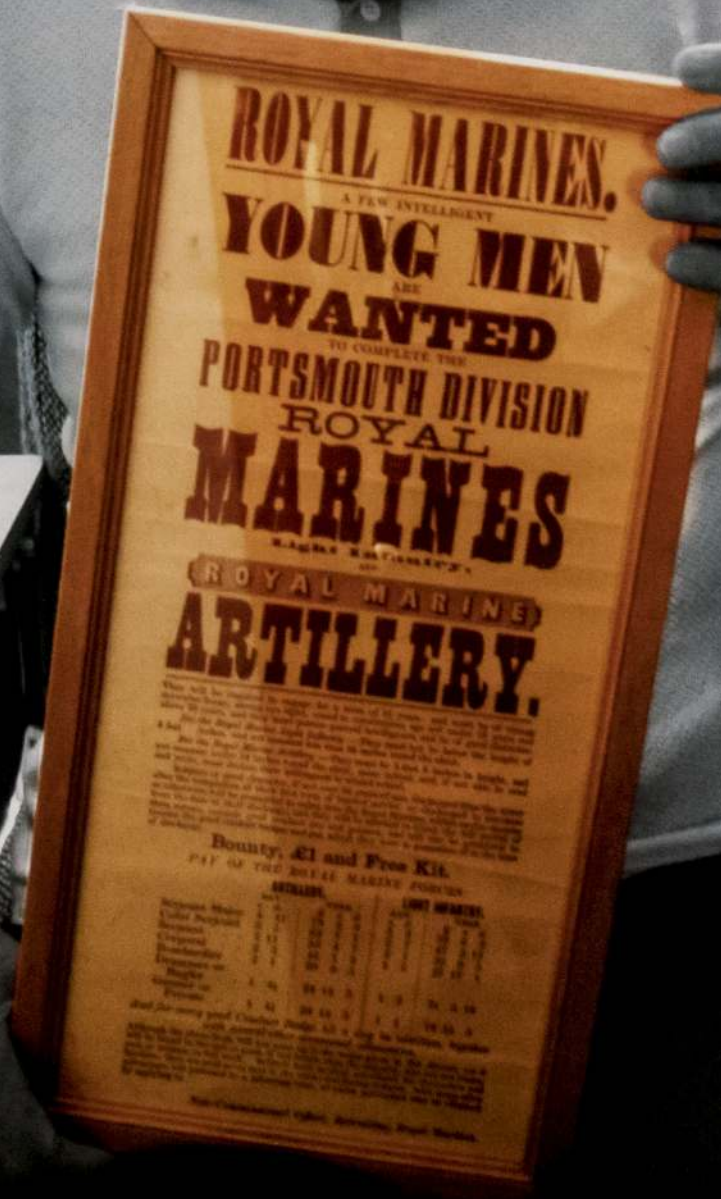


St Dunstan's Review

www.st-dunstan.org.uk

November 2002



FOR BLIND EX-SERVICE MEN AND WOMEN

St Dunstan's Review

No. 919

NOVEMBER 2002

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24

Cover picture:
St Dunstaner Bill Shea
recently discovered this
Victorian recruitment
poster for the Royal
Marines. He himself needed
no such encouragement.

Full details on page 15.

From the Chairman



His Royal Highness The Duke of Kent is welcomed to St Dunstan's Ovingdean by Captain Gordon-Lennox.

WE WERE VERY sorry to learn of the death of St Dunstaner, the Rev Michael Norman. He was Vice Chairman, St Dunstan's South Africa from 1978 and Chairman 1986 to 2001. We extend our sincere condolences to his widow, Nora, and sons Nicholas and David.

At the end of October, I reported at the AGM that due to the generosity of so many people and organisations, and in spite of the recent economic downturn, the financial position continues to be very healthy. Income from donations, legacies and investments is keeping ahead of our expenditure. Management is continually looking to maximise income and cut administrative costs.

The numbers of new St Dunstaners slowly increases as news about our change of Constitution is heard. I have sat beside St Dunstaners at some of the reunions, and heard them describe graphically their feelings as they realised that what they had always taken for granted was being taken away from them. But they have gone on to tell me how joining St Dunstan's changed their lives.

It is gratifying to know that, whilst maintaining the promises made to our long standing St Dunstaners, the help they received continues to be extended to others and is also much appreciated.

Michael Gordon-Lennox

Captain Michael Gordon-Lennox, RN



NOTICE BOARD



WHAT'S ON 2003

These are just some of the events and activities that make up St Dunstan's 2003 calendar. Details of other meetings will appear in future issues. For some club events participants should note that arrival and departure dates are one day before and after those published. All holiday and club activity bookings should be made via Jackie Castle, Bookings Supervisor on 01273 307811 ext 1422. Those booking in for club activities are reminded that reserved rooms are only held up to one month prior to the commencement of the activity. Provisional dates have been marked *(tbc)* to be confirmed.

Historical Week	January 27th - February 3rd	Widows' Week (2)	June 16th-23rd
Archery Club (1)	February 7th - 16th	Ladies Reunion	July 7th-14th
Music Appreciation Week	February 17th - 24th	Royal Marines Band Concert	July 23rd
Sports Link Sussex	March 1st	HMS Sultan Camp	July 25th-August 2nd <i>(tbc)</i>
Computer Club (1)	March 5th-6th	Billy the Whizz Speed Record	August 2nd-3rd
Amateur Radio (1)	March 7th-9th	Archery Club (3)	August 22nd-30th
Bisley Shooting	March <i>(tbc)</i>	Sporting Activities Week	September 1st-5th
Bowling Club (1)	March 14th-28th	Brighton Reunion (3)	September 17th
Brighton Reunion (1)	April 2nd	International Congress of War Blind Organisations	September 20th-24th
Ex-POW Reunion	April 4th-7th	Physiotherapy Weekend	September 26th-28th <i>(tbc)</i>
Widows' Week (1)	April 7th-14th	Computer Club (2)	October 8th-9th
Dutch Memorial - Laying of Flowers	April 10th	Amateur Radio (2)	October 10th-12th
Masonic Reunion	April 25th-27th	Widows' Week (3)	October 13th-20th
Handless Reunion	May 7th-13th	Bowling Club (2)	October 24th- November 5th
Exercise Ironman	May 15th	Remembrance Sunday	November 9th
Gardening Week	May 19th-26th	Christmas Craft Week	December 1st-8th
Craft Exhibition	June <i>(tbc)</i>	Christmas Week	December 20th/21st-27th
Brighton Reunion (2)	June 4th	New Year Week	December 28th-January 3rd/4th
Archery Club (2)	June 6th-15th		

DEADLINES FOR FUTURE ISSUES

The final date for submitting items for publication in the December *Review* is November 11th 2002.

The final date for submitting items for publication in the February *Review* is January 6th 2003.

ST DUNSTAN'S TRAVEL POLICY



St Dunstaners enroute to Ovingdean.

After much deliberation and the assistance of a working group led by Ray Hazan, which included St Dunstaners and staff, we have drawn up a revised Travel Policy. This article outlines some of the main points. Much of the policy remains unchanged, whilst other measures are about setting a few limits which will not apply until the New Year. Individuals affected will be approached on a case-by-case basis.

The background for this work is the escalating bill for transporting people to and from Ovingdean, and the desire to be equitable. In the current budget we have allowed over a quarter of a million pounds. By tradition this travel has been free and that will continue. It is worth noting that as far as we are aware St Dunstan's is the only charitable organisation, certainly amongst the ex-Service charities, that provides such extensive free travel. However, given the rising costs we do have to put some real limitations on what we do and how we do it. We owe that to both our donors and to the St Dunstaners who do not avail themselves of Ovingdean. In some way we have perhaps strayed from St Dunstan's original philosophy, to encourage St Dunstaners to be independent, by providing door-to-door travel.

One of the principles to be adopted is that Ovingdean vehicles will only be provided for those unable to use public or their own transport, unless it is more cost effective or practical to provide a St Dunstan's car or coach. Those using their own cars or public transport will continue to be reimbursed. Please see the cashier at Ovingdean to claim mileage allowance or take your rail tickets or receipt. You should please make use of the disabled rail card to cover you and the person travelling with you. Ticketing advice should be sought from the Transport Department before travelling.

In practice, often it will be cost effective to provide Ovingdean transport but this can only be achieved if people share the journey and we fill the vehicle on the outward and inward trip. For Health and Safety reasons, smoking is not allowed in any vehicle. The Transport Department will decide on the route taken, the type of vehicle used, and the date and time of pick up and return. Every effort will be made to make the journey as comfortable as possible. The driver will make 'convenience' and refreshment stops as required and help with mobility to and from the restaurant or toilets. Normally, however, the driver will not be able to provide 'nursing' or other intimate care. Anyone taking regular medication should carry sufficient supplies for the journey. The Transport Department will liaise with the Head of Care when general transport is deemed unsuitable for those with a medical condition or requiring care support. Those who are unwilling to fit in with this practical proposition will be asked to make their own arrangements, with travel costs reimbursed at the standard rate. Welfare Officers will be consulted in cases of doubt and travel assistance will be provided where a need can clearly be demonstrated. If arrangements are altered by the user for reasons other than ill health or bereavement, and St Dunstan's cannot supply transport on the revised dates, the person will be responsible for making his or her own travel arrangements at his or her own expense.

