, as

are doors and floors. Even the recording equipment has been adapted and we saw Thuy, who is himself visually handicapped, developing screen reader scripts so that totally blind engineers could use the computers, for this, inevitably, is the medium used for recording books.

There are four small recording studios and one large. Most of the 80 readers are from the acting profession and receive a small fee. Each reader has a sound engineer assigned for a 3-hour recording session. The engineer will monitor, re-position the recording if 'fluffs' are made and insert the appropriate digital marks on the recording to note chapter breaks, etc. There is an overwhelming array of mixer desks and control units, all of which are 'blind accessible'. It is, undoubtedly, the leading talking book studio in the world.

TITLE SELECTION

A group of librarians meet once a month to select titles to be recorded. They will consult lists of recently published books, ascertain what radio and TV programmes are coming up and might lead to demands and take into account suggestions from readers. Some existing titles might have to be re-recorded as they are not suitable in the older analogue format.

There are over 12,000 titles which have been recorded in the past, on reel to reel, for copying onto the 12-hour cassette. Four of these 'old' master tapes can be fed into a computer at one time.

Joan Longstaff, Marketing Communications Officer, RNIB Talking Book Service writes:

"We currently have around 2,500

books in our digital collection, consisting of a range of classic and contemporary titles. This includes many of the most popular titles from our existing range, but also brand new titles that will cover some of the most popular latest releases, or will complete a series. Our range will increase rapidly, with around 400 titles being added each month, giving members a mix of new and old titles to choose from.

"We are in the process of converting most of our current titles onto the new digital format. The conversion of some 3,500 of our titles has been made possible thanks to a generous grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund. The conversion process is known as 'digital re-archiving'. This involves recording the original reel-to-reel version directly onto a computer, where it can then be edited - which means that we remove any irrelevant material (some of these recordings were made over 50 years ago, so contain information that is now a little out of date!) as well as improving the sound quality. Following this, we can

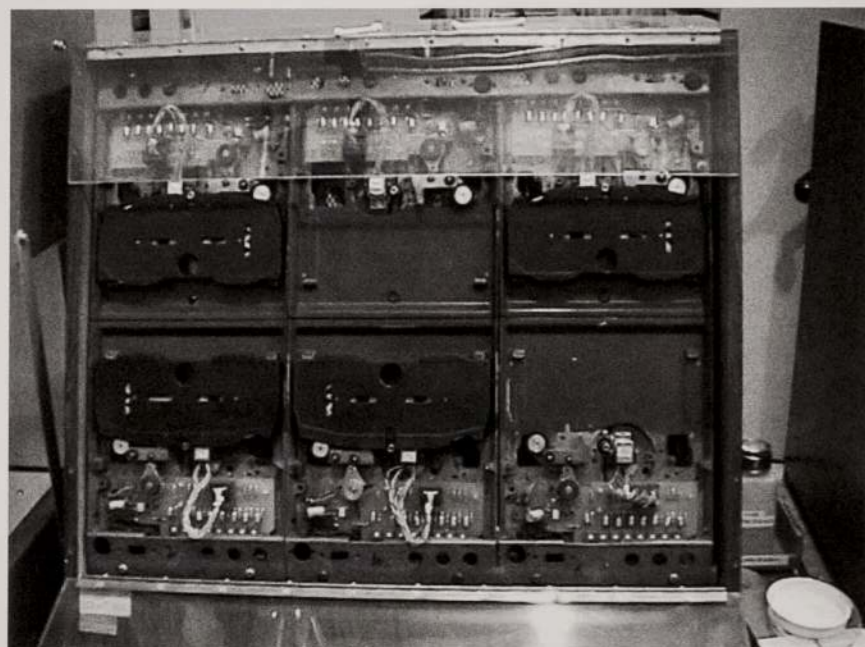
then start to put structure into the title. This 'structuring' is an international format known as DAISY. It is this structure which will enable readers to move around the title, if they so desire. Once the title is complete, it is then "burned" onto a disc, and is now ready to play.

"The format used in the books means that most of our titles will be on one disc, and you will also be able to move around the book. Different books will have different features for moving around. At first, our converted books will be divided into the old 'track' sections - which means that you could skip from one 'track' to the next. Our newly recorded books will give the opportunity to structure the book in smaller sections, for instance, by chapter. You will also be able to insert bookmarks in order to mark a place you will want to go back to."

Once the master recording has been made, it is the responsibility of the Distribution Centre to produce and distribute copies to



Burning future talking books onto CDs.



The existing cassette system will be maintained until 2004.

readers. The centre moved a year ago from its former premises in Wembley to Neasden Lane, London, NW10. They have taken over four 2-storey industrial units, which still smell of fresh paint and new carpets 12 months down the line. There is a deafening silence as you arrive which makes you wonder if you have come to the right place!

The centre is currently engaged on three separate production lines. TCS (Tape Cassette Services) is concerned with producing recordings of books required principally for study purposes. The master tapes are recorded either by volunteers at home or in the reading centres organised by the RNIB. These are mainly recorded onto standard compact cassettes in either the UK 2-track or American 4-track version.

The Neasden centre makes its own compact cassettes for greater reliability and quality and then copies each master on demand. Borrowers do not have to be students and you should contact

Customer Services at Peterborough if you are interested in any titles.

SELECTING YOUR BOOK TITLES

Relevant to all users of the library, both the tape cassette and digital process, is how the readers' selections are satisfied. There are some 12,500 titles in the library. There are two ways in which you can select books. Either you can inform Customer Services as to your preferences with regard to the types of book you enjoy – thriller, adventure, autobiographical, etc, when the computer will automatically choose books for you within the specified sections. Or you can select your own from a variety of types of catalogue (print, Braille, disk, or Spotlight magazine). The new digital system is ideal for choosing your own books as the new playback unit allows you to jump from author to author and title to title (which includes a brief synopsis). You are asked to select 45 titles. These are processed in

Peterborough and the new data is sent overnight to the computers at the Distribution Centre. One exciting prospect is an automated service where you will be able to telephone in your requests 24 hours a day. A voice recognition system will enable you to select the section of the catalogue, author, title and so on.

EXISTING MARK 4/TB 2000 SYSTEM

The existing tape cassette system has still to be maintained until all readers have been transferred onto the digital format. This is expected to take another two and a half years. The cassette that is currently used is a special 12-hour, 8-track tape playing at 15/16 ips (inches per second). It's special format means that pirating copies is not easy. This, in turn, protects copyright in the interest of the author and publisher and ultimately the reader.

The master tape is copied at the distribution centre. This requires special equipment as the cassettes are non-standard. A popular book might require 200 copies.

