

St Dunstan's Review

www.st-dunstans.org.uk

December 2002



FOR BLIND EX-SERVICE MEN AND WOMEN

St Dunstan's Review

No. 920

DECEMBER 2002

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Cover picture:
Pupils at Warlingham Park
School in Surrey learn how
blindness changes life for
St Dunstaners and how
braille is a useful tool for
restoring independence.

Full details on page 26.

From the President



I LIKE TO remember Christmas as it used to be, when the first Cards appeared in the shops in mid-November, and at home the decorations went up about a fortnight before Christmas Day. There was warmth in the air, with a lovely glowing fire over which we roasted chestnuts; family and friends gathered round and we all shared the spirit of cheerfulness and Goodwill.

St Dunstan's has that family spirit, and as Joyce and I spend Christmas with our daughter Felicia, we send to all St Dunstaners, their wives, widows, and those who work with us, our good wishes that you may also be with your families, and have a Very Happy Christmas and a Peaceful New Year.

Colin Beaumont-Edmonds

From the Chairman



The President, Chairman and Terry Bullingham head St Dunstan's contingent on Remembrance Sunday.

Once again, St Dunstan's can look back over a positive year. Our Blind Ambition campaign has highlighted several outstanding achievements, which have attracted the headlines; Mark Threadgold's world record power boat drive around the Isle of Wight; Stephen Menary's free fall parachute jump with the Red Devils; Billy Baxter's preparation for a world speed record attempt next year, supported by the Royal Artillery motorbicycle display team; Ray Sheriff's 15th jump into Arnhem, and I know many of you have achieved your own personal ambitions without hitting the headlines!

Ovingdean has been a centre thriving with people and activities throughout the past 12 months. Was it only this year that Meridian television featured the six-part documentary on the work of Ovingdean? They may have to be shoring up the sea defences on the cliffs below, but Ovingdean seems to stand as steady as a rock and act as the hub of many of our events!

Thus St Dunstan's can look ahead to a New Year with confidence. Jenny and I wish you a very Happy Christmas and hope that 2003 will be a prosperous, healthy and happy year for you all.

Captain Michael Gordon-Lennox, RN

SEASONS GREETINGS

All staff at Headquarters, Ovingdean and around the country wish the members of the St Dunstan's family a very Happy Christmas.

We trust everyone will enjoy good health and much happiness during the coming year.

BACK IN 2003

St Dunstan's Review will return in February. In the meantime, we welcome all your contributions, letters, comments, suggestions and requests for future issues.

Write to *St Dunstan's Review*, St Dunstan's, 12-14 Harcourt Street, London W1H 4HD.

insight

In his October message, the Chairman referred to *insight* magazine. This newsletter was sent to some 250,000 donors and elicited much positive response. By popular demand, we are including a copy with the December *Review* in all available formats.





NOTICE BOARD



REUNION DATES 2003

St Dunstan's Area Reunions will be held on the following dates throughout the year. Welfare Officers will be in touch with local details.

Shaftesbury	Wednesday, March 5th
Derby	Wednesday, March 26th
Brighton I	Wednesday, April 2nd
Norwich	Wednesday, April 16th
London	Wednesday, April 30th
Exeter	Wednesday, May 7th
Blackpool	Tuesday, May 13th
Liverpool	Wednesday, May 14th
Edinburgh	Wednesday, May 21st
Chichester	Wednesday, May 28th
Brighton II	Wednesday, June 4th
Newcastle	Tuesday, June 10th
Leeds	Wednesday, June 11th
Cardiff	Wednesday, June 18th
Aylesbury	Wednesday, September 3rd
Brighton III	Wednesday, September 17th

WANTED – MILITARY REMINISCENCES!

We are keen to record on video those who would be interested to recall their military experiences, especially those who took part in the more well known campaigns and battles before, during and since the Second World War. As well as preserving memories for posterity, recordings could be used for PR purposes especially over the anniversaries.

The recording will take place on January 22nd at Ovingdean. Travel and accommodation costs will be free. Anyone interested in taking part should please contact Ray Hazan at HQ (020 7616 7930).

DEADLINES FOR FUTURE ISSUES

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

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

ST DUNSTAN'S GOLF CLUB FIXTURES 2003

St Dunstan's Golf Club will be playing at Rusper Golf Club on the following dates. Other events will be announced throughout the year.

April 12th-13th	
May 17th-18th	
June 13th	Play
June 14th	St Dunstan's Day
June 15th	Play/Coaching
July 13th-14th	
August 16th-17th	
September 20th-21st	

Any St Dunstaner thinking of playing golf can contact the Secretary of St Dunstan's Golf Club, Mike Tumilson, on 024 764 60113.

MIRRORING THE WORLD

Soundaround provides a free monthly 90-minute interactive cassette programme for visually impaired people. It combines the variety of a magazine with the immediacy of a radio phone-in programme. Each edition contains items supplied by listeners and regular features such as cookery, gardening, technology, fashion and law. There is also a long running soap opera and talent contest.

To receive Soundaround call 0800 917 6008 or visit their website at www.soundaround.org.

SULTAN CAMP 2003

The camp at HMS *Sultan* will take place from Friday, July 25th until the morning of Saturday, August 2nd. Will all those who enjoyed the camp in previous years and would like to come again please contact Elspeth Grant at High Acre, Catmere End, Saffron Walden CB11 4XG or telephone her on 01799 522874. Please contact her by May 8th.

GUIDE DOGS AT OIVINGDEAN



As Ovingdean has got busier, more people are coming in with guide dogs and this is proving contentious on occasions. Some dogs and owners behave immaculately, but others are less sensitive! As far as dog facilities are concerned, we can provide bowls, beds, and, on request, plastic sheeting in your room for grooming. There is a dog pound by the front entrance with a seat and a water supply for washing and grooming.

Many owners do not know the ground rules about having dogs here because we have not really laid them down, hence this article. A fundamental point for staff and visitors alike is that guide dogs are not pets, they are working animals! A dog should not be distracted, at any time, by petting, calling it, giving commands or by offering food. At best, this will force the guide dog owner to punish the dog; at worst it could seriously undermine the dog's loyalty or lead it to become distracted by people it knows when it is in harness. The result of this latter fault could be disastrous. For such reasons, staff must not look after or walk a guide dog and this must be the total responsibility of the owner.

Ovingdean is well equipped to cater for a visual impairment and, as a recent visitor from the Guide Dogs for the Blind Association (GDBA) remarked, there is no real reason for owners to bring their dogs as far as Ovingdean's facilities are concerned. Certainly a dog is not really required for moving around the house. If one is busy on training or otherwise greatly involved in the activities at

Ovingdean, this is a very valid and dog-friendly view and I think guide dog owners should seriously consider giving their dog a holiday with a GDBA-sponsored minder while visiting here. Indeed, in certain circumstances, such as when someone has a relatively new guide dog, GDBA will not allow it to go away to an unfamiliar place and will insist on it returning to their care whilst its owner is away. Owners should contact their local centre to obtain the names and addresses of minders.

Personally, though, I can see a possible reason to bring a guide dog is if you want to do a lot of walking outside of the grounds but as the dog is unlikely to have been taught the route you go on it may add to the dog's confusion. I know an adventurous few like to explore along the undercliff, though it may be closed next year for sea defence work. It would be really restricting to be without a four-footed assistant – it just would not be a holiday without one's guide. Other people will want to use their dog to travel to Ovingdean by public transport, so we must take a balanced view.

The main reasons for comment by other St Dunstaners are:

- a) Dogs and their leads are a tripping hazard around the house, in the Dining Room and at the bar;
- b) Dogs running loose in the grounds and inner garden are a potential nuisance and liable to mess – one raced across the archery field recently though it didn't actually become a live target!
- c) some dogs under the dining room table lick or otherwise interfere with other people in the vicinity – at least, one owner has been seen feeding the dog tit-bits which encourages the dog to behave inappropriately. Therefore the following guidelines are issued:
 - Guide dogs should normally be kept in harness in the house and grounds when they are working. Long leads should not be used.
 - Owners should sit with their dogs at the tables and chairs in an area away from the bar or anywhere else that they can be tripped over or stood upon by other blind people.
 - Guide dogs must be kept on a harness/lead unless in the dog pound which is the only place that they may spend. They must never be allowed to roam in the inner garden or grounds.

- Dogs may be groomed in the pound or in bedrooms with the former much preferred. We have provided a bench in the pound and hope to secure a shelter subject to planning permission. If in a room, a plastic sheet must be requested from Housekeeping.
- Unless there is an overriding reason, dogs should not be taken into the Dining Room. If they are, they must remain under the table, not be 'petted' by anybody, and prevented from interfering with other residents. Preferably they should be left in the pound or in one's room.
- For travelling to/from Ovingdean, guide dogs should travel in the boot of the estate cars or in the back of the Voyagers. If there is no alternative to the dog travelling in a saloon car (taxi), it should be put in the rear passenger footwell with the seat being pushed as far forward as possible. Dogs should not travel in the front footwell because of the risk of serious injury to the dog in the event of the air bag being released. The working harness should be removed for the dog's comfort during the journey and the dog must be kept from interfering with other passengers who will almost certainly also be in the vehicle.
- All dog owners are encouraged to carry the GDBA card which explains the access situation to people like restaurant owners.
- Unless there is an overriding reason, dogs should not be brought to Ovingdean.

I hope this guidance proves useful on what can be a controversial topic.

**Dick Lake,
Ovingdean Manager**

SPRING BREAKS IN DEVON

Cliffden Hotel will be hosting a series of themed breaks for visually impaired holiday makers in Devon next spring. Events include:

Sixties and Line Dancing	March 7th-11th.
Amble Week	March 10th-15th
Ramble Week	March 15th-22nd
Ramble Week	March 22nd-29th

For full details telephone 01626 770052 or e-mail cliffden_hotel@afbp.org.