Although travel to and from Ovingdean will be free, it is appropriate that there is some limitation in terms of using Ovingdean. Thus, the stay must be for a minimum of two consecutive nights and for a St Dunstan's approved purpose - using Ovingdean as an overnight hotel en route to or from Gatwick for ones holiday in the sun would not be in the spirit of the free transport provision!

We will continue to use Ovingdean vehicles for events such as the Brighton and area Reunions. Spouses or others living in the Brighton area visiting residents at Ovingdean may be offered three journeys a week, on the Welfare Officer's recommendation. Spouses from further afield visiting St Dunstaners permanently resident at Ovingdean will receive free travel once a month. Such trips cannot be accumulated. Alternatively, residents may be provided with transport to visit spouses, but this is not additional to the above. Travel will be made available to other permanent residents to visit immediate family for key occasions, such as weddings and funerals. These journeys will be authorised by the Ovingdean Manager/Head of Care.

There are occasions when those staying at or staging through Ovingdean, want transport for some private purpose that cannot be met by the coach schedule. This will not come within the principle of free transport normally, but Ovingdean vehicles may be used if:

- The journey is recommended by the Welfare Officer
- The individual is charged the appropriate costs (usually the St Dunstan's public transport rate or the St Dunstan's taxi account charge).
- Transport is available.

St Dunstaners may not book taxis on St Dunstan's account, this may only be done by a limited number of key staff. Provision at St Dunstan's expense will not be provided for those who have failed to utilise scheduled transport.

Depending upon the distance, local St Dunstaners may be offered lifts into Ovingdean for up to 5 sessions (half-days) a week. This will be on a bus-route principle. Individual trips will not normally be authorised. Those living further afield will be required to combine sessions. Where appropriate, the request for transport will need to be backed by a Welfare Officer's recommendation.

In order to limit costs, transport for club activities will be made available for up to three occasions per annum.

We have tried to set out some clearer guidelines. However, individual needs will be considered, based on your Welfare Officer's recommendation. In some cases, this recommendation could mean costs being met by a Welfare grant. Such occasions might involve a spouse visiting a St Dunstaner in hospital, or vice versa. Thus, I hope nobody will feel inhibited about discussing his or her needs with their Welfare Officer so we can continue to provide a personal and appropriate service to every individual.

Robert Leader
Chief Executive

ST DUNSTAN'S DAY

St Dunstan's Day on December 9th will mark 81 years since the death of our founder Sir Arthur Pearson, Bart. It was his determination and inspiration that laid the foundation for the organisation that we know today. After losing his sight, he defied the conventions of the day and encouraged other blind men and women to reclaim productive roles in society.

ST DUNSTAN'S WALKING CLUB RETURN TO FRANCE FOR 2003

St Dunstan's Walking Club Holiday will take place in France from June 15th-22nd next year. Les Fourgs is located some 3 kilometres from the Swiss border and Geneva is the nearest airport.

Les Fourgs is situated on the edge of a small village in the Jura Massif of central Eastern France. It is a dairy region surrounded by woods and pastures; you are likely to be woken by the sound of cow bells! The walks are divided into 'tranquille' at around 5 to 8 miles a day and the 'sportifs' at around 15 miles per day.

The hotel is informal and all rooms enjoy en suite facilities. There is an indoor swimming pool, fitness room and sauna. Meals are taken 'en famille', i.e. in a relaxed and informal atmosphere.

The cost of the holiday is 387 Euros (approx £240) per person per week, which includes full board, transfers to and from the airport and a walk guide. The return air fare is expected to cost around £100 and all participants must arrange their own insurance cover and be prepared to provide a doctor's certificate if requested.

Would anyone interested in joining this holiday, please contact Ray Hazan at Headquarters on 020 7723 5021 as soon as possible or e-mail him on ray.hazan@st-dunstans.org.uk.

JOIN A NEW CLUB

Suggestions are invited for sports and activities that could form the focus of new St Dunstan's clubs. For example, a running club is currently under consideration and Sports and Recreation Supervisor Louise Timms is seeking feedback on other activities that appeal to St Dunstaners. Ideas can be submitted to Louise at St Dunstan's Ovingdean on 01273 391400.

HAVE A BALL AT OIVINGDEAN

St Dunstan's Ovingdean will be hosting a "New Year's Eve Ball" in the Ballroom with music and dancing by Rick Bonner. The dress will be black tie and evening dress, not fancy dress as in previous years.

MAGAZINES ON TAPE

Tape versions of Soldier, Sapper and FEPOW Post are available on request from Fundraising and Communications at Headquarters.

ST DUNSTAN'S CHRISTMAS CARDS

This year there are four different Christmas card designs, available in single packs. The card size is 4⁷/₈ inches by 4⁷/₈ inches (125x125mm). Produced on top quality board, they are supplied with envelopes wrapped in cellophane in packs of ten. The greeting inside reads: "With Best Wishes for Christmas and the New Year" and on the inside cover it states that they are sold in aid of St Dunstan's.

Each pack of ten cards costs £2.75 each, plus postage and packaging.

SD01: Christmas Tree

This painting depicts an evergreen tree adorned with baubles against a red background. There is a blue frame marked with stars.

SD02: Holly on Music

This shows a sprig of holly with red berries lying on a sheet of music.

SD03: Snowdrop Robin

A red-breasted robin sits on a log in the middle of a snow-covered landscape. The Snowdrops and the odd blade of grass poke through and there is a church in the distance.

SD04: Following Yonder Star

The Three Wise Men line up in profile with their gifts for the newborn Messiah. This desert scene is framed by the music for the familiar hymn.

We also have a selection of Note Cards and Christmas wrapping paper. The Note Cards are all sized 3⁷/₈ by 5¹/₈ inches (98x130 mm). Each pack has ten cards (five each of two designs) and costs £2.50 plus P&P.

SD05: Fruit & Flora Note Cards

The first shows a golden apple with resting butterfly, a plum and wild flowers. There is notation in the background and a white border. The second follows a similar design showing a damson branch, a butterfly resting on an orange, a pear and wild flowers.

SD06: Snowdrop Note Cards

The first card depicts a bunch of snowdrops in a flower pot framed by a white border. The second shows a bunch of snowdrops tied by a red ribbon.

SD07: Star Giftwrap

Five different coloured sheets of paper with gold stars and matching tags (flat, folded and bagged) priced £3 plus P&P.

Postage & Packing rates are as follows:

Up to 2 items £0.60 6-10 items £2.50
3-5 items £1.50 For larger orders please
call 01934 522920 for P&P costs

If you would like to place an order for any of these items, write to St Dunstan's, PO Box 280, Weston-Super-Mare, North Somerset BS22 9ZD. Alternatively you can call direct on 01934 522 920, quoting the reference codes.

The closing date for orders is December 6th.

NOT DONATELLA THEN

A major retrospective exhibition of the work of Italian fashion designer Versace will be staged at the Victoria and Albert Museum on December 2nd. Curator Claire Wilcox will talk about the display and there will be an opportunity to handle fabrics. For details telephone 020 7942 2197 or e-mail bookings.office@vam.ac.uk.

VOCAL EYES-ING THE DRAMA

VocalEyes continue to provide audio description to theatre productions around the nation. They add extra narrative to a show to inform blind patrons of set details, costume and action. Forthcoming productions include:

King Lear at Cambridge Arts Theatre (01223 503333, customers with a disability can purchase tickets at half price) on November 16th and Gala Theatre, Durham (0191 3324041, customers with a disability can claim a free ticket for a companion) on November 21st. Touch tours available.

Zeroes & Nils at Nottingham Playhouse, Nottingham (0115 9419419) on November 19th.

Miss Saigon at Edinburgh Playhouse (0131 524 3301) on November 22nd and 23rd. Touch tours available before both performances.

Tosca at Leeds Grand Theatre & Opera House (0113 223 3524) on November 28th. Touch tour available. Tickets reduced to £10.

Henry IV Part II at the Bristol Old Vic, Bristol (0117 987 7877) on November 30th.

Les Miserables at the Palace Theatre, London (020 7494 5448) on December 3rd.

SERVICE PENSIONS TAXATION ERROR UPDATE FROM MOD

The Ministry of Defence has released further information regarding the taxation of attributable Service Invaliding Pensions in the Armed Forces Pension Scheme. In addition to tax being incorrectly assessed against a number of Service Invaliding Pensions, it has recently identified that there have been cases where Armed Forces Pension Scheme (AFPS) benefits have also been affected.