When you send your postal wallet back to the centre, the cassettes are unpacked, rewrapped and visually checked for any damage. They are then distributed amongst seven stations where each cassette is passed under a scanner, similar to items at a supermarket check-out. The bar code (a magnetic identification strip) on the cassette is read by the scanner into the computer, which searches its records to produce the address label for the next person waiting to read that book. Wallet, cassette and label are married up manually and placed onto a conveyor belt, which takes the wallet down the line to the postal sacks. This

system means that 80 per cent of cassettes are put straight back into the post the day they arrive. This is an efficient system and saves having to store cassettes, which would take up a lot of space. An amazing 8-9,000 cassettes are processed each day by the 15 staff allocated to this area.

THE NEW DIGITAL SYSTEM

The new digital production line mirrors the cassette version, but uses less manpower and more automation. This time, the master recording is received on a CD from the studios in Camden. The library has two CD writer stations, which can produce 12 copies of the CD master at a time. Blank CD's are placed on a spindle. An arm will automatically load each blank into the CD writer (to obviate the need for manual handling and greasy marks on the CD). Once the computer has 'burnt' or copied the CD's, the arm extracts the new books and places them into another machine which prints the details such as title and catalogue number directly onto the CD. This whole process takes about ten minutes. The book is then placed into a see-through pliable plastic cover.

The digital conveyor belt works largely on the same principle as the cassette version though operators do not have to pass the CD through a scanner. This is done automatically with an important difference, the scanner will also check that the CD bar code is not damaged. It will reject, for later destruction, any CD which has already gone out 10 times. This is a measure to ensure quality. The system will also check whether a damaged CD is always returned by the same reader, denoting a fault with that particular reading machine or repetitive poor

handling of the CD. Whichever, it means the library can contact the customer and check machine or handling. It will 'push' into a separate bin, those books, which have not been requested.

If the computer determines there is a reader awaiting that book, then the CD, inside its holder, is placed in a postal wallet, which permanently bears the return address of the Distribution Centre. The wallet is only some 6 inches square and is Velcro sealed. The whole is then inserted into a plastic envelope with the reader's

address on the outside. The plastic covering is, of course, discarded when you receive it at home. Again, the package runs along the belt and into a postal sack.

THE PLAYBACK UNIT

As previously mentioned, the Canadian Victor Classic has been chosen as the playback machine. It is sturdy, measures some nine inches square and weighs about three pounds and has colour contrasting controls. The carrying handle is an integral part of the machine. It is plugged into the



Pad control allows simplified access to the new machine.

mains but has a built-in re-chargeable battery. Most of the controls 'speak' in a clear English female human voice.

The controls allow the reader to increase/decrease playback speed, adjust tone and volume, hear information as to length of book (in hours, minutes and seconds) and how much of the book has been read. The start/stop key has a very obvious hemispherical depression in it and on either side are fast-forward and rewind keys. There is a foot-operated on/off switch available for handless readers, though the power on switch may not be easily accessible. In this case, the book could be powered on by a more accessible mains switch. The battery currently only has a life of about two hours and this may hopefully be re-assessed at some stage in the future. Audio CD's and MP3 files can be played on the Victor, though the loud speaker is obviously only mono. Please note that the DAISY CD talking book cannot be played on a standard audio CD system. To operate the Victor, the CD is

taken out of its protective case and introduced into the aperture on the front of the Victor. A mechanism then draws the CD into the machine. After a short pause, the title of the book will be announced. The CD is left inside the machine until completed, which is useful for handless users.

The Victor can remember where it left off on several books at a time. The advice is to place a bookmark as soon as you start reading. This is a one key operation so that if you doze off, at least you can go back to where you started that particular session! The prototype of the Victor did have a sleep-timer and hopefully this may be restored in the fullness of time.

The Victor comes with an instructional CD but the 3000 volunteer engineers, who repair the current talking book machines, will help readers to learn how to use the new system.

Every Victor is checked out by engineers before being dispatched and the aim is to distribute between 1000 to 1500 units a

month. Initially, readers whose annual subscriptions are paid for by their local authority may be given preference. St Dunstan's is paying the £57 annual subscription for St Dunstaner members of the library. If you are interested in changing over to the new system, then call Customer Services (details at the end of the article).

For many visually handicapped people, the talking book is an essential item. Whilst it is the written word that transports the imagination, instructs, amuses, informs or inspires, it is the RNIB Talking Book Service, which gives us access to that written word. The reader has never before enjoyed such a level of access to the recorded word and it has all but given us our eyes back!

The telephone number for Customer Services is 08457 626843 and 08457 456457 for any enquiries about the new system, or 08457 023153 for customer services related to TCS. It would help if you had your library reference number to hand when you call.

RNIB SEEK YOUR SUPPORT FOR RIGHT TO READ CAMPAIGN!

THE RNIB IS running a "Right to read" campaign.

"People with sight problems have the right to read the same book at the same time and the same price as sighted people," they say.

"Ninety-five percent of all books published are not available in a format that blind and partially sighted people can read."

They are asking people to write to their local Member of Parliament, urging them to press Tessa Jowell MP, Minister for Culture, Media and Sport to direct public funds for this purpose.

They suggest that you write saying "I believe a massive injection of public money is needed to produce more books for people with sight problems. Please urge the

Government, with devolved administrations, to set up a UK-wide £20 million Right to read fund, so that everyone has the right to read. Write today to the Rt Hon Tessa Jowell MP, Minister for Culture, Media and Sport."

The RNIB will identify your MP on their website, on www.rnib.org.uk/righttoread. You can also telephone the campaign on 020 7391 2123.

Exel-ent supporters



MR AND MRS John Dunham of Hamworthy, Poole presented St Dunstan's with a cheque for £1,745. It was raised by members of the Exel Retired Staff Association. It was accepted on behalf of all St Dunstaners by Ray Hazan on June 7th. The grand sum was raised by manning a stall in their local shopping centre.

WHAT'S THE CATCH?



ST DUNSTAN'S FISHING CLUB pulled into shore when the spectre of foul weather scuppered a day of wreck fishing off the Brighton Coast. Brighton Marina provided a more stable alternative to "twisting like a corkscrew in a boat". St Dunstaner Jack Fulling reeled in his first catch within minutes, though the day proved rather meagre.

MARATHON MAGIC! POET'S CORNER

REFLECTIONS

To amble down a peaceful lane
In April's cool refreshing rain,
away from sorrow and from pain.
It's my idea of Heaven.

To sit beside a babbling brook,
Then home to cook and read a book.
To learn, to listen and to look.
It's my idea of Heaven.

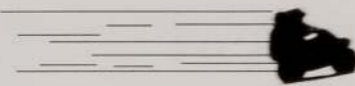
To have a few brief hours of pleasure,
A little love - a little leisure
With someone close for me to treasure
It's my idea of Heaven.

I need no fortune or great wealth,
Just peace and quietness by myself
Blessed with happiness and health.
That's my idea of Heaven.