SPECIAL WEEKS AT OIVINGDEAN

We run several special weeks at Ovingdean over the year. There are basically two sorts. There are "Widows' Weeks" (April 7th-14th, June 16th-23rd, October 13th-20th) which are also open to widowers, of course, and "theme weeks". The latter cover History (January 27th-February 3rd), Music Appreciation (February 17th-24th), Gardening (May 19th-26th) and Christmas Crafts (December 1st-8th).

The weeks have a mixture of in-house activities and trips out that are flavoured by the respective themes.

These dates have been published in the November *Review* as part of the annual programme. Names can be placed with Jackie Castle, the Bookings Coordinator, six months in advance using the holiday booking routine, but places will only be confirmed two months before the start of the event.

Please note that the two-for-one scheme which is due to finish on March 31st does not apply to these weeks. Normally each week will be for up to 15 participants but we may be able to make extra space for those who live locally and participate on a daily basis, which will be at a much reduced rate.

Essentially, these events are for those without care needs, though it may be possible to bring an escort if sharing a room and if you come on the clear understanding that there may be an outside trip or two which is unsuitable for those in, say, wheelchairs. In regard to the latter point we do our best to use appropriate venues but given the reality of some places that we wish to visit for a specialist programme, we cannot guarantee everyone is wheelchair friendly or for those with care needs. Accommodation for these special weeks is provided on the holiday wing (4th floor) or at our off-site premises (Nevill Road). In order to make the best use of limited accommodation, priority will be given to those who are willing to share or use Nevill Road. All these weeks are proving popular and are usually over-subscribed so we need to establish some ground rules in order to be fair. Rather than adopt a simple first-come-first served approach, priority will go to those who have not attended before or whose application has been turned down previously. If we are still over-subscribed, we will put the names in a hat and run a waiting list as people do drop out.

As indicated, most of those wishing to attend any of these weeks will book directly with the Bookings Coordinator but others may seek a place through

their Welfare Officer on the basis of respite care. In order for those on respite care to be considered for participation in the special programme (trips, seminars, meals, etc), the requirement must be clearly stated on the booking form and the booking will be prioritised along with those booking as a holiday. Furthermore, as indicated above we may not be able to guarantee an escort for every outside trip. Whether in holiday accommodation or in a respite bed, it will be easier to provide escorts if we know in advance that it is a requirement because, with good warning, we may be able to book a volunteer to come and assist. Please let us know on your booking form.

**Dick Lake,
Ovingdean Manager**

HARRY POTTER FLIES INTO RNIB VIDEO LIBRARY

The first Harry Potter film, *Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone* is now available with audio-description. To rent or buy contact RNIB Customer Services on 0845 702 3153 (for the price of a local call) or write to them at PO Box 173, Peterborough PE2 6WS. Many other films are also available.

YOUR 15 MINUTES START NOW

A handy 15 Minute Memo Recorder is available from Cobolt Systems. It is a very compact high quality digital recorder which can record up to 99 messages and a total recording time of 15 minutes. It has facilities for fast forward/reverse and adjustable volume. A sliding cover protects the buttons from accidental operation. Call 01493 700172 for details.

AUDIO-CHRISTMAS SHOWS

These seasonal shows will be performed with audio description for blind patrons.

King Lear at the Alhambra Theatre, Bradford on December 14th (01274 752000).

Dick Whittington at The Everyman Theatre, Cheltenham on December 20th (01242 572573).

Peter Pan at The Playhouse, Weston-super-Mare on January 4th and 5th (01934 627457).

Aladdin at the Birmingham Hippodrome, Birmingham on January 22nd, 31st and February 1st (0870 730 1234).

GIVING NEW VOICE TO SEASONAL GREETINGS

Seasonal spirits sound super with a new form of greeting card. RecordCard is a greetings card with a built in voice recording module. The module uses Voice Pad 'Record & Playback' technology, featuring a 10 second re-recordable voice message.

The card stores the message in the same way as a Voice Pad, but it is played back to you as the card is opened, so there is no need to push a button to activate the message! The automatic playback function is an exciting feature and will help the visually impaired community to enjoy the voice message concept.

With visually impaired people in mind, the artwork for the two cards has been specifically designed with bright contrasting colours and defined shapes. The manufacturers say that adding speech to cards, will bring back the joy of greeting card traditions to many visually impaired people.

There is a choice of two cards. The "Just to Say..." card has a universal Balloon design on the cover and is blank inside, allowing it to be used for any occasion. The second is a seasonal Christmas Card with a Holly design on the front cover.

The cards are packed individually and include an instruction sheet with large print.

The cards cost £4.99 each and can be ordered from REXCOM Europe Ltd, Unit 4, Seward Rise, Romsey, Hampshire, SO51 8PE. Postage rates are £1.50 for orders below £10, £2.50 for orders above £10 and £5 for orders above £40 in value. Cheques should be made payable to REXCOM Europe Ltd. Allow 14 days for delivery. For more details visit their website at www.VoicePad.co.uk.

SUPERMARKETS SEE IT RIGHT

Somerfield and KwikSave have become the first UK supermarkets to receive RNIB See It Right accreditation for their websites. One of the largest full food service retailers in the UK, their websites - www.somerfield.co.uk and www.kwiksave.co.uk - are now fully compliant with the RNIB's See It Right website accessibility guidelines. It is the first UK supermarket to reach this achievement without creating separate 'accessible' versions of their sites. The sites provide in-store offer information, store finder, in-depth food issues, recipe and wine databases.

Review feedback

WE WOULD APPRECIATE your comments on the December 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

Medical inspection at St Dunstan's



Commodore Reed tries David Poyner's bow for size.

MEDICAL STAFF from all three Services made a fact-finding tour of St Dunstan's Ovingdean on November 5th. Commodore Frank Reed, OBE, Commandant of the Defence Medical Services Training Centre led a tri-service delegation from Aldershot. During the visit, they were introduced to

St Dunstaners and staff who discussed nursing techniques, daily living skills, adaptive technologies and rehabilitation and mobility methods. St Dunstaners Arthur Lowe and Norman Wagstaff described life as residents, while others spoke of their confidence being restored during rehabilitation.

Raising a glass for Dorothy



DOROTHY ROSE retired on November 1st after 43 years in the Accounts department. Around 40 Headquarters staff turned out to hoist a glass or two in Dorothy's health and wish her the very happiest of retirements. However, it doesn't seem like a well earned rest just yet, she was back helping St Dunstan's contingent during Remembrance Weekend activities.



STEAM RALLY SUPPORTERS



IT WAS FULL STEAM ahead at the 16th Essex Steam and Country Show on September 15th. The annual event at Barleylands Farm in Billericay, Essex unites aficionados of steam tractors and antique agricultural machinery. Exhibits include steam rollers, ploughing engines and super

heaters. Apart from stoking up a full head of steam, the show supporters raised funds for several charities. This included an impressive £1,000 cheque for St Dunstan's which was presented to St Dunstaner Ted Pepper of Butterwick.

Aiming for Europe

FOUR ST DUNSTANERS have been short-listed for the British Blind Sports Archery Team. Steve Moseley, Nigel Whiteley, Derek Hagger and Dave Poyner all hope to be representing the country in Europe in 2003. Final selection for the competition squad will be made in the New Year.

Listen to the box

AUDIO-DESCRIBED television programmes were broadcast on regular BBC channels for the first time in November. Normally, special decoders are required for blind viewers to access the additional descriptive information.

Pub night goes down a treat

DAVID HIGGINBOTTOM, who works as a Nursing Care Assistant at Ovingdean, organised a charity night in aid of St Dunstan's at the Master Mariner pub in Brighton Marina on Friday October 18th. David worked very hard to arrange this event, and it was a great success. A number of local businesses and artists donated prizes for a raffle, and the sum of £350 was raised. **Nina Malpass, RGN**

Ten questions on ...

Christmas

Review Quizmaster Harry Beevers has some posers for the Christmas season

- 1) What is the birth sign of people born on Christmas Day?
- 2) According to the traditional song, what did my true love give me on the second day of Christmas?
- 3) Which British monarch established the tradition of the Christmas Day radio broadcast?
- 4) And who was the first British monarch to give a televised Christmas broadcast?
- 5) Who taught elocution at Edinburgh University and appeared as the character Scrooge on the screen?
- 6) Who sang *Have yourself a very merry Christmas* in the film *Meet me in St Louis*?
- 7) Which entrepreneur's first business enterprise was selling Christmas trees?
- 8) What is the name of Ebenezer Scrooge's deceased partner in Dickens' *A Christmas Carol*?
- 9) In the traditional pantomime *Jack and the Beanstalk*, what does Jack swap for the magic beans?
- 10) Excluding Rudolf, name the eight traditional reindeer of Santa?

Answers on page 25

Nick Ward discusses perceptions of St Dunstan's in a modern world

A QUESTION OF PUBLIC IMAGE

WHAT IS ST DUNSTAN'S? If you ask someone in South-east London, they will point you to a public school in Forest Hill. Elsewhere, you'll hear directions to an abandoned church and when Nigel Whiteley, (one of St Dunstan's own public speakers), telephoned HMS *Raleigh*, the duty officer wanted to know why a monastery needed to talk to the Navy.

Even those people who can associate St Dunstan's name with a mission to support blinded veterans are still not aware of all that the charity provides.

For St Dunstan's Director of Fundraising and Communications, Nick Ward, the problem is quite simple – St Dunstan's needs to become a name that everyone recognises today!

Today's lack of public recognition was brought home recently by one enthusiastic fundraiser at RAF Uxbridge who told Nick: "It's a real headache having to explain all the time to everyone you meet what the charity does and why it matters!"