Please note the following important points:

- If you were not **medically discharged** from the Armed Forces, you are NOT affected by this announcement.
- Only SOME of the people incorrectly taxed have received less AFPS benefits than they should.
- If you have already requested a review of your pension payments because of the taxation issue - you do NOT need to request a further review. Any underpayment of pension will be corrected automatically during the review process.

If you have not already requested a review of your Armed Forces pension and you think you may have been incorrectly taxed, please contact the relevant Service Pensions Office below:

Royal Navy

Ministry of Defence, AFPAA(C), /RN Pensions, Room 1069 Centurion Building, Grange Road, Gosport, PO13 9XA.
Help Lines 02392 702606/702220/702254

Army

Ministry of Defence, AFPAA(G), Pension Division, MP480, Kentigern House, 65 Brown Street, Glasgow, G2 8EX.
Help Lines 0141 224-2351/2352/2353

Royal Air Force

Ministry of Defence, AFPAA(I), RAF Pensions Building 250, RAF Innsworth, Gloucester, GL3 1EZ
Help Lines 01452 712612 Ext 6474/6477/6476

BOMBER COMMAND DIARY

The Bomber Command Diary on the Royal Air Force website has been updated to include 1943. The campaign diary starts in 1939 and includes sections on the Battles of Britain and France. Log on at <http://www.raf.mod.uk/bombercommand/diary/index.html>.

STORY WRITING COMPETITION

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

Please will you follow these steps when submitting entries:

- 1) Entries should be typewritten and should not exceed 1500 words.
- 2) Please submit your entry under a nom-de-plume.
- 3) Please write your nom-de-plume and your real name and seal them up in an envelope, which should accompany your entry. Envelopes will not be opened until the judge has made his or her decision.
- 4) Only one submission per person.
- 5) Entries must be received by the Editor, *St Dunstan's Review*, 12-14 Harcourt Street, London W1H 4HD by Monday February 4th, 2003.

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

TALKING DICTIONARY

Talking Dictionary is a speech enabled 250,000 word English dictionary. It incorporates "sounds-like" spell checking technology and easy to use keyboard commands and has been designed so that a blind user can install it on a computer with ease.

A working demonstration copy can be downloaded prior to purchasing the fully working version for £25. A talking calculator is also available. For more details e-mail talking_software@gothere.uk.com or visit the website on http://www.btinternet.com/~rfairbairn/html/talking_dictionary.html

THE WORLD IN YOUR HANDS

The RNIB Tactile Globe has been reduced to £39.99. One foot, three inches (380mm), the sphere is sky blue with continents in green. The continents protrude by 3mm and can be pulled out using a pointed peg. The oceans and continents are marked in large print and grade 1 braille. For details telephone 0845 7023153 or visit <http://onlineshop.mib.org.uk/sale.asp>.

Review feedback

WE WOULD APPRECIATE your comments on the November issue of *St Dunstan's Review*.

Name

Address

Are you a (please tick):
St Dunstaner
A St Dunstan's Widow
A Supporter
Other (please specify)

What was the most useful item in this issue?

What were your five favourite items in this issue (in order of preference)?

- 1
- 2
- 3
- 4
- 5

What was your least favourite item in this issue?

Is there an item or subject you would like to be featured in a future issue of *St Dunstan's Review*?

Please send this slip to:
St Dunstan's Review
12-14 Harcourt Street
London W1H 4HD
or e-mail your comments to
simon.rogers@st-dunstans.org.uk.

Some model architecture



THERE HAS BEEN a curious gap on the concourse at Ovingdean lately. The model of the building, which new St Dunstaners use to orientate themselves, has been absent from its usual place of honour. This was due to one of those occasional periods of refurbishment that the model goes through to keep it up to the minute (much like the real building itself). Previous overhauls have been carried out by Edward Waller and

Gary Glower, amongst others. This time, the miniature version of St Dunstan's Ovingdean has been updated to reflect changes to the Chapel, the Annexe and Swimming Pool roof. Architect Stewart McMullan who specialises in constructing models of projected developments carried out the work. Stewart is rather familiar with St Dunstan's - his grandfather is Saltdean St Dunstaner Bob Webb.

One of the worst buildings in a brave new Brighton?

ST DUNSTAN'S OVINGDEAN has been named as one of the worst buildings in Brighton by a local author proposing a scheme of skyscrapers and airports for future developers. Dr Anthony Seldon's new book *Brave New City* argues that St Dunstan's is in the wrong place.

On the *Brighton Argus* website Seldon said: "Choosing the worst ten buildings was difficult, not because the choice was so limited but because it was so vast. Architects, builders and developers have a terrible responsibility, because their creations will continue to delight,

or to vex, long after their names have been forgotten."

In Seldon's Top Ten, St Dunstan's ranks sixth, although the author concedes that the building has merit. The problem, he feels, is that it is in the wrong place. "Built from 1937 to 1939, this seven-storey building was apparently meant to resemble a biplane. For a nearby example of how a substantial building can harmonise with its surroundings, one has only to compare it with Roedean School (1899), a far happier building that complements - and compliments, rather than insults - the Downs."

Good catch down south

ILFRACOMBE EXTENDED its customary hospitality to St Dunstan's Fishing Club last month. St Dunstaners Fred Bentley, Phil Dobson, Cliff Ford, Alan Mitchell and Gary Ogden, aided by Stan Bowers were out on the boat with great hopes that the fish would be biting.

Club Secretary Phil Dobson told the *Review* that their expectations were fulfilled. "There was some conger, Gary Ogden caught a 14lb Pollock, Cliff Ford caught a 6lb bull huss and the weather was alright, very warm. "One of the helpers caught a 25lb conger, Larry and Paul, the skipper dragged it onto the boat and put it in the box. Of course, they got the hook out of its mouth, then this conger just dived out of the box with jaws agape! Paul nearly went over boat and we all disappeared into the wheelhouse. They wrestled it back into box and got it calmed down."

Final verdict: "We had some good fishing and good times."



Gary Ogden hoists his 14lb catch into the air.

Roger targets blind pupils

ROGER MCMULLAN put his experience as a St Dunstan's archery coach to good use in the Channel Islands in September. Having been invited to officiate at the Woolwich International Archery Tournament on Guernsey, he introduced a group of visually impaired school children to the sport. Five Guernsey students were taught how to use the tactile sight at Port Soif. One of Roger's pupils, 15-year-old Kiri Knight from Vale said "I have never tried anything quite like this. I enjoy swimming and horse riding but it was a fantastic feeling to shoot arrows."

Ten Questions on ...

Europe

Review Quizmaster Harry Beevers goes continental

- 1) Which is Europe's longest river?
- 2) And on which river do four European capital cities stand?
- 3) Which two countries of mainland Europe have a coastline on the Bay of Biscay?
- 4) In 1875 when Captain Matthew Webb became the first man to swim the English Channel, in which country did he land?
- 5) In which European country were the composers Frederick Delius and Gustav Holst born?
- 6) Which European country ruled Argentina for more than 300 years?
- 7) There are said to be two European countries where there are no snakes in the wild, one is Ireland, which is the other?
- 8) Gin was introduced into Britain in the late 17th century from which European country?
- 9) What is the highest value Euro coin?
- 10) A member of the United Nations Organisation since 1945, which is Europe's second largest country in area?

Answers on page 22

WELCOME TO ST DUNSTAN'S

September 10th

John Ager of Luton, Bedfordshire served in the Royal Navy (Fleet Air Arm) from 1943 to 1946. After training he was based at HMS *Sanderling* as an Electric and Instrumentation Mechanic. After leaving the Service he worked as a toolmaker and as a security guard. He enjoys the garden and collecting model aeroplanes. He and his wife Sheila have one son, two daughters and four grandchildren.

Henry Gibbon of Felling, Gateshead served with the 2nd Battalion, Durham Light Infantry from 1940 to 1946. Posted to Burma through Bombay, he saw action in Arakan and Kohima and was wounded during the battle for Kohima. He then spent time in Rangoon. After service he returned to his job as a cooper. His interests include playing bowls. He has three sons, four grandchildren and five great grandchildren.

Herbert Jarrett of Eastbourne served in the Royal Air Force from 1926 to 1959.

Ernest Lloyd of Kings Heath, Birmingham served with the Royal Artillery, Durham Light Infantry and 6th Airborne Division between 1939 and 1946. He was posted to a Royal Artillery field gun unit in southern England but was moved to Northern Ireland as a member of 4th HAA Regiment, equipped with 4.5inch guns. He then returned to England with Durham Light Infantry before volunteering for 6th Airborne. He took part in the glider crossing of the Rhine in 1945 after which he was taken Prisoner of War for seven weeks. After leaving the Service he became a sheet metal worker in Birmingham. Always very keen on sport, he was an athlete and a cricketer and also enjoyed snooker, he is now an avid listener of Radio 5 Live. He and his wife Alice have one daughter and two grandchildren.