Hugh Lock



Chris Kidger of Friday-Ad presented St Dunstan's with a cheque for £5,000 raised by his readers in support of our London Marathon runners. It was accepted on behalf of all St Dunstaners by Don Planner.



BACK IN THE SADDLE!

Picture courtesy of Soldier magazine



Flying Gunners Ian and Monty let St Dunstaner Billy Baxter throttle-up in the display team's car park at Woolwich.

St Dunstaner Billy Baxter is keeping a diary, as he prepares for a Motorcycle Land Speed Record Attempt. Extracts will be published from time to time.



Billy dons his biking leathers for a high speed test ride.

I HAD BETTER start from the beginning – why I aim to do this and what made me want to do it. It is the magic of St Dunstan's I imagine and what St Dunstan's is able to make you achieve. I suppose I am one of those that takes things to extremes but I am afraid that's the way I am.

I first met Ken Moss at Ovingdean. Ken achieved the World Blind Solo Land Speed record in a four-wheeled vehicle. I had nothing but admiration for the guy and jokingly said I wouldn't mind having a go at that myself - on a motorcycle! He said "Well, in a couple of years you probably will, my old mate" and, lo and behold, it's actually happening.

Lesley Styche's team of ROVI's enabled me basically to walk around without falling over. Then the Training department got me to run down the road and pursue some of my favourite sports, like horse-riding, rock-climbing, archery and rifle-shooting. But it was going to Italy for the first time skiing that I thought if I could do that, I could ride a motorcycle again.

A few of my old mates contacted me after a six-part documentary on television about St Dunstan's. My first motorcycle contact was Neil Williamson, who saw the series and had a good old laugh at me stumbling along, drinking beer and smoking fags and he thought "Well, he's still the same Billy." We had been mates for a long time, riding motorcycles in the Army and with the motorcycle club. I told him I wanted to ride a motorcycle very quickly again and there was a sharp intake of breath, then he asked "What can I do?" Neil knows the Midlands Area Sales Manager of Ducati UK, Alan Jones, very well, so he contacted him to see if they would supply me with a motorcycle. Then I thought, how and where I am going to train? I still have close colleagues serving in the Army and based at Woolwich with the display troupe and a couple of them are in the Flying Gunners, Royal Artillery Motorcycle Display Team.

The ball started rolling in March when I travelled down to London on the coach and met up with Anna Robinson, External Press Coordinator, to go and meet the

Flying Gunners. Graham Footer, the team coach and compare for their act, was a very good friend of mine and we served in the same regiment. The troupe leader is Sgt Major John Hughes, a big Scouser, again a very good friend of mine. John called me mad and Graham said "Could be possible, we'll just play it by ear and see how it goes." Ironically, some of the guys in the display troupe, in particular the senior soldiers, I had personally taught to ride motorcycles.

At the second meeting with The Flying Gunners we really made a start. I met another former Army colleague, Gaz Gower, who was a team leader of the Flying Gunners and served in my regiment. He has been the lynchpin in this whole operation. He had the bravery to sit on the back of a very fast bike and let me play with it. That man must have nerves of steel! Would I have sat on the back of a motorcycle ridden at speed by a blind person?

I have ridden a motorcycle in the dark, on exercise as a dispatch rider, when I used to lead columns of tanks and armoured vehicles through woodland in pitch black. Then I remembered that whilst I was doing this I used to fall off quite a lot, down tank traps, trenches, riding into trees and all sorts. I thought "Crikey, hopefully they are going to let me ride this bike on a nice flat car park, or in an airfield with no trees or other obstacles in the way."

Flying Gunner Monty, brought out the Kawasaki 350 quad bike and I put on my crash helmet, gloves and jacket. Monty got on the back, I kicked it over, put the quad in gear, then I was off, no problems at all, with Monty screaming "Left", "Right", "Slow down" and "Stop" and went around the car park several times. Then they

brought out one of the display team motorcycles, a trials bike, called a KLR 350cc. I sat on the front, Monty on the back and someone either side of me in case I fell off. But it didn't happen.

Graham said "Phew, Billy can ride a bike still!". The feeling was absolutely phenomenal. I am sure St Dunstaners can appreciate what I say, as they can probably relate to the first time that they took their long cane for a walk and got home safely – on their own. It was a beautiful moment for me, especially being back in the fold of the British Army, who are now looking after me with this Land Speed project. The Flying Gunners are giving me skills training and they have asked me to join the display team on several shows, actually doing stunts with them on motorcycles.

A DAY AT THE WHEELIE SCHOOL

Gaz was teaching and there was the tremendous noise of very high powered motorcycles being thrashed down the airfield at extreme speeds as we arrived. It sent shivers down my spine. Gaz had a full set of racing leathers for me, boots and gloves. It felt oddly normal. The motor cycle was a Suzuki Bandit, 1200cc engine, bigger than a small car and capable of achieving speeds of up to 150mph on a good day. Gaz rode the bike initially, sat me on the back and rode up and down the airfield for a bit, no faster than 60mph. Then he went up to 100mph, so I could feel how the bike responded in the wind. It didn't feel like we were doing that speed at all, cocooned in a full racing suit. To the horror of Anna and the film crew watching he opened up to top speed, 145mph, did some wheelies at 120mph and some "Endo's", where the bike is slowed,

the front brakes applied sharply and it pitches forward on its front wheel with the back wheel in the air.

After some more stunts, we went to the other end of the runway, well away from the cameras and Gaz showed me the controls. Then I got on the front and Gaz on the back. I squeezed the electric start and the engine burst into life. I pulled in the clutch, engaged first gear, and moved away as smooth as silk. I rode up and down and got to about 45-50 mph. Then Gaz counted me down, "30, 25, 20, 15, 10, 5, clutch in Bill, Stop!" I applied the clutch and front brake and the floor had stopped moving. It was mind-blowing.

I had a hard job to hear Gaz's instructions over 70mph, so he just tapped by shoulders left and right and punched me in the back of the helmet to slow down. The current solo blind land speed record on a motor cycle is 78mph, being shadowed by another motor cycle, exactly how I am going to be doing my attempt. The telling time will be when I get on the bike solo, but it's just a case of mind over matter; 90 per cent of it is psychological. I am basically putting myself in the charge of another human being, which is what we have to do every day. Being in the Forces, receiving commands is second nature to me. So if somebody says left, or right, or stop, I just do it. Gaz said there were only four people that he would sit on the back of a motor cycle with - and one of them was blind! That was the magical moment. It was then that I knew that this can be achieved and we will succeed. It has taken me 21 years in the Army and my eyesight, and now as a civilian I am a Flying Gunner. It's absolutely terrific!

More of my exploits as a Flying Gunner next time!