But the problems go much further than this and as Nick will tell you: "Although St Dunstan's actually has thousands of supporters, very few of them can describe the charity.

"This situation must change and the first step is to build a recognisable public image that every possible supporter will understand, regardless of their age. We need to suggest the whole range of skills and support that St Dunstan's provides today."

Charged with bridging this gap in public recognition, Nick enlisted the aid of over 100 St Dunstaners, Council members, staff and supporters. Throughout January,

by Simon Rogers

February and March they all participated in the first stage of a review of the charity's public image. Five different images and seven verbal descriptions were used to encourage discussion on what the charity represented to all those involved in the consultation. Once this was established, the aim was then to discover how successfully each of the test designs could capture that particular image in a way that would be 'memorable' and 'forward looking'.

The project has created a great deal of interest. "I'm really pleased with the fact so many people wanted to join in this exercise," says Nick. "Everyone participated enthusiastically and no one was ever shy about making their views known."

One area of agreement emerged immediately – St Dunstan's creates 'independence' and a real sense of 'an independent future'. In the words of one St Dunstaner: "Caring simply doesn't say enough. We've gone much further than that. St Dunstan's say that they're not going to care for you – they're going to help you care for yourself. They try to encourage independence."

There was much less agreement about the visual imagery and in fact, one group of St Dunstaners were

absolutely convinced that the test designs weren't radical enough. However, as Nick commented "One point needs to be made absolutely clear. The St Dunstan's badge is NOT about to change as a result of this project. This review is only one part of a wider review of the charity's activities. The emphasis, more importantly, is on the quality of our service to St Dunstaners.

"Our interest, in this instance, focuses on creating designs for fundraising, public relations and special events which will become instantly recognisable to our supporters and future donors.

"We ask, we listen to your comments, consider everyone's views and then we will be talking to you again in the New Year about stage two. Wherever we have a strong agreement, we will act on that view. The St Dunstaners who participated in this research all devoted considerable time and energy to the project and everyone clearly enjoyed the chance to express their opinions. We appreciate your very practical help."

Finally, in a world filled with Post Office style makeovers, Nick made once last assurance: "All the work covered in this project is being managed within the Fundraising department and when we have used external designers, the cost can be measured in hundreds of pounds rather than hundreds of thousands."

Comments and suggestions on these issues should be sent to 'Public Image', St Dunstan's Review, 12-14 Harcourt Street, London W1H 4HD.

WINTER OF BOWLING CONTENT



Scenes from the Semi-Finals: Sid Wisdom, Ted Arnold, Craig Nellor and other bowling St Dunstaners.



TWENTY-NINE St Dunstaners assembled at Ovingdean for the October-November Bowling Tournament and the bowling continued to be of a high standard. We are pleased to have two lady bowlers taking part. Peggy West has been joined by Marjorie Scott who was entering her first competition. The boys will certainly be kept in order!

We are very fortunate in having Reg and Vi Bradford and Lilian and Brian James as callers. With our bowlers Iain, Phil and Craig covering the weekends, they put in a great effort. I must not forget Jackie Pryor and Frank Smith who spent all day and every day on the green especially helping those with extra disabilities.

The wives were most helpful serving teas and coffees with the "keen" supervision of Marjorie Mills – the Paddock Wood tigress – and Doris Callaghan. Thank you ladies! And Joan would like to thank Mary Whitley, who was a great PA.

The presentation on November 7th of the prizes was ably carried out by Dick Lake and I would like to thank him and all the staff for their help and support. Also Joan

was more than delighted by her enormous basket of flowers and thanks you all.

May I take this opportunity of wishing you a Happy Christmas and happy and healthy new year. Looking forward to seeing you for the next tournament in March.

Bob Osborne
Chairman

RESULTS TRIPLES

Winners John Perfect, Frank Smith and Sid Wisdom
2nd Bob Osborne, Arthur Porter and Craig Nellor

PAIRS

Winners Tom Whitley and Ted Arnold
2nd Peggy West and Phil Dobson
3rd Mansell Lewis and Eric Church.

SINGLES

Partially Sighted
Winner Iain Millard
2nd Sid Wisdom

SINGLES

Totally Blind
Winner Bob Osborne
2nd John Perfect
3rd Peggy West

GROUP

Winners Ted Arnold and Alf Callaghan



Whipcrack away! Brian Moon indicates a turn, which the ponies have already anticipated.

“I get to sit down on Sunday afternoons!”

IF YOU NEED an example of someone who has not let blindness curtail life, then you need look no further than Brian Moon. Blinded through diabetes, he appears to get more active as the years go by, being occupied virtually every day of the week - “But I do get to sit down on Sunday afternoons.”

Brian was born in London in 1938 and moved during the war to Uckfield in Sussex. His mother died soon after and he was raised by his aunt. Although still of tender years, he remembers watching the dog-fights in the sky and picking up silver paper, dropped to foil radar.

Brian attended school in Framfield and left at the age of 15 to take up an apprenticeship in plumbing. This lasted for five years until he was called

Brian Moon talks to Ray Hazan

up for National Service in 1959. He served initially with the Royal Artillery for two weeks and then was transferred to the Royal Engineers. In true army fashion, though trained as a plumber, he spent 13 months in Farnborough as a Regimental cook before finishing his time at Long Marston,

Stratford, a railway stores depot. He returned to plumbing on demob. Brian and Doreen were married in 1962 and recently celebrated their Ruby wedding anniversary. Interested in earning more money, he switched jobs to structural engineering in general and paint spraying in particular.

In 1983, Brian and his family’s lives were radically changed over a period of six weeks, from a visit to an optician, via an operation at Moorfields Eye Hospital, to being totally blind. Diabetes had claimed another victim.

“Of course, it was traumatic. Up to then, I did all the driving as Doreen couldn’t, and being stuck out in the country with the lack of a bus service meant great difficulties.

“I was totally reliant on the local social services as I did not fit the St Dunstan’s criteria at that time. But I had an excellent social worker. She got me into a group in Uckfield where I learnt touch-typing, Braille and handicrafts. I did have a spell at Torquay, the RNIB employment centre, but I feel the only benefit I derived from there was learning about guide dogs.”

GUIDE DOGS

“In 1986, I went to Wokingham and trained with my first guide dog Quinn. This, in turn, led me on to join the local Guide Dog Fundraising committee, which I eventually chaired. I then went on to become a speaker for Guide Dogs. I would go to local schools, Women’s Institutes, anyone who wanted a talk.

“I was doing a bit of wrought-iron work, for sale, but the income only covered materials. All we had coming in as a family were the statutory benefits, so it was a hard time. It is a very difficult adjustment from being the head of the family as the bread winner to losing that role”. But in 1988 Brian joined the Riding for the Disabled Association (RDA), which was to make a great impact on his lifestyle.

“Once again, it was a social worker with the East Sussex Association for the Blind who got me into RDA pony carriage driving. We met at Hendall Manor Farm. I attended once a week in those days and I was really bitten by the bug. I know it’s not quite the same as driving a car, but it’s the sense of being able to do



Photographs by Vivienne Saunders

Keeping the ponies well groomed is an intensive task for St Dunstaner Brian.



Brian feels craft work is a rewarding endeavour.

something myself. Driving enables me to take part in competitions. I have always been interested in sports; here is another one in which I can compete against both disabled and able-bodied. I belong to the Oaks Driving Club, which is not a disabled group.

TURNOUTS

“When we do go out as an RDA group in the winter, it is mainly on the roads. We go out in a convoy of four or five ‘turnouts’ as a pony and trap are called. A car goes out ahead with its lights on and a disabled driver sign on the front, while another car brings up the rear with a sign on the back. In the summer, we drive off the road in a field, where we can practise dressage as well.

“An AB whip (able-bodied whip) travels on the carriage next to us with a spare set of reins like the dual control foot pedals on a car, just in case anything goes wrong. The carriages are two or four wheeled and adapted to take wheelchairs. Four wheelers are getting more popular and the disabled ones have a device, which if you draw up straight and push on a pedal, it keeps the cart in a straight line when reversed. They also have a brake pedal and a handbrake for parking.”

Brian competes in one-day events: “These consist of dressage, where the driver has to steer a set course performing perfect patterns. There is the ‘cones course’, where you drive in and out of road cones, and the hazards, where you

navigate through gates and piles of tyres, all in a specific order. Finally, there is ‘showing’, where you drive around the arena and then you are judged on the state of the pony and trap and the harness, all of which must be spic and span with brass-work gleaming and leather shiny and supple. The preparation for an event can take half a day or more.”

LUCK AND FORTUNE

Many St Dunstaners will know the frustrations of wanting to pursue an interest but finding the travelling to the hobby difficult or even impossible. Luck and fortune occasionally produce an angel. For Brian, that angel is Mary whom he met at an RDA fundraising meeting in 1993. Mary, who lives in a nearby village, was talking about how she went out driving alone and Brian, how he wished he lived nearer and could accompany her. “Mary said she would think about it and offered to pick me up and take me driving. The once a week has now grown to three times a week, in addition to my RDA attendance. Mary’s husband is very supportive and between us all, we take part in charity events raising money for disabled drivers, hospices and so on.”

Sitting on one of the two inward facing seats at the back of the trap, I could hear Mary describing the obstacles as Brian drove through the village. Parked cars, buildings and turnings were described as Brian guided the two

“You are judged on the state of the pony and trap and the harness, all of which must be spic and span with brass-work gleaming”

Shetland ponies, Angie and Beau, faultlessly through the obstacles. On returning to Mary’s home, Brian expertly assisted in removing the harness and stabling the two ponies, rewarding them with a feedbag for their efforts in dragging an additional passenger on their outing!