September 27th

Rita Culmer of Horsham, West Sussex served in the Royal Air Force from 1941 to 1946. After training she joined the meteorological unit at Cranwell but later transferred to Tangmere. After

leaving the Service she returned to her old job with the Post Office at Bognor Regis. Later she worked for the RSPCA and the Local Authority in Horsham. Her interests include walking. She and her husband, Philip, have two daughters.

Eric Nightingale of Marton, Middlesbrough served in the Royal Air Force from 1954 to 1956. He was posted to the Middle East as a telephonist and served in Egypt before being posted to Iraq. In civilian life he worked as a Joiner, working for firms such as Laings and Monks. In 1969 he went into business as a newsagent. He is keen on sport, particularly football, and enjoys gardening and a wide range of music. He has a son, a grand-daughter and grandson.

Joyce Philippon of Capel St Mary, Suffolk served in the Women's Auxiliary Air Force from 1942 to 1945. She trained as a wireless operator and was posted to Wiltshire where she worked with a pilot training unit. After leaving the Service she worked as a commercial artist in Florida, USA. She enjoys arts and crafts, playing the piano and swimming.

Linley Stephens of Billingham, Cleveland served with the Royal Air Force from 1951 to 1953. He was sent to Canada where he learned to fly Harvards before transferring to Navigation. He left the Air Force as a Pilot Officer. In civilian life he worked for ICI. He and his wife, Joan, have two daughters and 3 grandchildren. He used to construct flying model aircraft, enjoys music and is interested in computers.

John Vincent of Crosland Moor, Huddersfield, West Yorkshire served in the Royal Air Force from 1940 to 1945. After initial training as a Wireless Operator/Air Gunner he was posted to North Africa just before El Alamein. As a member of a Wellington crew, he had completed 33 operations in three months when his aircraft was shot down near Tobruk. The crew spent eight days behind enemy lines trying to make their way back when they were captured. He was held as a POW in North Africa, Italy and Germany before being released by Cossacks on horseback. After the war he worked

for Ambassador constructing radios and televisions, later moving onto retail and servicing. In later years he joined the local authorities' Education Department servicing electronic equipment in schools. He and his wife Marjorie have three sons, eight grandchildren and one great grandchild.

Frederick Weaver of Kings Norton, Birmingham served with Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire Light

Infantry from 1941 to 1946. Posted to Northern Ireland, he volunteered to join the senior Battalion who were training as airborne troops. He was deployed on D-Day with the glider force, landing near a canal bridge near Caen. They stayed in Europe until June before returning to the UK in preparation for a Far East tour but were hastily deployed to the Ardennes during the German breakout. After leaving the Service he returned to his job as a foundry worker in Birmingham. He is married to Brenda.

Maurice Aldridge uncovers some bear facts about the origin of words

Names remain after ruin of the bruin

IF YOU GO down to the woods today, the biggest surprise you're likely to have is that you've managed to find such a place at all in the concrete desert of motorways and out of town shopping centres which make up the modern environment. True, if you look carefully, you are sure to find a few survivors from the past such as the occasional butterfly and/or moth. There will certainly be plenty of flies and, lurking under that leafy mush that messes up your smart city footwear, there could be genuine, prehistoric creepy-crawlies. What you definitely will not run into is a jolly company of bears having a picnic nor will you encounter a bear family defending their breakfast porridge from the attentions of little girls who should know better. The truth is, of course, that we have successfully eliminated master bear from the landscape. Thanks to our traps and wonderful firepower, bruin has met his big bang.

As with the European wolf, most people would doubtless welcome the reintroduction of the European bear in theory – but not in practice! Bears after all are cuddly little fellows and no trouble whatever as long as they're full of sawdust or whatever and sitting in baby's pram. Indeed, they can be positively inviting stuffed with pyjamas and lying on a pretty girl's pillow. They do, however, become troublesome when they start going around hugging innocent passers by to death. Likewise, wolves are romantic, noble creatures who are no bother at all as long as they're lost in a Russian forest or somewhere equally remote. They lose their appeal the moment they start devouring the baby lambs we're carefully rearing in order to devour ourselves.

Wolves are good news as long as they're not in our back yard. As for bears, they're definitely at their best at a distance, for example, in the wilder places of America where they can be safely observed from behind shatter-proof windows of the touring coach scaring the lives out of picnickers or emptying dustbins. The truth is, with few exceptions, we modern Europeans are all for wildlife as long as it's not too wild and somewhere else.

Our Germanic forefathers on the other hand had no liking for bears whatever close-up or far away. They were terrified of them so much so that they were afraid to use the proper name for any animal of the genus ursidae, namely 'urs', in case the evil one should be listening. Instead, they used the word 'bear' meaning 'warrior', presumably in the belief that the vile creature would either be flattered and leave them alone or else be misled into thinking they were talking of someone else. The Russians felt pretty much the same way but, being exceedingly sweet of tooth themselves - witness Rasputin's insatiable appetite for candy - they referred to Master Bruin as 'medved' or 'honey eater'.

Curiously, the Latin peoples of Europe, including the French, seem not to have been particularly afraid of bears so the word they use is 'ours', derived with no monkey business from the Indo-European word for the animal. Perhaps they feel that since they revere so highly St Ursuline whose name means 'little bear', they enjoy special protection. Maybe it would not be kind to remind them that St Ursuline was not French but English!

DUKE HAS HIGH PRAISE FOR REMARKABLE ST DUNSTANERS



St Dunstaner Bill Carthy was working on a stool.



St Dunstaner Arthur Harvey and ROVI Paul Hartley demonstrated cooking skills.



Jessie McNulty shares a joke with His Royal Highness.

“Their spirit is absolutely amazing, absolutely undaunted”

PRINCE EDWARD George Nicholas Patrick Windsor, more formally known as His Royal Highness The Duke of Kent, hailed St Dunstaners as remarkable people when he visited St Dunstan's Ovingdean on October 15th. He feted their cheerful spirit during a tour of inspection, examining refurbishment work carried out on Ansell Wing and to open the new rooms on the fourth floor, Fraser Wing.

The weather was less than agreeable outside with gusty winds, heavy rain and a touch of snow heralding the forthcoming winter. However this did not seem to dampen The Duke's interest. The rain held off long enough for the Duke to be greeted at the entrance by our Chairman Captain Michael Gordon-Lennox, The High Sheriff of East Sussex, The Hon David Pennock and Dr Desmond Turner, MP for Brighton Kemptown.

Walking into reception, The Chairman presented Mr Robert Leader, Chief Executive of St Dunstan's and other senior members of staff. The Duke's tour started in earnest on the Main floor concourse, where Facilities Manager Michael Hordell gave a brief overview of the building using the recently updated model.

In the main lounge, His Royal Highness mingled with St Dunstaners such as Billy Orr, who spoke of his experience in the Gloucesters and Ted Yeaman who revealed a little of life as a Far East Prisoner of War in Singapore. The Chairman also

explained the significance of the Dutch Memorial Statue in the garden, though the weather discouraged a closer examination.

At the entrance of the Ansell wing, Captain Gordon-Lennox presented Mr Andrew Symonds and Mr Malcolm Gordon of MacConvilles, one of the companies responsible for the recent refurbishment work. He then turned to Lesley Styche, Head of Rehabilitation and Training who outlined the aims of her department. She was aided by Sarah Jarron who explained the origins of the stained glass window, the various activities were depicted and how St Dunstaners had worked on its construction.

Moving into the Training Kitchen, St Dunstaner Arthur Harvey was in place to demonstrate the value of daily living skills.

In the Workshop, Wallace Burnet-Smith, Reg Packman, Bill Carthy, Frank Tinsley and Matthew Rhodes demonstrated the diversity and inventiveness of their handicraft skills. Dr Alex Sakula presented The Duke with a jewellery box that he had recently made. The Sports Hall was the

Simon Rogers reports



Above: Ex-FEPOW Ted Yeaman challenges The Duke to a game of shuffleboard. **Left:** Brenda Tinsley in the Winter Garden. **Bottom Left:** Alf Walters describes life as a resident. **Below:** Billy Orr raises a smile with his trademark humour.





Violet on the keyboard.

venue for demonstrations of bowling, archery and acoustic rifle shooting. Bob Osborne, Iain Millard, Dave Humphries and Norman Perry practised their respective skills. The gymnasium, in turn, was being used by Barbara Bell, Eddy Alchin and Eddie O'Brian, who took a brief break from pumping iron.

Moving round to Rehabilitation and Training, Information Technology Supervisor Janis Sharp presented St Dunstaners Mark Threadgold and Violet Withers as she explained the advantages of screenreaders, magnifiers and split-screen cctv.

Head of Care Jackie Greer took centre stage to explain the work of the nursing and residential floors, her description endorsed by the practical experience of St Dunstaners Stan Grimsey and Jessie McNulty.