REPLANTING THE SEED

St Dunstaner Marjorie Scott reveals her thoughts on the revived Gardening Week

WE ALL MET in the Blue Room on Monday evening for a welcome drink. Lyn Mullins, Activities Co-ordinator, was also there and she went over the events of the week with us and then it was off to bed!

Tuesday dawned very grey and miserable for our trip up to Hever Castle. It even started to rain as we left Ovingdean but driving up through the Sussex countryside the weather cleared, the sun came out and by the time we got to Hever it was a beautiful day.

Walking toward the entrance I was struck by two patches of beautiful blue which on close inspection turned out to be wisteria, which was lovely. Continuing down the path, I crossed over the bridge and there was the castle sitting there all serene and surrounded by its moat with the drawbridge and the portcullis. I then set off to explore the garden. The rhododendrons and azaleas with beautiful splashes of colour and the perfume from the azaleas was overpowering.

After lunch we all gathered to meet James the head gardener who gave us a brief history of the castle and the grounds and answered questions. Then it was off on a guided tour of the gardens. We went along beautiful stone paths, under arches, past pillars, statues and an old wall with wisteria cascading over it. Absolutely gorgeous. The only disappointing thing was that we were too early for the roses. James did tell us how many hundreds of these were planted in the garden and I should think they are an absolute picture when they are out. It's a very good reason for going back.

Wednesday was a hands-on day. We went up into the Winter garden and there were two tables piled high with compost. Tim Spurgeon from Thrive, a national horticultural charity that uses gardening to



Marjorie plants her hanging basket.

improve the lives of disabled, disadvantaged and older people, led one group. The other was headed by Robbie (Vincent Robins) a St Dunstaner gardener and Thrive volunteer. We were shown the best way to plant our seeds and how to pot up plug plants. We made up hanging baskets, tubs and troughs and a strawberry pot was turned into a lovely herb garden.

All these were taken down and put in the rear garden. So if any of you come down during the summer, pop out there and have a look at our handiwork.

We went back to the winter garden after lunch and had a question and answer session with Tim, which was very entertaining and informative. He seemed to answer all the questions thrown at him. But the most interesting part of the afternoon was the discussion on how to get rid of slugs and caterpillars.

One St Dunstaner said he put tubs of beer just below the ground for the slugs to drop in and drown because he liked his beer with a little bit of body in it! Another said he sprayed his cabbages with Fairy Liquid because as the caterpillars wiped the soap off their eyes they slipped off the leaves and were killed when they hit the ground!

Thursday was another miserable grey and cold day, which did not improve. We drove up to Wisley, which I found very disappointing. It was all green, just grass, trees and shrubs, no colour. But after a picnic lunch, I went back in and found the other side of the garden and the beautiful hot houses full of exotic flowers and plants and lovely orchids. Outside were the rhododendrons, 10 and 12ft high shrubs and bushes in all shades of reds, pinks, whites, absolutely dripping colour, absolutely gorgeous and again the perfume! They also had very pretty ground cover - azaleas in red and blue, quite beautiful too!

In the evening we went up to the ballroom for a talk by Christopher Rudd. He showed slides and talked about the garden of Sussex. I wish I had been able to see the slides because the way he spoke they must have been beautiful. He told us all about Sittingham and an attractive arboretum.

On Friday afternoon we went to Rottingdean and meandered through Kipling's garden. We saw his house, went to the church and then wandered down the High Street. Lyn gave us a very nice talk on the history of the area. Rottingdean must have been an interesting place during smuggling times.

On Saturday we went to Board Hill Garden. The day started off quite grey but the sun came out again and we had a beautiful time. Of course it's noted for its azaleas and rhododendrons. There are beautiful walks all round the grounds. We had a little walk before lunch and then set off to explore properly. I must admit that rhododendrons and azaleas are my favourite shrubs, but unfortunately I can't grow them in my garden because we don't have the right soil. Absolutely beautiful, and of course there is that the perfume again! There are statues around, which you can buy. But they were too expensive for us!

Lyn deserves a big thank you for organising this week. It must have taken a lot of time and effort to get it all together and everything went like clockwork. A big thank you, Lyn.

There are also the drivers who carted us all around Sussex. They were always smiling, always helpful. Nothing was too much trouble for them and they deserve a great big 'thank you'.

When I get home I shall find a nice place in the garden for the plants I have bought and I shall have a living reminder of a very enjoyable gardening week. I'd love to come again, if you'll have me!



St Dunstaner Albert Hobson feels his way across some seed trays prior to potting some plants.

Hobson's choice cuts

St Dunstaner Albert Hobson had similar thoughts

The Gardening Week was most enjoyable with the weather in our favour for a visit to Hever Castle on Tuesday. I thought Wednesday was the best day - especially good for someone with no sight. I could get involved in potting up and give a hand getting the hanging baskets ready for the summer. The results of our work can be seen in the Inner Garden at Ovingdean. Tim from Thrive showed us how to use self-watering propagators which are an excellent design and able to be used easily by all. I shall invest in some from RNIB ready for the next batch of seed sowing. On Thursday we visited Wisley, where there was a wonderful assortment of plants and gardening accessories for sale. During the evening we were invited to the slide show. Even though I wasn't able to see the pictures the commentary was most interesting. Friday was a more leisurely day with the afternoon spent in Kipling Gardens in Rottingdean. Borde Hill Gardens was our next port of call which was a very pleasant day out. The week was rounded off with a trip to Paradise Park Gardens in Newhaven. I'd like to finish by saying thank you to all those involved in the organising of Gardening Week and to thank the staff at Ovingdean for making us welcome. I'm sure I can say we are all looking forward to the next Gardening Week.

Packing in the Cubs

Sarah Tait reports on an educational experience for the younger generation



St Dunstan's Ted Yeaman with some of the visiting Cubs.

A PACK OF Cub Scouts visited Ovingdean on May 25th. Their aim was to learn more about visual impairment and the work of St Dunstan's. The weather report predicted high winds and rain yet this didn't dampen the Cubs excitement for the action-packed day ahead.

Cubs, St Dunstaners and staff had a fantastic day and by way of a thank you the Cubs will be holding a fundraising event in September for St Dunstan's with all the money they raise being matched by Lloyds TSB.

Special thanks must go to Ron Cattell, Arthur Lowe, Ted Yeaman and Bob Willis whose enthusiasm and hard work made the day such a success. Thanks must also go to Trevor and Craig of PBK, to Transport's Tracey Beck and ROVI Paul Hartley.

Some of the Cubs wrote letters, such as this one, to the St Dunstaners that they met:

Dear St Dunstaners,

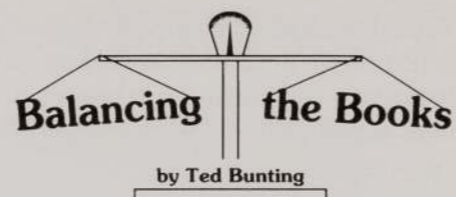
Last Saturday I came to visit you with the 7th Purley Cubs, to see

what it is like to be blind. I thought it was a great day because I learnt that even though people can't see properly, you can still do things such as riding horses, using a computer and playing lots of sports.