THERAPEUTIC

In 1987, Brian was advised to make an approach to St Dunstan’s and was accepted as a beneficiary of the Diana Gubbay Trust. In those days, the Trust provided some training and limited support to ex-Service people, whose blindness was not attributed to their military service. He attended a six-week course at Ovingdean in telephony and brushed up on Braille and typing. But subsequent attempts to get work as a telephonist met with little success, there being no demand in the area of Sussex where he lives.

Today, as if his involvement with ponies and carriages were not enough, Brian is also interested in craftwork. Initially, he and a partially-sighted colleague tried their hands at wrought-iron work. “But that didn’t work out too well and we transferred into woodcraft items such as wooden toys, nesting boxes and bird tables. We used to work in a shed, but then had to vacate our last premises. I went to the Uckfield town council and my local MP and between them, they found us a disused chapel. We pay £5-a-week rent for the amenities”. It is a fair sized premises filled with benches, a band-saw, jig-saw and all the other requirements of woodcraft.

“We try to sell our products in local shops and garden centres. It’s not a money-spinner. By the time we have purchased timber,

though we try to use re-cycled timber as much as possible, nails, saw blades, etc there’s no profit. It is purely a therapeutic enterprise, which takes up two mornings a week.”

What little time remains is divided between several other activities. Brian is a member of the Lewes Wanderers Cycle Club. He tandem-cycles some 40 miles one morning a week. “The longest ride I did was from Guildford to Stonehenge and back; some 140 miles as we got lost!” He carries out the heavy work in the large vegetable patch in the garden, so he and Doreen are virtually self-sufficient in vegetables, apples and pears. He also helps prepare the ground-work for any decorating. Brian no longer has a guide dog but Scoobie, a rescued Collie-Shepherd cross, is a faithful and friendly companion, who must be taken for walks. Brian is very familiar with the village he knew by sight and has enjoyed the benefit of long cane training. Most people in Uckfield know Brian.



To the victor the spoils! Brian with his dressage trophies.

“Even the young people are helpful, either moving out of my way or warning me of obstacles.” He is a member of the Calibre Talking Book library and he also borrows cassettes from the mobile library, which visits once a fortnight. “I enjoy a good western, or war story whether it be fiction or non-fiction.

“Although I didn’t want to do my National Service, it stood me in good stead for life now. It taught me to stand on my own two feet and how to look after myself.

“Becoming a full St Dunstaner has also been a great help thanks to the back-up of my Welfare Officer, and knowing there is support there if I need it.” But all things considered, Brian is a fine example of a St Dunstaner and what St Dunstan’s strives to attain through a partnership; to enable and encourage us to lead independent lives back in our local community. Brian surely puts a lot into life and in turn, he gets a lot out of life.

DESPATCH FROM THE KITCHEN FRONT LINE

THE WOMAN WHO taught Britain how to cook prepared a few tasty tips for a trio of St Dunstaners on October 22nd. Arthur Harvey, Colwyn Lloyd, Colin Frampton and their wives were booked into the Training Kitchen at Ovingdean as part of a rehabilitation and training course and found that their guest of honour for dinner was Marguerite Patten OBE.

Having trained as a home economist Marguerite has an unparalleled background in cookery. As a representative for Frigidaire, she persuaded a sceptical British public that they should have a refrigerator to keep food hygienic. "People didn't want them. They thought that, in our climate, things kept perfectly well in the pantry. The war changed attitudes because people were taught waste not, want not," she said.

During the war, Marguerite was a food adviser for the Ministry of Food and in 1943 she was charged to make five-minute radio



Arthur Harvey tests the heat before opening the oven door.

The lady who taught Britain how to cook has good advice for gourmet St Dunstaners

Anna Robinson reports

broadcasts called *The Kitchen Front*. In peacetime she continued on *Woman's Hour* and then became the first television cook when broadcasts resumed in 1947. It was not unusual for a theatre or cinema to be packed full with people wishing to attend her cookery demonstrations.

On this occasion, she followed our St Dunstaners round the kitchen offering handy hints and advice.

One tip for Arthur was to leave the pastry hanging over the edge of the baking dish to allow for shrinkage during cooking.

The complete meal follows:

Vegetable Soup

Ingredients:

1 medium sized onion
1 chicken or beef stock cube
1 medium sized potato
1 large carrot
1 1/4 pints (750 mls) hot water
1 stick celery
2 slices streaky bacon
1 small turnip or piece of swede
Any combination of root vegetables can be used to give a good 1lb (500 grams) in weight after peeling.

Large pinch mixed dried herbs (Half water/half tomato juice may be used to give extra flavour if preferred.)

Method: Prepare all the vegetables in the usual way and finely chop or slice. Remove the rind from the bacon and finely dice. Next, place the bacon and onion in a heat-resistant, non-metallic jug. Heat, covered on full for 1 1/2 minutes. Add remaining vegetables, stir. Heat, covered, on full for 8 minutes, stirring halfway through cooking time. Stir in water (or vegetable juice and water), seasoning, herbs, and stock cube (for a slightly thickened soup blend 1oz (28 grams) flour with a little cold milk or water and stir into soup). Heat, uncovered on full for 8 minutes or on simmer for 16 minutes (a better flavour is



Arthur removes his steak and ale pie with care.



Marguerite Patten OBE advised Arthur to use a bit more pastry around the edge of the pie.

obtained from heating on simmer).

To vary the soup a little, stir in a small tin of peas and heat on full for 3-4 minutes (or use up any leftover cooked peas or green beans). If a smooth soup is preferred, liquidise in a blender or rub through a sieve.

The size of the vegetables should be reasonably uniform. Timings assume that you chop the vegetables reasonably small. If you prefer a chunkier version you may need to increase timings by 1/2 - 1 minute.

Steak & Ale Pie

Ingredients:

Oil for frying
1 large onion, chopped
750gm beef, cubed
30g plain flour
Beef stock cube
Small can Guinness
1/2 cup water
Worcestershire sauce
Salt & pepper

pinch mixed herbs - optional
250g button mushrooms
Beaten egg for glazing
Pre-made fresh short crust pastry

Method: Add to a jug the water, Guinness, stock, salt & pepper, mixed herbs and Worcestershire sauce. Heat oil in the wok and fry onion for 2 minutes. Add beef and cook until browned, then add flour and cook for further minute. Add contents of the jug and bring to the boil. Partially cover and simmer for 1 1/2 hours, stirring occasionally add the mushrooms and cook for a further 30 minutes. Leave to cool.

Roll out the pastry, checking it is larger than the lid of the casserole dish. Add the filling to the casserole dish then place the pastry over the top, allowing it to flop over the sides, using a pastry flute to hold the centre up if necessary. Glaze with the beaten egg. Cook at 200°/gas mark 6 for 25-30 minutes until pastry is golden.

This meal was accompanied with mushy peas and oven chips.

George's Ginger Dessert

Ingredients:
12oz ginger biscuits (snaps)
1 cup rum
10fl oz double cream
1 or 2 pieces stem ginger in syrup

Method: Whip the cream until thick, adding a teaspoon of caster sugar or ginger syrup if desired. Take a biscuit and dip it briefly in the rum. Spread one side of the biscuit in the cream. Repeat with the next biscuit and stick it to the first. Place them on their side on a suitable plate or tray.

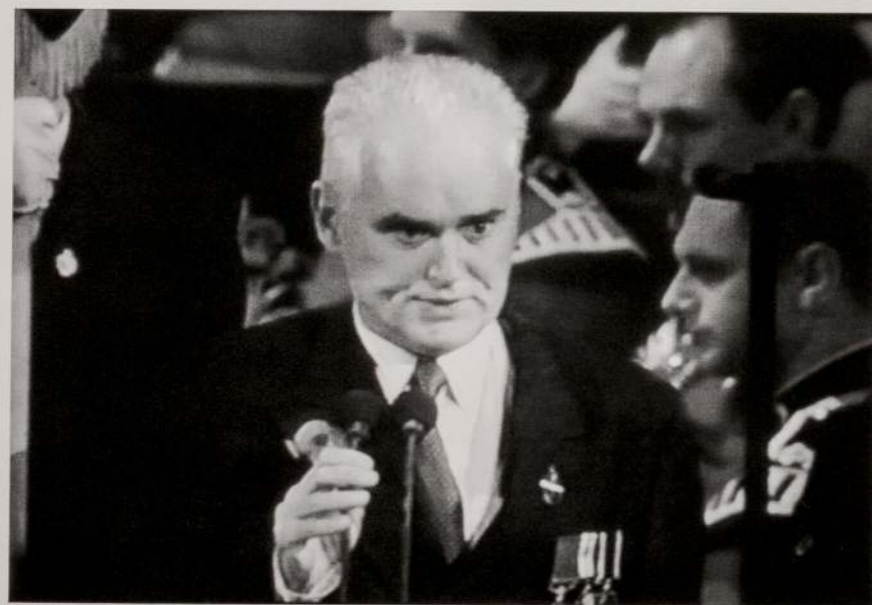
Repeat this until you have a 'log' of biscuits held together by the cream. Leave the log in the fridge overnight. Next day, cover the log with the rest of the cream and decorate with slices of stem ginger. Enjoy!

REMEMBERING IN THE RAIN

Heavens weep as fallen comrades live in our memories



Jackie Greer uses sign language to keep Michael Ryan updated as St Dunstaners form up on Horse Guards Parade. Beside them are Ken Burton and his son Carl.



Terry Bullingham delivers the citation at the Albert Hall.



Fred Bentley was guided by Sir Peter de la Billière.

THERE WERE TEARS in their eyes and tears in the skies, but our memories linger on. As we paraded on Horse Guards, we wondered if we would ever be dry again as long incessant streams of water bore down on us. But then, as if by a miracle, as we marched through the arch, someone or something relented and not even a breeze stirred in Whitehall on Sunday, November 10th.