On the Fourth Floor, Captain Gordon-Lennox presented



His Royal Highness shakes hands with Jimmy Peglar.

Director of Fundraising Nicholas Ward and Mr Julian Jones and Stephen Woolley of Bluestone PLC which converted the old office wings into new accommodation. The Chairman then invited The Duke to unveil a plaque commemorating his visit. Before he did so, His Royal Highness said "St Dunstan's is a place which is synonymous with the care of people who have suffered in the service of their country. I feel what you are doing here is quite remarkable. I was most impressed meeting the people downstairs, their spirit is absolutely amazing, absolutely undaunted and full of determination. Very remarkable."

Before, during and after lunching in the Winter Garden, His Royal Highness met more "remarkable" St Dunstaners before he left – Brenda Tinsley, James Peglar, James Poole, Arthur Lowe, John Walbrugh, Ray Hazan and Billy Baxter who spoke of his Blind Ambition Speed Record Attempt.



Mark Threadgold demonstrates a screenreader.



Alex Sakula gave The Duke a sample of his handywork.

A Marine to the core!

"Churchill said Italy was the soft underbelly of Europe but it was far from soft. It was a slogging match"

BILL SHEA holds up a framed recruitment poster. Not far removed from a circus flyer, it dates to the end of the 19th Century and declares: "Royal Marines. A few intelligent Young Men are Wanted to Complete The Portsmouth Division Royal Marines Light Infantry and Royal Marine Artillery." Subsequent paragraphs list opportunities for bounty, wages and "free" kit.

Not that he would have needed any such encouragement. In his youth it seemed obvious what the future had in store for Bill – a life in the Royal Marines. "I was born in the Corps," he said. "I was born at Eastney Barracks at Portsmouth. My father was serving in what was then the Royal Marine Artillery. There were two regiments then, until 1923 when they were amalgamated.

"My father was long service and therefore a pensioner, and went on reserve. He was on reserve until 1939, that's when his reserve would have finished but they nabbed him quick and called him up the day before war broke out. He did service in the Second World War. He was eventually let out on compassionate grounds because when I was wounded, my mother was seriously ill. He had a lot to deal with you might say.

He was a great character, a Royal Marine right to the very end."

But what of Bill's own military career? "I was a regular before the war. I was what they called a King's Badge man. There were two of us in St Dunstan's, Lionel Scott was the other, he joined as a bugler in 1942. He became a gunnery instructor, I was a military training instructor."

St Dunstaner Bill Shea in conversation with Simon Rogers

As fate would have it, Bill's Service prospects would have an abrupt ending. "I was 17 when signed up and 22 when I was invalided out. I was a Sergeant MTI. When I got into the Commando, that became a secondary job. The first time I volunteered I was rejected because I was an instructor. They said they wanted the instructors in the UK for training people. I was in the 5th Battalion Royal Marines, one of the original amphibious brigades and Colonel Reading said 'We want you here training people, not going out there getting killed.' Poignant statement really! He said 'We spent money training you, we don't want to get rid of you.' There we are. The next time I managed to bypass the Colonel, it's something I don't think he'd be very happy about but that's a long time ago now."

An early operation saw Bill and his Commando heading out to Holland in an unexpected fashion.

"That was a last minute thing. I was in Romney barracks at Chatham. They started forming the Royal Marine Amphibious Brigade. I was in Signals, my headquarters was at Plymouth. All those people who were going to Brigade Signals, they all collected up at Chatham, we were just there, we weren't training, we didn't have anything going. There we were one morning when general assembly sounded up and everybody, unless they were active on duty, was on parade. We were a really odd lot. There were a load of youngsters, like me, newly in battle dress. Originally we'd been in the First World War Khaki service dress. We'd come out of that into battle dress. Some were in blues, some were in overalls, some were in battle dress. Anyway we were sorted out and sent to collect our weapons and we got on buses down to Dover.

"We fell in at the jetty and they said 'From Here to the right, turn right, and from here to the left, turn left.' The others went to Calais and we went to Holland. There were all sorts of odd units in this group, the Guards, chaps from various regiments and the job was to get the Dutch Royal Family out.

"It didn't amount to very much apart from getting out and deploying. There was a story that German Paras were in the area but we never saw anything. It went off very smoothly. Once the Dutch Royal Family were removed we were withdrawn and back to

barracks. We were told we were going to get a medal for it but we never did. It was a routine job. The chaps who went to Calais were in the thick of it. We lost a lot of chaps there and we had to do a complete reorganising of the Signals group."

For a period, Bill and his group were sent off to South Wales, followed by the prospect of going into Southern Ireland if the Germans went in. A spell back in Plymouth was followed by a West African posting characterised by the peculiar politics of the Free French in Senegal. With a laugh he tells how General DeGaulle said he did not want "French men killing French men," and how Admiral

There was a time when you called them "the poor bloody infantry" and they certainly were then

Cunningham is reputed to have replied "And I don't want them killing English men either!"

However the advance into Italy represents a different kettle of fish. "Lady Astor, a Member of Parliament, round about the D-Day operation, when she was saying how well the lads were doing in Normandy whereas the troops out in Italy were enjoying the women, the sunshine and the vino. Somebody put together a ditty The D-Day Dodgers sung to the tune of Lille Marlene. Then, of course, all the lads in Italy became D-Day Dodgers," explained Bill.

"Actually Italy was one hell of a campaign really! I know Churchill called it the soft underbelly of Europe, but it was far from soft. If you look at the main end of Italy and the mountains coming more or

less down the centre and you've got to the left, to the west, the rivers going down and these mountains going down to the Mediterranean and on the other side you've got these Adriatic areas that are relatively plain. But the troops that went up the west coast, The British 10 Corps were part of the American 5th Army and Brian Horrocks, who was later Black Rod and a member of St Dunstan's Council, was in that. There were 100,000 Brits, 70,000, Americans, 30,000 others and they had one hell of a slogging match. It was cross this ridge, well defended down the valley, having to cross another defended river - it was a slogging match. It wasn't tank country, it was a slogging match.

There was a time when you called them 'the poor bloody infantry' and they certainly were then."

Bill is scathing of the American Command in that campaign. "Clark, he became a member of Congress, was just in for himself! 'I was the man who put our boys in Rome,' he said. Of course he did that - but he completely disobeyed orders to do it! He went straight to Rome when he should have circled round and bottled up a large portion of the German Army, instead a large number of them got away.

"I don't think people realise how bad it was in Italy. It's always sad to look back. I've been back a number of times but it is always sad to visit the cemeteries and remember the people who didn't make it back."

The move into Italy had fateful consequences for Bill as well. "There was a television programme recently that started by saying the Americans were crossing the Garigliano on the 20th January 1944. The Americans were crossing the Garig; there were two rivers, the Garig and the Liano which run into each other and become the Garigliano. The Americans got into trouble and had a lot of casualties and they didn't cross the river for another three weeks.

"What that story didn't say," adds Bill, "was that on the 17th of January half of my Commando, 3 Troop, crossed the Garig on the first attempt and Brian Horrocks had the Beds and Hertfordshires follow us. They got a bridgehead over the river and we thought 'Oh good they've got the bridgehead over.' Our job was to deal with a gun battery and occupy a small town called Castleforte."

So far, so good! "The gun battery was pretty successful. We caught them by surprise and did a lot of damage and then set off to Castleforte. The objective was that the Germans would have to bring reinforcements through Castleforte. My job was to make it difficult for them.

"Now the intelligence we had was that Castleforte was lightly held, so we got in and there were Germans shoulder to shoulder everywhere. So we came out quicker than we went in. So then we were on our own, and we heard that the bridgehead had gone over, but then nothing happened and we ran into patrols that were out looking for us. We got into a number of skirmishes!

"We were going along this track and a German Spandau opened up

on the right, pinning down the front of the unit. I was at the back and grabbed the last two chaps and got on the flank of this Spandau. We lobbed some grenades into the gunpit and it stopped firing so we started moving again. I was just catching up with the rest and one of the chaps yelled 'Krauts on yer right!' swung right and there was a farmhouse on fire. We got a silhouette of a chap kneeling and his arm going back. We yelled grenade and went down firing.

"The next thing I knew, I thought someone had opened a furnace door. I never heard a noise just felt heat. Unfortunately, Tommy Hockins one of my lads, he was just slightly head of me, he'd dropped straight on a landmine. It killed him and his chum and I caught the blast off it.

"Of course, the lads got hold of me, put some shell dressing on me, gave a morphine injection, made me comfortable and said 'Cheerio!' We had no avenue for evacuation. If you could walk out, you walked out, if you couldn't then you had to be left.

"I was conscious originally, but after the morphine I was drifting in and out. The noise was horrific. The next thing I knew was when I was being half-carried, half walking with people who weren't English. I thought 'Oh well, that's it, you've been picked up' and then I realised they weren't Germans - they were Poles!