It was fun and difficult trying to play bowls and other games with different sorts of glasses on. The tunnel vision glasses were interesting for me because I now have an idea how my Grandpa sees the world.

Thank you for organising such an exciting day, the pool was fun especially the pearl diving and I enjoyed meeting Ron, Ted and Arthur. They had interesting stories to tell.

Love from
Mathew (aged 9)



The Sound Of Anthems

Author: Marjory Alyn
Reader: Margaret D'Arey
Catalogue Number 5594
Duration: 8 Hours

If ever we speak of the problems of Ulster my friend Paddy will invariably say "You have to be born there to understand it, and you might not understand it even then." He may well be right, for he's a wiser man than he sometimes pretends, but that doesn't stop one trying to understand does it? And for anyone truly willing to learn I'm sure there could be no better place to begin than with this clever, amusing and absorbing little book.

It's a novel, of course, not a textbook but it serves so well in the latter role because in 1945, near Belfast, 11-year-old Jennifer, the central character and narrator, is looking for reasons and answers herself. Her grandmother and guardian is a Catholic; so she learns early in life that she is a Catholic too. But with Hitler defeated and the war won, it is much more difficult for her to fathom why "They" are not the Germans any more but the neighbours down the road who attend a different church. These Protestants include young Jimmy, who is good at running and climbing, as Jennifer is. They go for walks together but their paths are soon to diverge as opposite cultures claim their own. "Why can't it just be 'us' instead of 'us and them?'" asks Jennifer before this polarisation is fully complete. It's a question this book almost succeeds in answering, but, exactly as my friend Paddy warned me, the "what" in Ireland is much simpler than the "why".

Second prize in our Story Competition was won by St Dunstaner Betty C. Parkin of Swansea who used the pseudonym "Gran". Her tale follows:

PASSING THROUGH

by GRAN

IT WAS A VERY ordinary house, small semi-detached and would have been one of a group if war had not restricted further building.

Breasting the high hill it looked across spare grassy land to where the river Weir looped around the Cathedral and the huddled roofs of Durham City. A very ordinary house yet special to my husband and to me after years of service life in peace and war.

There was much to do and with some wartime shortages still in force, furnishing took much time and search. The garden was in need of care and we worked hard on it with high hopes of bountiful crops to come later. So it was winter before we could settle down to an evening routine, mother putting the child to bed upstairs, father dozing over the paper. Yes, it was winter when my husband said - petulantly - "Why - if you must pop in and look at me when you come down - why, can't you close the door again? There's the hell of a draught from the hall."

"Yes, I have been thinking about it, we shall have to have better heating next winter with a new baby -" I stopped abruptly. "Pop in? I just bring down any washing and then tidy the kitchen. Not that I am surprised by any door blowing open with the winds we get on this hill."

"That is what makes it so strange."

Something in his voice alerted me to ask, "What is strange?"

It was so unlike my positive-minded husband to pause long before replying "The quiet gentle way the door opens, before the cold draught and - He - passes through."

"Yes, definitely more heating," I began - then his

words registered. "What do you mean? He - he, who comes in? Not, oh not, a ghost?" I heard my voice rising shrill in alarm.

My husband moved swiftly, wrapped his arm around my thickening body. "Hey, hey, don't panic, it is bad for the baby. Don't panic, pet, I am sure he means no harm."

"How do you know that? Does he come every night? What does he look like?" The words came out in gasps as my fears mounted.

"It was stupid of me to tell you, I was not thinking straight." His arms tightened. "Try and forget it, don't be afraid. It does not happen often. Just the door opens, the cold draught and I get a feeling as if some one, a male, passes through. Forget it, perhaps I doze off and it is a strange feeling I get. Don't worry about it."

"Worry, worry," What else can you expect me to do with a small daughter and soon a new baby living here?" I pulled myself away from him and as usual in any personal crisis stretched to my full height of five feet, and stood firm. "Listen," I said. "Just listen. If I see a ghost, or whatever it is, if I see anything strange and doors open and shut on me - we move. I can't, I won't let the children stay in a house with a ghost."

There are times when a wise husband, especially one with a pregnant wife, is best to keep silent. This was one of those times. He settled me in a chair, made tea, before he said "I'll take a look at that lock, make certain that it fastens properly. Drink that tea now and calm down."

"Calm down, calm down," I was in no mood for soft talking. "I shan't alter -" The unmistakable sound of an engine whistle made me stop, then the thought hit

I won't let the children stay in a house with a ghost

me as if with a blow. "Of course, that's it!" I breathed out a huge sigh of relief.

"The Scottish Express passes every evening, it is the vibration, vibration, Mr Sims is always saying these high speed engines are causing trouble with half the tracks unchecked for bomb damage. He works on the railway, knows what he is talking about. Vibration, why didn't you think of that instead of frightening me halfway to death. Men."

Relief flooded over me and I glanced towards the window. Out there in the darkness and screened by fencing and trees, was the railway cutting, so deep that only the occasional whistle gave a hint of passing trains.

With a long stay in hospital before the safe arrival of our second daughter, the joy of homecoming, of settling into a new routine with the baby and her sister, the thoughts of ghosts, cold draughts, and strangely opening doors seemed to be dismissed from my mind with the other whims of pregnancy. It was not until I surprised my husband busy with his toolbox in the hall that I asked "More trouble with the sitting room door?"

"Yes, poor craftsmanship whoever fitted this lock originally and someone who tried to repair it wasn't much better. Maybe I won't waste more time on it, a new lock would be the sensible answer."

I did not bother but I am not a perfectionist and anything mechanical is a mystery to me, yet to a man whose life and those of his men had depended on his dexterity, fitting a door lock must be a simple matter, after defusing mines and bombs. I gave a prayer of thanks that such days were past and duly admired the new lock when it was in place.

Time passed and our daughters, like the garden, grew and flourished. There were few days when with a small neighbour, Richard, they did not play on the spare land opposite where they were secure from road traffic and within my sight. Many were the picnics and tea parties held there until the time when Richard and Ann set out on the great adventure of school.

A time of family happiness and even when my husband's work took him away for short spells no doors opened on me, there were no strange visitations and somehow —He — had become one of those secret jokes that are treasured in a happy partnership. There were the odd times when my husband would seem to seek my company as I

finished the evening chores when I would ask with a grin "Has — He — disturbed your reading?"

A wry smile and a quick hug was the only answer.

Five years we spent in that very ordinary house until my husband's work took him permanently to Lancashire. For several months the children and I remained in the house in Durham whilst I arranged its sale and the removal.