This year was the 20th anniversary of the Falklands campaign and St Dunstaner Terry Bullingham was given the privilege of reading the citation at the start of the Festival of Remembrance held in the Royal Albert Hall the previous day. Terry was blinded on HMS *Antrim* whilst hosing down an unexploded bomb when a Mirage jet strafed the vessel. Together with the President and Chairman of St Dunstan's, he also headed our column on parade.

Unusually for the time of year, the trees in Whitehall were covered in green leaves and neither they nor the usual crowds moved as Big Ben sounded eleven and the salute gun boomed out. But inside, our minds churned with memories of comrades both known and unknown to us and to fellow St Dunstaners long or recently departed. We missed Trevor Tatchell's Welsh male voice choir singing the hymn.

DISTINGUISHED

It was a slightly stiff and cramped contingent of 97 St Dunstaners and 14 widows plus all their escorts that set off after the band. The length of our contingent made for a reasonable television commentary with our distinguished guides Generals Sir Peter de la Billière and Sir Edward Jones being mentioned as well as St Dunstaners Terry Bullingham and Billy Baxter. It was an impression that, despite the numbers of Veterans and spectators, the usual verve was missing from the applause which accompanied the contingents along the way. My guide did tell me, however, that he saw tears running down many faces, which may have been more fitting for the occasion.

Ray Hazan reports on Remembrance Weekend 2002

HRH The Duke of Edinburgh took the salute as we marched onto Horse Guards and another parade had come to an end.

The dining room of the Holiday Inn (Regents Park) bulged with 270 guests for lunch. After grace by our President Colin Beaumont-Edmonds, MC, spirits and calories were re-vitalised!

The Chairman proposed a Naval toast to our Patron and we remained seated. He later began his address by congratulating all who had made the effort to be on parade, followed by welcoming our guests, Elspeth Grant, Sir Peter and Sir Edward. "I reported at the AGM that it had been a positive year for St Dunstan's, that, despite an economic downturn, we seem to be meeting costs from investment income and funds raised, continuing, I hope, to provide a high class service to you all. It reflects greatly on the skill and the care of our excellent management teams."

Michael Gordon-Lennox went on to summarise the achievements of



Michael Delmar-Morgan and St Dunstaner Stephen Menary.



St Dunstaner Charles Game and escort J. Muir.



HRH The Duke of Edinburgh having taken the salute.



By the right! St Dunstaners such as Steve Moseley march on.



Jim Parker, Bill Norton, Tony Haskey and Gary Lomas follow.



Harry Smith, Clive Wood, Sue Reynolds, Elsie Aldred and Peggy West maintain a proud pace before the final salute.

the Blind Ambition campaign and applause greeted his reference to Ray Sheriff's continuing parachute jumps into Arnhem.

The Chairman concluded by looking forward with cautious optimism to the year ahead. He thanked Dorothy Rose who had retired the previous week after 43 years of service to St Dunstan's and to Elspeth Grant who had organised her 30th camp this year.

It was then the turn of one of our Vice-Patrons, General Sir Edward Jones, KCB, CVO, CBE a former Black Rod, to address the assembly. "I have been aware of St Dunstan's and all it sets out to achieve, from an early age. But little did I ever think that one day I would proudly march past the Cenotaph arm in arm with one of your number. I had been given to understand that as a guide, my responsibility was to ensure my St Dunstaner with whom I was paired got to the right place at the right time. What a silly thought! Paul Walker kept me up to date with everything that was going on!"

SACRIFICE

It was the first time Sir Edward had witnessed the parade in London. He wanted us to remember the reason for the sacrifice made – so that we should be able to lead our lives as we wish, to do what we want, when we want. "I think it would be appropriate at the present time, that we should cast our minds to those serving with all three armed Services today, who may be required to go on active service in the not-too-distant future in the Middle East."

Sir Edward drew cheers from interested sections of the audience as he listed the activities he read

about in the *Review*, from golfers to racing drivers. "For you, blindness is not an affliction but a challenge. It is your ability to rise above your affliction which inspires the rest of us – for that, we are deeply grateful."

SPEEDY RESPONSE

The response on behalf of St Dunstaners was given by Jamie Cuthbertson of Glasgow. He started by thanking our guests, Sir Edward and Lady Jones. "Thanks to the guides, without whom we would still be floundering around on Horse Guards" drew loud applause. Jamie thanked St Dunstan's. "Sometimes it might sound a little corny to say 'the St Dunstan's family', but you feel it in the atmosphere today. There's a feeling of being involved in an organisation which cares for the people it is caring for and I think a warm thanks from St Dunstaners to St Dunstan's is in order."

Jamie went on to present the Blind Ambition campaign achievements in a different light. He compared the 45mph of Threadgold, with Menary and Sheriff's freefall at 120mph and Billy the Whizz at 138mph with a nameless St Dunstaner who sat watching TV at 2.30 in the afternoon having finished work at 5pm! He concluded by presenting a bouquet of flowers to Dorothy Rose.

Once again, Jeremy Hinton and his teams of staff from Harcourt Street, Ovingdean and around the country had enabled us to pay tribute to those who had given their lives to make it all possible. This, the largest of St Dunstan's reunions, also reminds the public of those who have fought for their country and sacrificed their sight or who have since lost that most precious of our senses. "We will remember them!"



Albert Boyes, Walter Briggs, Alfred Callaghan and Eve Lucas form up on a rain drenched square.



Christine Stalham, Bertha Drew, Jean Hogg and Vivien Jerome head up the Widows part of St Dunstan's contingent.



Cannon fire signals the two minute silence in Whitehall.



THE NATION DOES NOT FORGET

Although the ceremony at the Cenotaph in London forms a focus for National feelings on Remembrance Weekend there are many other gatherings around the country where St Dunstaners were involved with commemorations

St Dunstaner Phil Taylor, flanked by Eddie Ginn, holds our Standard high during the march to Rottingdean War Memorial. Arthur Whittington was ready to lay the wreath.

ST DUNSTANERS on the Brighton coast fared better weather than their counterparts in London with just a couple of minutes rain as they gathered by the White Lion in Rottingdean.

As usual, they joined contingents from the local Royal British Legion, Red Cross, local schools, Scouts, Cubs and Brownies before marching to the memorial by the pond.

St Dunstaner Fred Ward of Oldbury, West Midlands, who is the most senior veteran in Smethwick Royal British Legion, enjoyed sunshine during a one-and-a-half mile march to the local Cenotaph. Fred who served in the Gloucester Regiment and also the Maritime Royal Artillery, read the epitaph and also took the salute in front of civic dignitaries who included the local mayor and the

Minister for Transport John Spellar, MP. "It was quite an honour," said Fred.

Welfare Officer Liz Pearce made a special journey to Christ Church,

Melplash, Dorset to lay a wreath in memory of ten St Dunstaners who had suffered severe wounds and passed away at Melplash Court where St Dunstan's had a convalescent home.



A two minute silence was observed at the Imperial War Museum on Remembrance Day, November 11th.

REMEMBRANCE BEGINS IN THE CLASSROOM



Pupils from Ratton School with St Dunstaners in front of a World War I tank at the Imperial War Museum in London.

ST DUNSTAN'S HAS taken a pioneering step in bringing first hand experience of 20th Century conflict through the eyes of the blind, directly into the classroom.

By developing interactive teaching programmes linked directly to the History and Citizenship requirements of the National Curriculum, St Dunstan's aims to educate, encourage empathy and provide pupils with a greater understanding of visual impairment through the personal experiences of our St Dunstaners. This was launched on Remembrance Day, November 11th at the Imperial War Museum in London with a class from Ratton School, Eastbourne studying conflict in the 20th Century.

St Dunstan's origins in the First World War were explained through the experience of the late David Melling, blinded in a trench in Turkey when he was only 17. Subsequent conflicts through the 20th Century were covered with input from

St Dunstaners Ron Cattell, Gerry Grant, Ray Hazan, Nigel Whiteley and Billy Baxter. It is believed that this is the first time that any charity has provided such a direct and personal input into curricular studies.

"We felt it was time that we brought the story of St Dunstan's to a younger audience," said Robert Leader, Chief Executive of St Dunstan's. "Working in partnership with schools allows us to bring pupils and St Dunstaners face to face for the first time as part of the National Curriculum. We want them to see for themselves how ex-Service men and women have rebuilt their shattered lives!"

David Salmon, Deputy Head of Ratton School added: "As teachers, we are always looking for ways in which to bring lessons to life for students and provide them with a context upon which to base their understanding. St. Dunstan's is providing an invaluable resource – the oral history of people who went through life changing experiences."

David Melling



Aged 17

David Melling

- Date: 7 August 1915, second day of the battle
- Place: Krithia Vineyards, Gallipoli
- Wounded: Shot in the head by a Turkish bullet
- Trajectory: Left to right across the forehead
- Blinded: Bullet passed through both eyes
- Captured: Lying in one of the Turkish trenches
- Released: First British POW released by Turkey

Sir Arthur Pearson



Made it his mission to help other blind people

Sir Arthur's Mission

- Establish a training centre for blinded soldiers and sailors
- Provide them with the skills for every day living
- Re-train them with the skills for employment
- Rebuild their confidence and self-esteem

Practical Task

Imagine that you have lost your sight in the prime of your life. You're in hospital. You feel your world's ended. You feel bitter, depressed, helpless.

When Sir Arthur Pearson first visited all the newly blinded soldiers and sailors in hospital, he gave them each a special present to start them on the road to rehabilitation.

What do you think it was?