"The Polish Troop were operating on our flank and they got me back to the river. A lot of this was told to me afterwards. I've got a vague memory of trying to get into a rubber dinghy where I slipped and the water was freezing. That brought me round!



Broadcasting to the world! Bill Shea today is an active member of St Dunstan's Amateur Radio Society.

"They got me over the river and a stretcher-bearer got me to 102nd New Zealand Hospital, which I can't remember at all, and eventually woke up at 96th General Military Hospital in Naples. Some of the lads told me Joe Humphrey was in there, because he caught it with a hand grenade two hours after me, but they'd been able to get him out quickly.

"They eventually flew us out of Naples to Tunis, I was in hospital for a while there and then sent on to Algiers and took a hospital ship back to the UK. It was the Atlantis, which was interesting,

because it was the ship that brought the POWs back to Liverpool when they were repatriated. The St Dunstan's group were in that lot. It's one of those coincidences."

Bill's thoughts stay with his unit, with pride he points out that they eventually moved right up through Italy, over to Yugoslavia, Albania, into Greece and finished the War in Corfu. "It's quite incredible really but they did almost two years as a frontline unit!"

Back in the UK at a military hospital near Bristol, Bill received

a more friendly reception. "Joe Humphrey and I were thoroughly spoilt! There's no doubt about that. We got out and about. Any nurses or Wrens on duty, we had them as escorts and they laid on transport. We had a car to get us into Bristol. There wasn't any public transport, so there wasn't much chance to get into Bristol, so the girls would line up to volunteer to take us.

"In military hospital you have to wear the hospital blue. In the army you have to wear it all the time, but in the Navy you only wear it while you are in the hospital. If you go out, you had to wear full uniform. Of course Joe and I didn't have any uniform, so one day we'd be an able seaman, the next day a Royal Marine sergeant, the next day we'd be that. We used to borrow uniforms.

"Eventually we were boarded and they said 'We're sending you straight to St Dunstan's.' The only thing I can ever remember or knew about St Dunstan's at that time was that somewhere in my sighted life I had seen a poster of a little girl guiding a chap with hospital blues and his face bandaged and that's all I knew.

"Joe Humphrey was saying 'I'm not going to St Dunstan's, they're not going to put me any home!' We both got very bolshi I'm afraid. And the Commander said 'It's nothing like that, you'll go there and you'll be helped.'

"He sent a chap with us and he was told he was to stay with us as long as he was needed. So he came with us to Church Stretton, to Tiger Hall, which was the reception, and obviously we didn't need this chap. So we did a deal with this chap, he lived in Manchester, so he went off on four days leave with his wife, then came back to us

and we sent him back to Bristol. We did him some good."

The fact that Bill and Joe had been sent to Bristol had some strange repercussions. "Naval Auxiliary hospitals could not discharge regulars. They had to go back to the home base. I was up at Stretton and nothing arrived in the way of pension. So I spoke to Billy Banks who was the Pensions Officer and a few days later he said to me 'You'll be pleased to know you're not in England.' 'So where am I?' I said. He said 'You're still in Italy!'

"He'd been on to Plymouth and they said they'd got my records and I hadn't been wounded." It took sometime to sort that out but in the meantime, St Dunstan's had reached the end of its term for training, so Bill was sent home with a promise to return in September.

"I went home and they were all very kind but I couldn't do a thing on my own. I was walking up the wall. A friend of mine came to see me, he'd got badly shot up with No 2 Commando, unfortunately he had to spend the rest of his life on elbow crutches. I said 'Can you get me out for a bit?' So we got to a telephone and I called Matron Payne who was in overall charge and I said 'Look can I come back early, I can't stand this!' She said 'I perfectly understand.' But I said 'I don't want my people to be hurt in anyway.' 'Don't worry,' she said, 'Don't worry!' Two days later I got a letter saying that St Dunstan's could offer me a place earlier than September.

"It all worked out very well for me because I started training in April, got to the required standard in Braille and started physiotherapy training in June. If I'd gone back

to Plymouth I don't know when I would have got to St Dunstan's."

Bill's physio training set the course of his professional life for the next 48 years. "I worked in Birmingham City General first and Queen Elizabeth Medical Hospital. But in 1952, my wife and I decided that we'd like to live in a rural environment rather than a concrete one. We moved down near Huntingdon and worked in a hospital there until 1981. I went into private practice but the whole thing absolutely blew up so I found myself working a damn sight harder than at the hospital.

"I always enjoyed the hospital work. I wound up with one or two well known patients. Heavyweight boxers, shot put champion and some members of the House of Lords." He adds that his clientele included a Foreign Minister, Chancellor of the Exchequer, and Prime Minister. "Though of course they were all the same person - John Major!"

Bill's thoughts remain with the Commando. He is Vice-President of the 40 Royal Marines Commando (1942-46) Association. "The Commandos were disbanded in 1946, the Government decided they didn't want these forces in peacetime but when the troubles started in Borneo and Malaya they reformed 40 Commando and they've stayed ever since.

"I've always thought it was really sad that they stood down the Army Commandos and never gave them another opportunity. I felt when they reformed 40 Commando Brigade they should have had some element of the Army Commandos represented. I mean they were in it up to the neck and at the end they were dispatched and more or less told good-bye!"

As reported in the October *Review*, Bill travelled to France in August for a ceremony commemorating the Anniversary of the Dieppe Raid on August 19th 1942. "This was the 60th anniversary of the raid, I went over with veterans of what later became 40 Commando Royal Marines. I wasn't actually at Dieppe; I was on another operation at the time, but the unit that went in was known as the A Commando which was the first Commando unit ever formed. It was rather unique and it set the tradition that was later carried on by the 40 Commando that if one volunteered then you couldn't be drafted to any other Commando.

"Anyway, A Commando went to Dieppe. They were originally to deal with the harbour area, there were a number of landing craft and once the Canadians had secured the town and hopefully part of the port area the marines were going in to destroy or steal any German landing craft. The idea was to bring them back to England or destroy them, but it never got to that stage!

"The forces the Canadians ran into were really something and the A Commando Royal Marines were brought in to support the Canadians. They were to land under smoke on the main beach, unfortunately when they broke out from under the smoke they still had a mile to go in landing craft under direct German fire, which was not only in front of them but also from the cliffs on either side. The result was a large number were lost on the way in.

"The Colonel, Colonel Picton-Phillips, of the Commando, saw what was happening, he jumped up and got on top of his landing craft and signalled to those craft that could get back under the smoke. He was killed, so there were only a

It's still very difficult to understand why it was done

relatively small number who got through to support the Canadians and of course, when they were eventually told to withdraw, there was nothing to withdraw to that could take them on. So of course some started to swim for it in the hope that the Navy ships in the area would pick them up. Some succeeded and unfortunately many other didn't!

"The wounded had to be left. The second in command of A Commando, Major Houghton, he was wounded, he had to be left. Quite a few were wounded, some were picked up by the German navy. It was a day of carnage.

"When one looks at the history, it's still very difficult to understand why it was done. Stalin was urging the Allies to open a second front across the Channel, the Canadians were itching for action. It was said the reason for the operation was to see if a large port could be captured and retained prior to the full invasion. This proved it couldn't.

"Mountbatten later said that the battle of Normandy was won on the beaches of Dieppe. And that for every person killed at Dieppe ten people survived at Normandy. I'd take that with a pinch of salt, it maybe just to gloss over what was a political stitch-up really. It was there's no doubt about it, an absolute disaster."

During this reunion the Royal Marine group took a boat out to the approaches of Dieppe and had a service onboard. A bunch of roses

was laid on the sea for those who died in the area with no known graves. A simple message was read out. "While we stand here in safety and with our freedom, we ask why these men had to die for you and me. There are no crosses row upon row to those who sleep beneath the sea. Rest in peace because our land is free."

As the names of the missing were read out, roses were cast on the water, followed by a final wreath. The service ended with prayers and the boat moved onto Green beach where more roses commemorated the crews of the landing craft.

"The French were very supportive. A large number were down at the Port, they really gave us a send off," added Bill. "On the actual anniversary, the UK veterans went out to the British Military Cemetery where the dead are buried, those who have known graves. There was a Service, a lot of it was in French but nonetheless very impressive. We had the Royal Marine Band taking part."

"Afterwards we went back into Dieppe there was a form-up in Canada and there were various speeches. Then we paraded through the town to the town hall and as I said the French really pulled out the stops for us. This year the large garden and car park were filled with picnic tables and they were serving wine, anything you wanted. It was a get together of the veterans and the local people. Which was really excellent!"

POET'S CORNER

Crinkled old men, wrinkled old suits
But look them in the eye
They wear medals and shiny boots
See their legacy, and ask why

No one had to conscript that lot
The old contemptibles
Giving their lives without a thought
Once more to ease Europe's troubles

We've seen some pictures, heard some songs
What a jolly old wheeze
Those things on their chests, medals, gongs!
You must examine them closely, please!