The day before the move my husband returned to help with the final tasks. The children brimmed over with excitement. What was the new house like, was there a swing in the garden, neighbours, school? The questions seemed endless and I was very grateful when Richard came with a message from his mother. Could she take them for a walk and to tea in her house afterwards? I saw them off and turned to a pile of ironing, waiting.

It was a fine June afternoon and not a breath of wind stirred the trees even on our breezy hilltop. I was standing in the kitchen folding the last of the children's dresses when, behind me, the door to the back porch opened quietly. I turned towards it and something - someone - slipped past me. So tall, so broad, that his scarf flicked across my face.

I felt no fear, no alarm. I switched off the iron, stood it carefully on its base and went through opened doors into the sitting room.

My husband was there, kneeling beside a packing case, books in hand.

"He has just been in." It was a statement I made rather than a question. My husband nodded and looked up to stare at my broad smile, as I laughed at him. Laughed, for I felt strangely pleased no, perhaps honoured is the word.

"Wasn't it kind of him - really kind - to come and say goodbye to me?"

The story does not end there. My husband died while the girls were young. Death does not always come swiftly to warring men. So he was not there to share my pride as our daughters worked their way through school and college to attain status in their chosen professions.

Later by chance, work took my younger daughter back to Durham for a while. "Do go and visit

Richard's mother," I urged for I had kept in touch by brief Christmas and holiday cards. "She will be so pleased to hear all our news."

I was right, the meeting was warm and friendly and many questions and answers were given before Richard's mother said "Come into the kitchen whilst I make tea. It will be the room you remember best if you can recall anything of your time here. YOU were only a little girl when you left."

"There isn't much I can think of, except playing on the spare land," came the answer. "But my mother always says she was happy here. She loved the

countryside, the garden and the house though once she told us there was a ghost."

"A ghost? But of course, my dear, what else can you expect living here?" Her hostess deftly buttered another home-made scone before she waved a hand towards the window. "Over there, on the opposite side of the railway cutting is the remains of the memorial cross marking the last fight between the Picts, I think, and the Scots. This hill was the site of the battle of Neville's Cross in 1346."

Was it a plaid - not a scarf - that gentled the air across my cheek on that June afternoon?

IT NEVER RAINS BUT IT POURS

St Dunstaner George W. Powell recalls being cut down to thighs during a mobility lesson

I AM TOTALLY BLIND, I say this as a statement of fact as it has some bearing on the account of the following event. The story I am about to relate occurred when I was receiving mobility training in Brighton using the long cane method introduced from the USA some years ago.

The long cane being superior to the standard cane normally used by blind and partially-sighted people, enables the user to walk unaided - with a high degree of safety.

My instructor was a very attractive young lady named Cherri. I judged her to be attractive by the chorus of wolf whistles that accompanied us as we walked along the road, Cherri a few yards behind me.

I have long held the theory that all instructors possess a sadistic streak, women more than men, and Cherri was no exception as will become apparent as this story unfolds.

Towards the end of my training, I had to board a bus from Ovingdean to Brighton unaided but with Cherri her usual paces behind. Alighting at Churchill Square, I made my way unaided through the small shopping arcade to the main street. The street was fairly well populated, requiring my full concentration, which

always proves tiring and so I was more than a little relieved when a light drizzle started to fall.

It being almost 11am, Cherri suggested we stop for coffee at a nearby cafe. Inside the cafe, the only vacant table was one for four, so sitting down opposite Cherri, I folded my long cane, which is in four sections, and placed it on the vacant chair to my right. Eventually a waitress came and took our order for coffee, which duly arrived and was quickly consumed. After a few minutes conversation with Cherri, we prepared to leave and I reached for my cane, which I had left on the vacant chair to my right.

WELL UPHOLSTERED

"Funny" I thought, I did not remember the chair being upholstered. Exploring further with my fingers, it dawned on me to my horror that what I was exploring was a female thigh. Later, thinking what had happened, I concluded that a lady had silently occupied the chair after first removing my cane and not having ordered, I was unaware of her presence. However at the time I was covered in embarrassed confusion and commented that "at least she had not slapped my face". I hurriedly paid my bill and left the cafe with a burning face, the still silent Cherri a few paces behind. I could have killed her!

WELCOME TO ST DUNSTAN'S

May 10th

Gwendoline Cutting of Norwich, Norfolk served in the ATS from 1943 to 1946. She was stationed in various camps throughout the UK including Northampton, Colchester and Welbeck Abbey. She trained as a cook and worked in the Sergeant's Mess and Bakery. In civilian life she briefly joined Woolworth's before working on the land in Wisbech. Later she was employed by the Norwich Blind Institution. She has a son, daughter, four grandsons, two great grandsons and one great granddaughter.

Ronald Jones of Nuneaton, Warwickshire served in the Royal and Electrical Mechanical Engineers between 1951 and 1953. After completing his training he joined the LAD of 20 Heavy Regiment Royal Artillery at Colchester. They were posted to Hong Kong and then Korea taking 25 Ponders from 45 Field Regiment. Returning to the UK he ran a toy and pram shop. His interests include golf. He has two sons and four grandchildren.

James Muir of Hove, East Sussex served in the Queen's Own Cameron Highlanders from 1940 to 1946 and in the Territorial Army from 1947 to 1965. He served in Nova Scotia, Bermuda, the Dutch West Indies, New Orleans and New York. His battalion then embarked for Egypt and later saw action in Italy. Mr Muir was wounded at Monte Cassino. He was then posted to Greece and Austria. After the war he returned to Glasgow and worked for the Post Office, later going to work in the forensic department of Glasgow University.

Brian Wheeler of Barns Green, West Sussex served in the RAF from 1941 to 1947. After training he became a Ground Crew Wireless Operator in the UK and was then selected to train as a Crew Navigator Radio Operator on night fighters. He trained as an Air Traffic Control Officer before being posted to the Middle East. He served in Cairo, Palestine and Sudan. In civilian life, he joined Rowntree's as a sales representative. He and his wife later ran a dry cleaning business in Lambeth. His main interest was as a glider pilot and pilot instructor. He used to play the piano and continues to enjoy playing bridge. He is married to Joan.

May 24th

Kenneth Clare of Wendover, Aylesbury, Buckinghamshire served in the Royal Signals from 1939 to 1940. He shipped to France to join the British Expeditionary Force, joining GHQ in Arras. Unfortunately, he developed meningitis and was casevaced to the UK and discharged from the Army. He returned to work with the Rate Appeals Assessment Committee in Middlesex, later becoming Clerk of the Committee in Buckinghamshire. A keen sportsman in his youth he played football to a high level and won the all England Schoolboys Sprint Championships. He also enjoyed gardening, reading, fishing and writing short stories. He and his wife Anne have two daughters, two grandsons and one granddaughter.