To this day watches are still given out to each newly blinded ex-service person

WELCOME TO ST DUNSTAN'S

October 11th

Joyce Charlton of Hove, East Sussex served with the Royal Engineers as a member of the Womens Royal Army Corps from 1950 to 1952. She acted as a medical orderly and carried out clerical duties in the records office whilst based at Preston barracks. She left the Service when she got married. Before losing her sight she was a very keen gardener and enjoyed knitting and reading. She was heavily involved with the local scout group for 33 years, both as a fundraiser and secretary. She has been studying Italian, and enjoys discussion groups and aromatherapy. She also belongs to the East Sussex Association for the Blind. She and her husband Ronald have three sons and four grandchildren.

Donald Robinson of Hollywood, Birmingham served in the Home Guard from 1942 to 1944. He first served with the 24th Battalion Warwickshire Home Guard in Birmingham and Moseley as a dispatch rider before transferring to 71st Heavy Anti Aircraft Battalion when he was posted to Cardiff and Swansea, manning 3.5 and 4.7 air defence guns as a loader. Later he operated a barrage balloon at an Air Force site. In civilian life, he worked for BSA as a gun fitter, firstly on aircraft weapons systems and then constructing the FN rifle. When they closed he joined Rover as a machine operator. He was a very keen gardener and enjoys fishing, bowls and snooker. He and his wife Iris have one son, one daughter and two grandchildren.

Ronald Street of Bensafrim, Portugal served with the Royal Air Force from 1941 to 1966 and retired as a Squadron Leader. He volunteered as pilot, completed training in Canada on Tiger Moths and Harvards before joining a squadron equipped with Hurricanes in Northumberland. They converted to Typhoons and a brief spell with Spitfires before being sent to Burma. He flew Thunderbolts in the ground support role and was shot down twice. At the end of the war he remained in the RAF and converted to Meteors. Later he transferred to Transport Command and flew Dakotas and Yorks during the Berlin airlift. He transferred to Bomber Command equipped with Lincolns and then B29s before converting to jet bombers. He completed a tour as

Adjutant and was flying Canberras in the photo recon role until he retired. In civilian life, he joined British Airways College of Air Training. He has always enjoyed sailing, most water sports and reading and now enjoys the radio, Talking Books and music. He has a daughter, two sons and four grandchildren.

Frederick Ward of Oldbury, West Midlands served with the Gloucester Regiment and Maritime Royal Artillery from 1940 to 1946. He undertook aerodrome defence, first in Bath, then in Yeovilton with the Fleet Air Arm where he was blown out of a gun pit. He then volunteered to man the guns on merchant ships and joined the Maritime Royal Artillery. His first sail was to India and Bombay, then moving stores between India and Egypt. He later took part in the Sicily and Italian landings and was in Naples when Vesuvius erupted. He was in the Fleet that escorted the surrendered Italian Navy to Malta. He also took part in the Normandy landings on D+3, supplying the Americans on Omaha beach. After leaving the Service he settled at a foundry works in Birmingham making engine cylinder castings. He has had a variety of interests over the years including gardening, photography, the Red Cross, and leading a rambling group. He still enjoys walking. He and his wife Edna have one daughter and one grandson.

October 25th

Edward Burtenshaw of Seaford, East Sussex served in the Hampshire Regiment and then the Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire Regiment between 1940 and 1946. He served in North Africa, Tunisia and Italy. He was taken prisoner but escaped and acted as a sniper during various actions including the battle at Monte Cassino. A keen gardener and sea fisherman, he enjoyed repairing television sets and radios. He has three children, four grandchildren and one great-grandchild.

Eric de Rose of Boston, Lincolnshire served in the Royal Army Service Corps from 1939 to 1946. He was sent with the BEF to France but was then posted to Palestine for 11 months. He was then involved in the North Africa campaign before being commissioned. After joining a tank transporter unit,

he returned to the UK to prepare for the Normandy landings. He went in on D+4 and was subsequently wounded. In civilian life he worked as a teacher but later became Manager/Secretary of the Conservative Party in Bournemouth before starting a property business. A Sports Master, he has been a life-long Arsenal supporter, an umpire, referee and boxing judge, was a member of two local bowling clubs and a golf club. He enjoys fishing and was previously a Mason and Round Table member. He has two daughters and two granddaughters.

Harland Lawson of Chipstead, Surrey served in the Merchant Navy from 1939 to 1943 and the Royal Air Force from 1943 to 1947. As a deck hand, he served on oil tankers on the Atlantic convoy runs and on ships carrying troops and munitions to North Africa and Ceylon. He joined the RAF and became an air gunner in Lancasters with 622 Squadron, based at Mildenhall. In civilian life, he qualified as a chartered civil engineer and worked as a bridge designer with various railway and government agencies. A keen sportsman and a strong swimmer, his main hobby was as a flying instructor for light aircraft. He is a Fellow of the Civil Engineers and Structural Engineers and a member of the local Parkinson's Society. He and his wife Almath have a son and daughter.

Dorothy O'Leary of Walton on the Naze, Essex served in the Auxiliary Territorial Service from 1942 to 1944. She trained at Newton Abbot and was attached to the Royal Artillery at Oswestry to learn about anti-aircraft systems. She then became part of a mobile ack ack unit equipped with 4.7 guns that served throughout the UK. In the day she acted as a Height Finder and at night, a Range Plotter. She left the Service to get married and has three sons, three daughters, 12 grandchildren and 16 great grandchildren. She spent 15 years working in the pharmacy department of a local hospital.

Michael Perrett of Woodingdean, Brighton completed National Service with the Royal Air Force from 1949 to 1950. He served at RAF Innsworth in Gloucestershire in the Pay & Accounts department for 18 months. He later served as a Commissioned Officer in the Air Training Corps for 3 years. In civilian life he was a police officer with the Plymouth force for 13 years, but left after injuring his back. He then worked as a national salesman for Dunlop, later joining a linoleum firm. Before retiring he managed a

residential home. A keen all-round sportsman before his back injury, he is an active member of the National Association of Retired Police Officers and the Macular Degeneration Society. He enjoys swimming and taking holidays. He and his wife Beryl have two sons, one daughter and six grandchildren.

Raymond Whitehouse of Sedgley, West Midlands completed National Service with the RAF from 1955 to 1957. After training, he joined HQ Bomber Command in Bawtry where he served as a clerk. He qualified as a cabinet maker before National Service but spent most of his working life in an office in a variety of positions including clerical, distribution and sales. He is a very independent man who enjoyed all sports, particularly tennis and indoor bowls (where he has taken part in the National Championships). He is a member of a number of local committees working to improve services for the disabled and is a volunteer for Age Concern. He and his wife Joan have two children and four grandchildren.

Elisabeth Cox of Cardiff, South Glamorgan served in the Auxiliary Territorial Service from 1943 to 1946. She was called up and after basic training became a wireless operator in the Royal Signals at Harrogate working for the Y group within the war office. This was part of the listening service responsible for passing coded enemy transmissions to Bletchley Park. After the war she returned to the civil service at the Welsh Office and later transferred to the Ministry of National Insurance in Cardiff until 1952. A voluntary worker for the local Institute for the Blind, as part of their contact line, she is a member of the Cardiff Musical Society and enjoys gardening and swimming. She and her husband Edgar have two sons and six grandchildren.

Ten Answers... From page nine.

- 1) Capricorn.
- 2) Two turtle doves.
- 3) King George V.
- 4) Queen Elizabeth II.
- 5) Alistair Sim.
- 6) Judy Garland.
- 7) Richard Branson.
- 8) Jacob Marley.
- 9) The family cow.
- 10) Dasher and Dancer, Cupid and Vixen, Comet and Prancer, Donner and Blitzen.

THE BEST ADVERTISEMENT FOR ST DUNSTAN'S



The best ad is St Dunstaners themselves according to Simon Rogers who tracks down several of our Speakers as they spread the message nationwide

IN THE MISSION to tell people about the work of St Dunstan's, of the services and support it can provide for blind service men and women, the best advertisement is undoubtedly St Dunstaners themselves. Who better to talk of the anxieties and frustrations that surround losing your sight, the

realisation that you are not alone in this plight and that blindness is an obstacle that can be overcome, than someone who has gone through the lows and highs of that experience?

A handful of St Dunstaners do just that. They go out into the community, to visit those currently

serving in the forces, voluntary organisations and luncheon clubs, amongst others, to explain how blindness changed their lives and how St Dunstan's helped to redress that imbalance. These talks can educate those who have had no or little contact with blind people, who have little concept of how loss of sight might impact on their lives. They can bring new St Dunstaners to our attention when members of an audience realise that they know a former Service man or woman who is experiencing visual impairment.

Also, they can encourage support through a range of voluntary activities and fundraising exercises.

So with this in mind, I followed a handful of St Dunstan's Speakers on an engagement to witness them in action. St Dunstaner Nigel Whiteley has travelled to NAVS Yeovilton, also known as



Main picture: Nigel Whiteley returns to a former posting to talk to medical crew.

Left: Ray Hazan listens for questions from an inquisitive class of schoolchildren.



Terry Bullingham addresses a full house at Hayward's Heath Probus Club.

HMS *Heron*, to talk to medical staff. The base has come on a bit since he was posted there, though one nurse thinks it might have had better staffing levels in Nigel's day. A quick straw poll confirms that few of the active crew have heard of St Dunstan's. One knew it had something to do with blind people, but her knowledge stops there, while one chap is very familiar with St Dunstan's, his father is Martyn Webb, a regular helper at the Lee-on-Solent Camp.

Nigel's talk covers a little of St Dunstan's history, why it was founded during the 1st World War, why it continued to be necessary through subsequent conflicts and how that care has been extended to ex-Service men and women who have lost their sight under other conditions.

"I lost my sight, my job and my house in a day," says Nigel. "It was very frightening. I had been

married about eight months, my house was tied to my job and I couldn't do that without sight!

"Within a week of going to St Dunstan's they had restored my confidence so that I was able to walk around on my own again. They helped me get over that shock and move on.