Flowers on the memorial
Poppies on fields of green
Their tunes, so ceremonial
Belie the horrors they have seen

Kitchener pointed to them, come
The nation needs you now
Fight the abominable hun
It's your duty, we'll show you how

There's more of us than is of them
Men with pointy helmets
We'll lose a few, their tide to stem
They'll run when you use your bayonets

Just one more time, Tom, Dick, Young Harry
Raise the Royal Standard
God's with us, his cross you carry
To the killing fields of Flanders

Think of the places you will see
Like Passchendaele and Ypres
Worth dying for you must agree
But fear you not, this long long sleep

From the shires and sleepy hamlets
Come brave men of Britain
March with us no faltering steps
To victory! That's for certain

And when you fall, besides your friends
In mud, and slime, and fear
When your soul leaves, and lifelight ends
It's nice to know comrades are near

BLOODED OLD MEN

by Hugh Stewart



Generals know how things are done
How Tommy will win through
When you attack them, do not run
March slowly forward, no fear from you

We'll look after your family
If you do not come back
We'll tell them how you fell calmly
In another counter attack

And when the screamers are silent
The bugler plays Last Post
You're wondering where your youth went
It died, by your listening post

Make a world fit for a hero
Recruitment poster said
Our lives will be changed when you go
With your cap perched high on your head

Salute them when they go marching
Remembering fallen friends
Listen to the words they're singing
Then thank them before their life ends

Without them sacrificing all
So we can live in peace
Would we be free, or here at all
Or prisoners, chained, on our knees

Their sacrifices were immense
In trenches deep with mud
Bleeding, hung on a barbed wire fence
Buying victory with their blood

Help them raise their standards high
Thank them for what they done
Let their last years go flying by
Under a glorious free sun

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Letters to The Editor are always welcome. Write to the Editor, St Dunstan's Review, 12-14 Harcourt Street, London W1H 4HD. E-mail ray.hazan@st-dunstans.org.uk.

**From: Brian and Margaret Lang,
Mossley Hill, Liverpool**

We would like to thank the Welfare department for the beautiful basket of flowers and the congratulations we received on the occasion of our 40th wedding Anniversary on September 22nd. To all our many friends and family, thank you all!

From: Elspeth Grant, Saffron Walden, Essex

Apologies to anyone who received camp photographs from her, with regard to either the lack of a stamp or an inadequate one!

50 YEARS AGO

St Dunstaner Gerry Brereton was enjoying a range of rave reviews in the wake of his appearance at the Royal Command Performance. The Evening Standard, Daily Herald, Daily Express and Evening News all feted his turn before Her Majesty The Queen. Gerry had also made his first gramophone record, 78rpm cut *Wyoming Lullaby/Have a Good Time* (which now forms part of The Beatles Legacy Catalogue).

St Dunstaner William Appleby, OBE passed away on November 29th 1952, aged 73. A founder member of the British Legion and the British Empire Service League, he was held in esteem by ex-servicemen throughout the Commonwealth for his work in the Service community.

Where's that Blind Dog?

CULT SIXTIES rock group Caravan are renowned for an album called *Blind Dog at St Dunstan's*, the cover of which features a dapper hound with shades and cane walking through Canterbury. "The origins of the title can be found in David Niven's *The Moon's a Balloon*," says band member Pye Hastings mischievously. Caravan can often be heard at Canterbury's Blind Dog public house, but on November 28th they venture on stage with Dutch rockers Focus at London's Astoria Theatre (020 7344 0044).

BALANCING THE BOOKS

St Dunstaner Ted Bunting reviews the **best** and the **worst** of the Talking Books available

The Lives of Enoch Powell

Author: Patrick Cosgrave

Read by David Rider

Duration: 22 Hours

Catalogue Number: 7972

THIS IS AN EXCELLENT biography of a truly remarkable person! With honest accuracy (though also with an undisguised reverence for his subject) the author relates a story which in fiction would be incredible and in reality has no parallel. As a schoolboy and as an Oxford undergraduate Enoch Powell was simply brilliant; he was the outstanding classical scholar of his generation and at the age of only 25 he became a university professor. Such redoubtable success might well have satisfied the ambition of someone who was not Powell, but he, seeing war clouds gathering over Hitler's Germany, enlisted as a Private in the Warwickshire Infantry and became the Army's youngest Brigadier before the war was over.

In this respect Powell fell at the first hurdle

Since the narrative thus far reads like a fairy story, it is natural, I think, to ask why, when he tuned his mind to politics he did not encounter the immediate success he had achieved hitherto? The answer, I venture to suggest lies in the word "affection". Although universally respected and frequently admired, Powell seems to have been loved by virtually none. In politics as in other walks of life, the more one is liked the more one will be trusted, and in this respect Powell fell at the first hurdle. Paradoxically, at the end of the day, human nature ensured that the man whose path was marked by so many dazzling prizes would be a failure.

TEN ANSWERS

The answers to the quiz on Europe on page nine are as follows:

- 1) River Volga;
- 2) River Danube, Vienna, Budapest, Belgrade and Bratislava;
- 3) France and Spain;
- 4) France;
- 5) England;
- 6) Spain; 7) Iceland;
- 8) Holland; 9) Two Euros; 10) Ukraine.

FAMILY NEWS

BIRTHS

Congratulations on the birth of:

Molly Elizabeth in July. She is the great-granddaughter of *Jack and Elizabeth Spence* of Ballycastle, Co Antrim, Northern Ireland.

Jasmin Ann on August 13th and Gus August 19th. They are the great-grandchildren of *Ada Cook* of Purton, Wiltshire, widow of *Len Cook*.

Shea Patrick John on September 13th. He is the grandson of *Ted and Beryl John* of Wallasey, Merseyside.

RUBY ANNIVERSARIES

Congratulations to:

Brian and Margaret Lang of Liverpool, Merseyside on September 22nd.

DIAMOND ANNIVERSARIES

Congratulations to:

Leonard and Joyce Hassam of Warminster, Wiltshire on September 26th.

SPECIAL ANNIVERSARIES

Congratulations to:

Joseph and May Gregory of Chester, Cheshire who celebrated 62 years of marriage on September 18th.

Leonard and Olive Smart of Redditch, Worcestershire who celebrated 61 years of marriage on September 27th.

William and Frances Allen who celebrated 64 years of marriage on October 1st.

Frederick and Florence Morgan of Filton, Bristol, Avon who celebrated 64 years of marriage on October 1st.

Dennis and Joan Brown of Linden Village, Buckinghamshire who celebrated 61 years of marriage on October 4th.

ACHIEVEMENTS

Congratulations to:

Julia Symons on graduating from the Royal Military College of Science, Shrivenham with a 2:1 Honours degree in civil engineering. Officer cadet Symons, who recently sailed up the Amazon, will continue her studies at Sandhurst. She is the Granddaughter of *Caroline Bulbrook* and the late *George Bulbrook* of Downham Market, Norfolk.

DEATHS

We regret to announce the death of:

Mildred Sowden on September 15th. She was the wife of *James Sowden* of Wakefield, West Yorkshire.

Betty Brooke on September 21st. She was the wife of *Kenneth Brooke* of Sheffield, South Yorkshire.

Chris Bowker of Gillingham, Dorset on August 30th. She was the widow of *Charles Bowker*.

Heather Simmons of Botley, nr Southampton, Hampshire on September 19th. She was the widow of *St Dunstan Thomas Simmons*.

Isabella Embleton of Durham, Co Durham on September 20th. She was the widow of *John Embleton* who served in the Royal Air Force.

Joyce Marsden of Eastbourne, East Sussex on September 24th. She was the widow of *Edwin Marsden* who served in the Labour Corps.

Charlotte Macrae of Crawley, West Sussex on September 27th. She was the widow of *Hugh Macrae* who served in the Royal Air Force.

Joan Davies of Cardiff, South Glamorgan on October 1st. She was the widow of *John Davies*.

Betty Hicks of Sittingbourne, Kent on October 7th. She was the widow of *Frederick Hicks*.

Our sympathy goes to their families and friends.

ERRATA

In the September *Review* we congratulated Stewart and Eileen Harris of Andover, Hampshire on their Diamond Wedding Anniversary. This entry should, of course, have read Stewart and Mary Harris. Our apologies for any confusion caused.

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.

Lester Howard

Royal Air Force

Lester Howard of Scunthorpe, South Humberside died on July 17th, aged 87. He served in the Royal Air Force from 1943 to 1946. After training as a wireless operator he took part in two bombing operations over Germany in a Wellington. The squadron was then switched to North Atlantic duty and he was posted to Canada where he qualified as a navigator. After leaving the service he returned to his job as a steel founder and later set up his own business as a driving instructor. His interests included gardening. Our sympathy goes to his sons, granddaughter Beverly and all of the family.