Leslie Peploe of Eastbourne, East Sussex served in the Royal Air Force from 1940 to 1946. After training he served throughout the UK including Blackpool, Gosport and Pembury. He sailed to India in 1943 and after a year in Bombay was posted to Delhi. He was promoted to Corporal and served as an Engraver with the Signals Security Press who produced the weekly intelligence summary for South East Asia Command. He is a member of the Eastbourne Blind Bowling Club.

Ronald Wilson of Leeds, West Yorkshire served in the Royal Air Force from 1940 to 1946. After completing his basic training he was posted to Compton Bassett where he completed his wireless training. Later posted to Ceylon, where he joined a flying boat unit, he was involved in hunting submarines. In civilian life he worked in the print trade. He and his wife Margaret have a son, daughter and nine grandchildren.

May 31st

Maud Beasley of Leighton Buzzard, Bedfordshire served in the Auxiliary Territorial Services from 1941 to 1945. She served in a heavy ack-ack Royal Artillery Regiment in Bristol and was on duty when Bristol was bombed, working in the Command Post directing the fire of the guns. She then moved to

Eastern Command where she worked as a telephonist in the Headquarters responsible for the assessment of damage. She has three daughters and used to enjoy dressmaking and needlework.

Maurice Bridgman of Edgbaston, Birmingham served in the Royal Armoured Corps from 1941 to 1942 and the Royal Pioneer Corps from 1942 to 1946. After completing his war service he returned to work for the War Pensions Office before joining the Surgical Boot Company. He later joined the Birmingham Post Newspaper and worked in the editorial office. He and his wife Edna have a daughter. He enjoyed cricket, football and driving before he lost his sight in November last year.

Frederick Cox of Horsham, West Sussex served in the Royal Artillery from 1940 to 1945 and the Royal and Electrical Mechanical Engineers from 1945 to 1946. After call-up he was posted to Rhyl for basic training and later attended a course to become an electrical engineer. His first posting was with an ack-ack Regiment. He was then transferred to Dartmoor to a Search Light and Sound Ranging Unit and promoted to Corporal. He later suffered an injury to his hand losing a finger. After leaving the services he went to work for the London Electricity Board. He retired early and worked as a packer and then as a maintenance man. He has three daughters, five grandchildren, five great-grandchildren and two great-great-grandchildren. He is a very keen gardener, loves flowers and maintains half of the garden for the retirement home where he lives. He is a member of the local Masons and the Sussex Blind Society.

Joyce Graham of Hemel Hempstead, Hertfordshire served with the Auxiliary Territorial Services from 1939 to 1946. She volunteered as a key woman in 1938 and on mobilisation joined the 7th Hants Auxiliary Services, which became part of 48 Search Light Regiment, Royal Engineers then 48 ack-ack Regiment, Royal Artillery posted throughout Southern Command. She operated telephones and tele-printers as part of the airborne division and saw service in Italy and Greece. Returning from Italy, she was discharged in Reading by Mary Churchill. After the war, she worked in the Portsmouth ENT Hospital before moving to London as a secretary. She then joined Kodak and as a secretary in their export division. She is married to Tony and continues to do voluntary work for Kodak veterans.

Joan Gurney of Hove, East Sussex served in the Auxiliary Territorial Services from 1939 to 1941. She joined as a volunteer at the Brighton Drill Hall, starting as a clerk but then transferring to the cookhouse. She later travelled to Malaya where her husband had been posted in the Army. She has a daughter, two grandsons and two great-granddaughters. She used to love books and knitting and looking after family but now enjoys talking books and newspapers.

Brigadier Edric Lassen of Camberley, Surrey served in the Royal Army Medical Corps from 1934 to 1968. He served in India, the UK, Germany, the Middle East and Malaya and received a shrapnel wound during the D-Day landings in Normandy. After retirement he worked as a medic.

Hilda Morrison of Brook Green, London served in the Women's Royal Air Force from 1941 to 1943. She joined up in Liverpool and was at first a cook but later switched to the clerical side dealing with pay books. She was posted to various locations throughout the UK including Wolverhampton, Windlesham and Liverpool. After leaving the service she became a nanny travelling around the world.

Leslie Murray of Malpas, Cheshire served in the Queen's Own Highlanders from 1960 to 1964. He initially joined the Cameron Highlanders which later amalgamated with the Seaforth Highlanders to form the Queen's Own Highlanders. Posted to Singapore and Malaya, he completed a number of long range jungle patrols in Brunei during the confrontation spending many weeks in the Rain Forest in Sarawak. After leaving the Army he had various jobs including; farm labourer and nursing. An amateur radio enthusiast, he has a small portable, which he uses to listen in to other stations. He and his wife Joyce have a son.

David Rix of Plymouth, Devon served in the Royal Signals from 1947 to 1949. He trained at Catterick before being posted to Egypt where he served throughout the Canal Zone. Back in the UK he returned to his old job in a garage. After his sight deteriorated he worked as a basket maker. He then moved to the workshop for the disabled making gowns for the NHS. A member of The Royal British Legion and local bowls club, he has three sons, three daughters and nine grandchildren.

REUNION ROUND-UP

The Derby Reunion at the Midland Hotel saw 29 St Dunstaners and 12 Widows gathered on May 22nd. Chief Executive Robert Leader presided.

On May 29th, the Holiday Inn, Cardiff was the venue for the Cardiff Reunion. St Dunstaner Ray Hazan was the Member of Council presiding over a gathering of 17 St Dunstaners, three Widows and other friends.

FIFTY YEARS AGO

St Dunstaner David Bell obtained an MA at Edinburgh University after two-and-a-half years studying Politics. He completed the degree ahead of schedule, also taking Second Class Honours in Social Anthropology. He also studied economics, moral philosophy and English Literature.

St Dunstaner Tommy Milligan presented a bust of Louis Braille to the Braille Room at Ovingdean. It was a plaster copy of an 1853 sculpture.

Music Hall star Jimmy Young visited St Dunstan's Blackpool with his wife Sally Douglas. The event was organised by St Dunstaner Gerry Brereton who also joined in with some songs of his own.

The *Dover Express* reported that two blind dogs were fundraising for St Dunstan's at the Crown Inn, Eythorne. All the regulars knew the dogs who would rub their noses against the customer, then sit back and wait - listening for the sound of a coin to be thrown on the floor. Then they track it down, carry it to the collecting box behind the bar and drop it into the slot. There was no comment from Noel Coward.

Southdown and Brighton, Hove & District Bus Companies' Summer Outing carried assorted St Dunstaners to Cowdray Park for the day. An evening stop off provided similar hospitality. The Winterton Arms, Crockershill followed a 32 year old tradition laying on beer, minerals, cider and spring onions for a group of St Dunstaners attending a sing-song. The assembled revellers were also read a telegram from "Chief Clot" Jimmy Edwards to "all his friendly Clots of St Dunstan's." The actor-comedian promised a Christmas visit.