St Dunstan's saved my life, saved my marriage. It gave me a lot of confidence."

A few reluctant volunteers try "sim specs" – glasses that simulate a selection of visual impairment. One nurse gamely tries walking across the room. "I keep looking down," she says, the involuntary head movement prompted by the sudden restriction of vision.

Nigel fields a selection of questions and this prompts a memory of a Navy man who served in the Falklands. "Was he

on the ship that got bombed?" "No, he was hit by a boom!" However, the medics seem to have latched on to a potential St Dunstaner.

A few days later Ray Hazan, who acts as a Speaker on top of his duties as St Dunstan's Head of Public Relations is on his way to visit a class at Warlingham Park School in Surrey. Aged around six, they have been learning about the life of Louis Braille.

Ray starts by asking the children what you call a camel at the North Pole? "I'd call him lost, wouldn't you?" The ice broken, he goes on to explain that he was blinded by a parcel bomb in Northern Ireland. Over the next half-hour he fields questions about the best way to guide a blind person, how he puts on his prosthetic arm, and how to eat dinner when you cannot see what is on the plate before you. He demonstrates a liquid-level

indicator, some playing cards with tactile markings and a device for recording memos and information.

He explains why patting a guide dog on the head isn't a good thing.

The real excitement comes when Ray unpacks a Perkins Brailler and types braille name tags for everyone. The class finishes the lesson checking the braille code against the alphabet that they are more familiar with.

I head out to Hayward's Heath where Terry Bullingham is due to address the local Probus club.

Terry launches into an energetic, positively kinetic account of the circumstances that led to him becoming a St Dunstaner. He points out that he is the only 'Falklands' casualty in St Dunstan's. "Twenty years later, gentleman, I have stopped asking 'Why me?' But I must admit at the time, 20,000 soldiers and sailors went down to South Atlantic and it did cross my mind."



"He told me he had enucleated my eye and I thought he'd done something good," says Terry.

With that he carries everyone back to the San Carlos waters, later dubbed 'Bomb Alley' and onto the deck of HMS *Antrim*. Terry describes the attack on HMS *Ardent*, a mere quarter of a mile away, followed by an attack on his own ship during which he was blinded as a Mirage fighter strafed the deck.

"I knew about St Dunstan's! The way I knew about it is so eerie, it's uncanny, it makes you wonder if there is some pattern to life and there is someone moving the pieces," said Terry before revealing that a colleague from the Fleet Air Arm had introduced him to St Dunstaners some years before. "I never thought I would become a St Dunstaner myself. You don't think it's going to happen to you, which is just as well because none of us could ever function or even get out of bed in the morning."

His audience continue to give their undivided attention through anecdotes about fellow



Nigel subjects a Naval medic to a temporary loss of vision.

St Dunstaners, the girls of Rodean and glass eyes in G&Ts. Despite the serious undercurrent there is a background of laughter in response to his tales.

Terry finished to a round of strong applause. As everyone departs, one gentleman tells me "I enjoyed that. We don't get many speakers like that." Their collection yields a record donation for St Dunstan's and individuals approach Terry for further information.

The best advertisement? Certainly!

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.

From: George and Ann Taylor, Maidstone, Kent

We would like to say thank you to St Dunstan's for the bouquet of flowers sent when we celebrated our 62nd wedding anniversary on November 9th.

PROBLEMS SOLVED IN AN INSTANT

Ray Hazan reports on the Computer Club
October 9th-10th

FOR SEVERAL MONTHS, a problem had been bugging me; a quick word with Brad at the Computer Club gathering and that evening, on carrying out his advice, the problem was instantly solved! The meeting of the club had not failed to fulfil its promise 'that there is always something new to learn'!

The get-together came at an opportune moment in that many of us were suffering from a computer virus and our supposed Norton AntiVirus programme was failing to protect us. Once again, Brad had an answer and if his had been the only session, it was worth attending simply to hear his pearls of wisdom alone.

But we were pleased to receive three other visitors. Graham Thomas of Portset Systems of Southampton brought along several pieces of equipment. A stand-alone reading machine, which is not much larger in area than an A4 piece of paper, it will cope with most fonts, has clear speech and can read disks sent out by the Talking Newspaper Association. He also demonstrated 'Jane', a high quality software speech system, which is the closest to natural English speech I have heard. In theory it can run with JAWS, HAL and WindowEyes, but it is currently sluggish to respond and is not quite ready for sale yet.

Graham also told us about the Port-type. This is a keyboard and computer box. It has been designed for those who want the facilities of a computer, but who do not want the hassle and complication of learning the computer. Spoken instructions enable the user to interact with the system as a typing tutor, talking typewriter, word processor, or as a means of accessing the web and Internet.

During the buffet dinner in the evening, there may have been speculation as to what some may have wished to see in their Christmas stocking but the cost is generally a reasonable damper! It was far cheaper to concentrate on the enjoyable meal provided by PBK and the club was happy to entertain their guests, Brad, Janis and her IT team – Gaye, Sylvia and Donna.

On the Thursday morning, the club members acted

as guinea pigs for the re-designed St Dunstan's web site. How accessible is it with a screen reader? What were their comments on layout and content? Some useful information was gleaned by the company designing the web site, which is still to be launched.

During the afternoon, the Club was pleased to greet two old friends, Iki and Gabrielle from CVIP Ltd. During the course of previous visits, Iki had shown us the 'Imp', a talking organiser, and the 'Voila', a voice labeller. This time, he brought the 'Elite', a system in which keyboard and computer containing all necessary peripherals (except printer) are contained in one box, rather like the original BBC computer – now doesn't that take some people back! I know of one St Dunstaner still using his faithful BBC computer, some 20 years old now! Iki assembles the 'Elite' to individual specification.

The gathering was interesting and varied with new devices to feel, hands on keyboards, advice, experiences and conviviality exchanged. Our thanks to all the Ovingdean staff who facilitated the meeting and to Lesley for allowing us to use the IT department. The next meeting takes place on March 5th-6th 2003.

Contact Telephone Numbers:
CVIP Limited: 020 8420 1338
Portset Systems: 01489 896837

Nothing less than Excellent



THE CREW of HMS *Excellent* at Portsmouth have lived up to their name in supporting St Dunstan's. Their efforts, culminating in a very successful Families Day, raised £2,538.81 which was accepted by Nigel Whiteley on behalf of all St Dunstaners.

St Dunstan's Clocks on for World Sight Day



A human clock at Ovingdean marks the passage of time.

ST DUNSTAN'S gave motorists driving on the coast an accurate time check with the help of local school children who created a giant human clock to mark World Sight Day. The giant chronometer was formed at St Dunstan's Ovingdean on October 10th. St Dunstaners joined pupils from schools in Brighton and Eastbourne to make up the face and hands of the clock. To ensure the clock ran precisely, BT's 'Speaking Clock' Brian Cobby presided at the event as master timekeeper.

Chief Executive Robert Leader started the clock at 10am on the 10th day of the 10th month by lighting a burning torch at the centre of the human clock. The clock and torch represent powerful symbols for St Dunstan's. Since its foundation, every St Dunstaner has been given a watch as the first step towards regaining their independence. By

strange synchronicity, our name is derived from a clock. The burning torch is a 'symbol of hope' and an integral part of the St Dunstan's badge.

"Through World Sight Day and in collaboration with Vision 2020 UK, St Dunstan's aims to raise awareness of the vital issues facing the visually impaired. By linking with the local community, we aim to highlight incentives that focus on employment opportunities for the VI, care options for the older blind population and adequate screening programmes within the community," said Robert Leader.

World Sight Day is an annual event that focuses attention on the global problem of blindness. It is coordinated by VISION 2020: The Right To Sight, a global coalition which aims to eliminate preventable blindness by the year 2020.

BALANCING THE BOOKS

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

Down All The Days

Author: Christy Brown.
Reader: Marie McCarthy
Catalogue Number: 8245
Duration: 9 hours 42 minutes.

THE FIRST HALF-HOUR was enough to convince me that this is no ordinary book, and I was already convinced I would be commending it wholeheartedly. However, now I have heard it all I'm not nearly so sure. It is a remarkable human story that proclaims its own honesty, of that there is no doubt, but it is not, I fear, a tale for the fastidious for it tells of life in the raw and the characters, rough and vulgar, are completely devoid of sophistication.

The narrator, a crippled boy rendered invisible as it were by his handicap, observes like a zoologist the animal behaviour of those around him and what he records is frequently offensive to the polite ear. He tells of his drunken bully of a father for instance, and of his long-suffering mother on her terrible treadmill of pregnancy; he reveals the lewd behaviour and the ribaldry of the neighbours, and he repeats their obscene language as if with relish.

Yet somehow, either shining through or rising above the sordid crudity of it all there is a redeeming quality, a sense of poetry that more than hints at genius; you may need a bulldog spirit to hang on until the end but your tenacity will be rewarded.