Catherine Dick

Women's Auxiliary Air Force

Catherine Mary Dick of Stockton-on-Tees, Cleveland died on September 20th, aged 87. She served in the Women's Auxiliary Air Force as Aircraftwoman from 1939 to 1941. Our sympathy goes to her son Andrew, daughter Christine and all members of the family.

Frank Madgwick

Parachute Regiment

Frank Edwin Madgwick of Crawley, West Sussex died on September 25th, aged 80. He had been a St Dunstaner since 1943. He joined the Parachute Regiment in 1938 and was serving with them in Tunisia when wounded. After training at St Dunstan's he worked as a poultry farmer and market gardener but later retrained for industry. His interests included gardening, wrought iron work, toy-making and walking. He also enjoyed bird keeping and

maintained an impressive aviary. Our sympathy goes to his widow Doris, son Michael, daughters Barbara and Susan and all other members of the family.

Rev Michael Norman

Royal Fusiliers

Rev Michael Hugh Norman, MA of Rondebosch, South Africa died on October 2nd, aged 84. He had been a St Dunstaner since 1944. Born in Johannesburg, South Africa, he was raised in Buckinghamshire and studied agriculture before being called up in 1939. Serving with the Royal Fusiliers, he was attached to the 6th Durham Light Infantry as a Lieutenant and blinded in France by a tripwire booby trap. After training at St Dunstan's, he resumed agricultural studies, but redirected himself towards Theology at Queen's College, Cambridge. Initially ordained as a deacon at Canterbury Cathedral by the Archbishop of Dover in 1950, Rev Norman was made Honorary Chaplain to St Dunstan's. Later ordained as a priest by the Archbishop of Canterbury, he became curate at St Peter-in-Thanel, near Ramsgate, Kent. However, in 1952 he sailed back to South Africa to work at St Cyprian's Retreat, Cape Town. In 1962 he took over responsibility for Bergvliet, which had a strong ex-Service community and supervised construction of St Martin's Anglican Church. He also became Rector of St Stephen's in Pinelands. He joined the board of St Dunstan's South Africa in 1961 and became Vice-Chairman in 1978, then Chairman in 1986. In 2000, he received the Diplome d'Honneur from the French Government. Our sympathy goes to his widow Nora, sons Nicholas and David and all the family.

Arthur Tucker

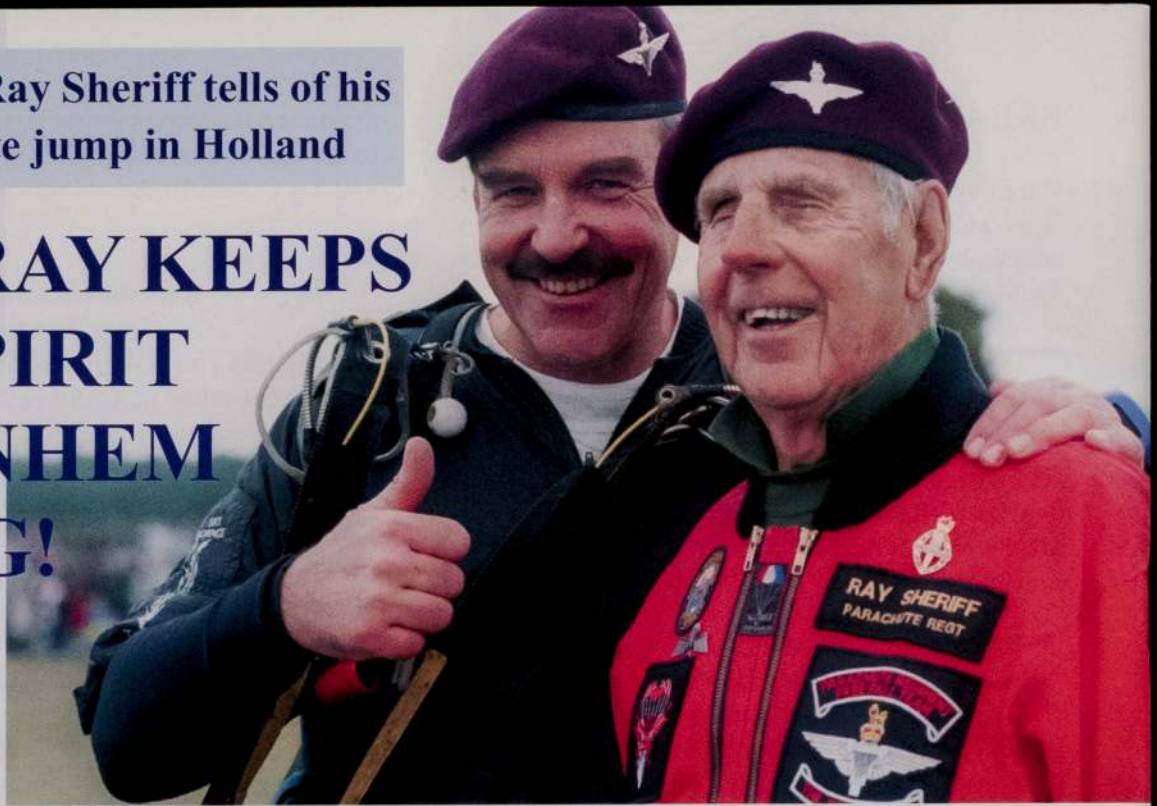
Royal Air Force

Arthur Verdun Tucker of Roffey, Horsham, died on October 13th, aged 85. He had been a St Dunstaner since 1996. Having worked as a shop assistant in Dyfed, he joined the Royal Air Force in 1940 as a driver. He was posted to the Far East and was captured by the Japanese in Java. As a Prisoner of War he took part in a rugby match, (England versus Wales) made distinctive by the provision of a proper ball. Unfortunately he was injured during that match, requiring 15 stitches in his face. These were applied without anaesthetic. Discharged in 1946, he worked for the post office, but later joined the Ministry of Defence Police. After 18 years service, he became a club steward. Our sympathy goes to his widow Eileen, son Glynne and all of the family.

St Dunstaner Ray Sheriff tells of his latest parachute jump in Holland

PARA RAY KEEPS THE SPIRIT OF ARNHEM FLYING!

Thumbs up! Ray Sheriff and Dick Kalinski after another successful jump at Arnhem.



“ONCE AGAIN, for the last time?” Betty and I, made our annual voyage from Harwich to the Hook of Holland and subsequently onwards to Oosterbeek near to the town of Arnhem, close to the Bridge that proved too far, now renamed The Bridge to the Future.

In the vicinity of Oosterbeek lies the “Airborne Cemetery” with over a thousand Graves of the fallen “Airborne British and Polish Soldiers and Airman lay at rest.” On Sunday, September 22nd at 11am, a Commemorative Service is conducted. The congregation always full to capacity, this service is quite emotional - especially at the conclusion when the Dutch school children positioned at the foot of each Grave holding a bunch of flowers, lay them to the grave at a given signal.

On Saturday 21st, quite a lot of Para activities are carried-out on and around the Wartime Dropping areas by British and Dutch groups ie 4th Parachute Batt, The Red Devils and, last but not least, the remnants of The Arnhem Veterans Parachute Team. Sadly, only 11 left. We Old Codgers travelled to an Airfield at Roesterberg, 20 miles west of Arnhem. Our Aircraft, a Fokker, had around 20 other Jumpers, static-liners and

skydivers, mostly Dutch, all shaking hands with us as they passed to exit.

We were airborne for about 35 minutes. We then went up to 20,000 feet and made our exit. Dead on schedule, 10.30am. This was my 14th Tandem Jump. As per usual I am privileged to jump number one, being totally blind. I guess one does gain some advantages from blindness?

I must confess on these occasions my mind tends to wander back to Sunday, September 17th 1944 at 1400hrs. Then I was leaving the door of a Dakota 3 from approximately 500 feet, seeing below the lush green of the occupied Dutch countryside with the Sun shining from a cloudless blue sky. My wanderings were brought sharply back to the immediate, by a voice in my ear telling me that we had four minutes to go for exit. Luckily the weather was bright and dry but

unfortunately the wind strength was very low, not ideal for touchdown, generally indicating a hard landing. Unfortunately, this proved the case. Thus, a few bumps and bruises and, my blindness became a disadvantage. Nevertheless, I guess I can count my blessings considering I commenced parachuting with 3rd Para in 1941 and took up tandem parachuting in 1990. All my jumps have been free from injuries, so, I reckon my slight ankle discomfort will soon disappear.

The Vets Para Team plan to make two further jumps at Arnhem, thus, reaching our 60th “Battle of Arnhem” Anniversary in 2004, calling a halt to any further parachuting in the Netherlands.

I personally joined St Dunstan’s in April 1945 at Stoke Mandeville Hospital having returned from Stalag 11B, North Germany. So now I am the proud owner of the new St Dunstan’s Jubilee Badge, I decided to give it a skydive! Attached to my jump suit among other emblems, I reckon the Flaming Torch aided the Camera-Man to follow my dive earthwards.