QUIZ ANSWERS

From page 9, the answers are:

- | | |
|----------------------|---------------------------|
| 1) Tail-end Charlie. | 6) Royal Marines. |
| 2) Nepal. | 7) Robert Runcie. |
| 3) "Ark Royal". | 8) Special Boat Squadron. |
| 4) Royal Scots. | 9) Mustang. |
| 5) Hawker Hurricane. | 10) The Fleet Air Arm. |

FAMILY NEWS

BIRTHS

Congratulations on the birth of:

Amelia Page on March 28th. She is the first grandchild of *Ken and Cheryl Moss* of Scarborough, North Yorkshire.

George Stewart Freeman on April 24th. He is the second great-grandchild of *Charles and Eva Coston* of Wisbech, Cambridgeshire.

Aisha Williams on May 5th. She is the ninth grandchild of *Roger Williams* of Barry, South Glamorgan.

Lewis Charlie Blake-Bruce on May 8th. He is the first great-grandchild of *Stephen Blake* of Ovingdean.

RUBY ANNIVERSARY

Congratulations to:

Bill and Alice Griffiths of Blackpool, Lancashire on May 26th.

SPECIAL ANNIVERSARY

Congratulations to:

Samuel and Grace Keating of Exmouth, Devon who celebrated 66 years of marriage on June 6th.

DEATHS

We regret to announce the death of:

Alice Clarke of Rottingdean, East Sussex on May 7th. She was the widow of *Charlie Clarke*.

Dorothy Cowing of Sway, Hampshire on May 22nd. She was the widow of *William Cowing*.

Eileen Edwards of Sutton, Surrey on June 5th. She was the widow of *John Edwards*.

Ivy Wigglesworth of Burley in Wharfedale, West Yorkshire on June 6th. She was the widow of *Alfred Wigglesworth*.

Marie Williams of Fishbourne, Chichester, West Sussex on May 4th, aged 104. She was the sister of the late *Lt Cdr Douglas Williams*.

Doreen Foulkes of Totnes, Devon on May 29th. She was the daughter of the late *Horace Coleville*.

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 heartfelt sympathy to their widows, family and friends.

Granville Waterworth

49th Reconnaissance Regiment

Granville Waterworth of Ovingdean died on May 11th, aged 86. He had been a St Dunstaner since 1945. Originally a Capstan setter and operator in Birmingham, he joined 49th Reconnaissance Regiment in 1943. Serving as a Trooper he was injured in action in Holland by bazooka blast. After training at St Dunstan's he resumed capstan work later turning to inspection. A regular at summer camp at *Daedalus* and *Sultan*, he also successfully competed in the Stoke Manderville Games. He was also presented with a medal of dedication by the Coventry Royal British Legion for his contribution over a 50-year period. His interests included handicrafts and swimming. Our sympathy goes to sons Raymond and John and all members of the family.

Julian Stevens

Royal Marines

Julian Stevens of Rottingdean died on May 16th, aged 76. He had been a St Dunstaner since 1990. He joined the Royal Marines in 1943 and served almost continuously at sea. He served on six gun cruisers, a battleship, HMS *Ramillies*, and aircraft carrier HMS *Ocean*. He served on HMS *Glasgow* during the Normandy Landings and in the Far East. He was serving on HMS *Jamaica* in Korea when he was invalided out in 1952. Wheelchair-bound, he nonetheless won several archery trophies. In 1994 he

joined with some fellow Royal Marine St Dunstaners for a 60-mile sponsored wheelchair push from Ovingdean to Eastney Barracks, Portsmouth. His interests included bridge, music, racing and handicrafts. Our sympathy goes to his wife Margaret, daughters Susan and Pauline and all members of the family.

Jack Mason

Royal Marines

Jack Mason of Bodmin, Cornwall died on June 3rd, aged 81. He had been a St Dunstaner since 1992. He joined the Royal Marines in 1939, signing on for 12 years with the Colours. He was posted to 41 Commando where he reached the rank of Corporal. He was wounded on D-Day+6 whilst engaged in an attack on a radar station. Treading on a landmine, he lost his lower right leg and right eye. As a result he was discharged in 1946. In civilian life, he worked as a telephonist for the GPO. His interests included football, boxing, golf and he sang in the Bodmin Male Voice Choir. Mr Mason was also a member of the Royal Marine Association and the Royal Naval Association. Like Julian Stevens, he joined the 60-mile sponsored wheelchair push from Ovingdean to Eastney Barracks, Portsmouth. Our sympathy goes to his widow Monica and all members of the family.

Brian Jubb

Royal Air Force Voluntary Reserve

Brian Thomas Jubb of Bromley, Kent died on June 3rd, aged 80. He had been a St Dunstaner since 1953. Having worked in a paper making mill, he joined the Royal Air Force Voluntary Reserve in 1941 and served as an Aircraftman until 1943. In civilian life he worked as a capstan lathe operator. Our sympathy goes to his widow Gladys, daughters Denise and Kathryn and all members of the family.

Arnold "Ray" Rimmer

Royal Artillery

Arnold "Ray" Rimmer of East Grinstead, West Sussex died on June 11th. He had been a St Dunstaner since 1984. He served as a Bombardier with the Royal Artillery in the Mediterranean and Middle East from 1946 to 1958. In civilian life he worked as an ambulance driver and operating theatre attendant. His interests included Citizen Band Radio and bowls. He was a guide dog owner. Our sympathy goes to his widow Sheila, daughter Linda, son Paul and all members of the family.

THE IRON MEN STRIKE AGAIN!

Sapper/RAF combo's triumphant return to Ovingdean



THE IRON MEN AND WOMEN of RAF Brize Norton came back to St Dunstan's Ovingdean on May 22nd in their usual inimitable style. The united Sappers and RAF crew, taking part in the fifth Exercise Iron Man, made their dawn start at RAF Benson with a 150 mile cycle ride. As ever in this unique triathlon, they followed this with a 32 mile run to St Dunstan's Ovingdean. They were met in Worthing by a delegation that included St Dunstaner Iain Millard and Bob Willis from the Sports and Recreation department who joined them for the final 17 miles.

The Exercise Iron Man event was devised by Sappers from Royal Engineers (Airfields). They were joined at the King Alfred Sports and Leisure Centre, Hove by a team of St Dunstaners and staff who pedalled and ran along the Brighton sea front.

Traditionally, the event has started with a five-mile swim, this year it was decided to end with a cooling-if-energetic dip in the St Dunstan's swimming pool.

Air Commodore Alan McLoughlin, Director of the

RAF Infrastructure congratulated those who took part when he presented Iain with a cheque for over £2,000 in initial sponsorship. Last year he flew in by helicopter, this year, due to some mechanical problems, he had the misfortune to arrive in an AA breakdown truck.