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Marketing Officer
Director of Human Resources
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Purchase Ledger Administrator (Grant Payments)
Chairman
Director of Professional Services
St Dunstaner Liaison, PR Manager, Editor
Director of Admissions and Grants
Chief Accountant
Chief Executive
Beneficiary Liaison Assistant
Operations Manager (Fundraising and Communications)
PA to Chairman and Chief Executive
Director of Property Services
Welfare Manager
Deputy Head of Estates
External Press Coordinator
Head of Pensions (Medical Appointments)
Director of Finance and IS
Insurance and Estate Records Coordinator
Reception/Security
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Head of Grants

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Mullins, Lynn
Richardson, Trevor
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PA to Manager
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Care Coordinator
Maintenance Supervisor
Bookings Coordinator
Head of Supplies
Deputy Residential Supervisor
Head of Maintenance
Deputy Residential Supervisor
Primary Nurse
Housekeeping Supervisor
Rehabilitation & Training
Programme Coordinator
Head of Care
Rehabilitation Officer
Rehabilitation Officer
Primary Nurse
Facilities Manager
Security Supervisor
PBK Catering
Craft Supervisor
Ovingdean Manager
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Primary Nurse
Wills & Trusts Coordinator
Deputy Head of Transport
Activities Coordinator
PBK Catering
Primary Nurse
IT Supervisor
Rehabilitation Officer
Head of Rehabilitation & Training
Head of Housekeeping
Sports Supervisor
Residential Care Supervisor
Housekeeping Supervisor
Head of Transport
Rehabilitation Officer

Directory

A quarterly listing
of useful
organisations

ST DUNSTAN'S

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RNIB Helpline

Information, support and
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serious sight problem
Mon to Fri 9am to 5pm
Tel: 0845 766 9999
(local call rate)

RNIB Customer Services

For equipment, games,
publications, information
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Email: info@afbp.org
Website:
[http://www.afbp.org/
homepage.htm](http://www.afbp.org/homepage.htm)

Mobile Information Service

For details of when the
Action for Blind People
Mobile Information and
Advice Service will be in
your area, listen to your
local radio station or
contact Bob Welsh on
020 7635 4800
or 07850 209490.

Veterans Agency

The Veterans Agency
provides a single point
of contact within the
Ministry of Defence for
Veterans and their
dependants seeking
help, information and
advice.

Head Office:
Norcross, Blackpool
Lancashire FY5 3WP.
Tel: 0800 1692277 (free)
Overseas:
+44 1253 866043
Telephone lines are
open: 8.15am to 5.15pm,
Mon to Thurs; and
8.15am to 4.30pm Fri.
E-mail:
[help@veteransagency.
mod.uk](mailto:help@veteransagency.mod.uk)
Website: [http://www.
veteransagency.mod.uk/](http://www.veteransagency.mod.uk/)

War Pensioners' Welfare Service

Your nearest War
Pensioners' Welfare
Office is listed in your
phone book under War
Pensions Agency or
Veterans Agency. Please
quote your full name
and National Insurance
number when making
contact.

Comments and suggestions for this feature should
be sent to: Directory, St Dunstan's Review,
12-14 Harcourt Street, London W1H 4HD.

Cobolt Systems

Communications aids,
clocks and watches,
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and kitchen aids.

The Old Mill House,
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Fax : 01493 701037
Email:
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Website: [http://
www.cobolt.co.uk](http://www.cobolt.co.uk)

Dolphin Computer Access

Software products to
enable visually-
impaired people to use
mainstream computer
technology.

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JOKER'S WILD

Submitted by Les Shvemar, Canada

AN OLD FARMER had owned a large farm for several years. He had a large pond in the back forty doing nothing, so he had it fixed up nice; picnic tables, horseshoe courts, basketball court, etc. The pond was fixed for swimming when it was built.

One evening the old farmer decided to go down to the pond, as he hadn't been there for a while, and look it over. As he neared the pond, he heard voices shouting and laughing with glee.

As he came closer he saw it was a bunch of young women skinny-dipping in his pond. He made the women aware of his presence and they all went to the deep end of the pond. One of the women shouted to him, "We're not coming out until you leave!" The old man replied, "I didn't come down here to watch you ladies swim or make you get out of the pond, I only came to feed my alligators. Old age and treachery will triumph over youth and skill every time!"

FAMILY NEWS

WEDDINGS

Congratulations to:

Louise Osborne and Daniel Enfield who married on September 28th. Louise is the granddaughter of Bob and Joan Osborne of Saltdean, Brighton.

GOLDEN ANNIVERSARIES

Congratulations to:

James and Muriel Kinghorn of South Shields, Tyne & Wear on November 5th.

SPECIAL ANNIVERSARIES

Congratulations to:

George and Ann Taylor of Maidstone, Kent who celebrated 62 years of marriage on November 9th.

ACHIEVEMENTS

Congratulations to:

Hannah Bradshaw, who is profoundly deaf, on earning her BA (Hons) degree in Creative Art at Cumbria College of Art, Carlisle. She aims on

pursuing a career in theatre set and scenery design. Hannah is the eldest grandchild of Eric and Gwen Bradshaw of Northampton, Northamptonshire.

DEATHS

We regret to announce the death of:

Emma Daborn of Barnstaple, Devon on October 30th. She was the widow of *Tom Daborn*.

Evelyn Cowan of Rottingdean, East Sussex on November 2nd. She was the widow of *John Cowan*.

Ivy Emerson of Horley, Surrey on November 3rd. She was the widow of *Arthur Emerson*.

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.

George King, MBE

Royal Air Force

George Hatton King MBE died on October 23rd, aged 92. He had been a St Dunstaner since 1983. He joined the Royal Air Force in 1925 as an Aircraft Apprentice Boy and rose through the ranks to Flight Sergeant with postings centred on engineering. He served in the UK and overseas and was posted to HMS *Glorious* between 1932 and 1935. He was injured during an air raid at Hendon in 1941 and while this would eventually lead to his loss of sight, it did not immediately affect his career. In 1943, he received an emergency commission as Acting Pilot Officer in the Technical branch, which was confirmed later that year. In September 1944, he joined 354 Squadron in the Far East, later transferring to 160 Squadron. In 1946, having received a permanent commission as Flight Lieutenant, he returned to the UK to concentrate on engineering marine craft, and was awarded the MBE in 1947. He became a Squadron Leader in 1954 and completed tours of duty with HQ Fighter Command and the Technical School at St Athan, including two as Officer Commanding and was later stationed in Germany with 420 Repair and Salvage Squadron. He received long service and good conduct medals. His interests included gardening. Our sympathy goes to his widow Rowena, son Roger and all other members of the family.

William McNeal

Royal Artillery

William McNeal of Blackpool, Lancashire died on October 24th, aged 84. He joined the Royal Artillery in 1939 and trained on 5.5" guns at Long moor before deploying to France. After Dunkirk he was redeployed to a Coastal unit before being detached as a builder. He rejoined his regiment in 1942 and was sent to North Africa just before El Alamein. He was injured in an accident when a towing hawser broke. After hospital treatment he was posted to Palestine. After leaving the service in 1946, he worked in the Blackpool area making toy soldiers and building prefabs. He later joined the Atomic Energy Organisation in Salwick. His interests included cycling, walking, bowls and darts. Our sympathy goes to his widow Irene, their daughter, sons and all other members of the family.

William Slade

Queen's Royal Regiment

William Henry Slade of Aldwick, Bognor Regis, West Sussex died on November 2nd, aged 81. He had been a St Dunstaner since 1961. He joined the Queen's Royal Regiment as a reservist as a 17-year-old in 1939, serving in Palestine and North Africa. He then transferred to 'Layforce' in Egypt and was involved with desert raids behind enemy lines. They later became 50th Middle East Commandos and mounted a series of raids on the Italian islands. During the German invasion of Crete he was taken prisoner and shipped through several labour camps, being put to work cleaning streets, emptying dustbins, labouring and working on railway lines. A failed escape attempt resulted in 21 days solitary confinement being fed bread every other day. Bill was then put to work loading munitions on a train, a task he refused on the grounds that it was war work – contrary to the Geneva Convention! The Camp Commandant responded by saying that if he did not go to work with his fellow POWs then he would be shot. Two other prisoners Norman Cullity and Sgt Lawrence Kavanagh joined his stand on this issue. At 6am the next morning, the trio were marched out in front of their fellow POWs and a Firing Squad was assembled some six feet away. The order was given and they loaded rifles, took aim and fired. Bill fell with a chest wound. As he lay on the ground, the German Officer stepped forward, placed a revolver against his temple and pulled the trigger! The bullet passed through Bill's head, tearing out the right eye and damaging his left. The POWs who witnessed this

event were then marched off to work. His life was saved by the ministrations of an Australian-New Zealand Army Corps Medical Officer, Max Mayrhofer who was then able to assist a German surgeon in an impromptu operation. He was repatriated in 1944 in an exchange of wounded prisoners and was for many years the only British POW to receive compensation, his wounds having been accepted as a Nazi War Crime. In civilian life, he worked as a loader for Regent Oil Company until losing sight in his remaining eye. After training at St Dunstan's he worked as a an industrial inspector using brailled measuring equipment. His interests included fishing, languages and gardening. Our sympathy goes to his widow Sally and all the family.

Trevor Tatchell, MBE

Royal Army Service Corps

Trevor Angus Charles Tatchell, MBE of Cardiff, South Glamorgan died on November 3rd, aged 80. He had been a St Dunstaner since 1971. He worked as a lorry driver before joining the Royal Army Service Corps in 1942. He was injured by a mine explosion while serving in Tripoli. He first came to St Dunstan's for training in 1945, though at that time he was considered a borderline case. In civilian life he joined the Royal National Institute for the Blind and became their Appeals Organiser for Wales. In December 1978 he was awarded an MBE for services to the RNIB in Wales. A guide dog owner, his interests included gardening, rugby, walking, climbing, and masonics. He was a regular at the Lee-on-Solent camp and St Dunstan's Walking Holiday, both enlivened by his penchant for a song and a pipe. Our sympathy to his widow Beryl, daughters Kay and Helen and all other members of the family.

Philip Bagwell

50th Royal Tank Corps

Philip Bagwell of Salisbury, Wiltshire died on November 8th, aged 82. He had been a St Dunstaner since 1943. Having worked as a gardener, he joined the 50th Royal Tank Corps in 1942. He was wounded by gunshot while serving with them as a Trooper in Sicily. After training at St Dunstan's, he took up poultry farming, subsequently adding sheep to his smallholding. In later years, he retrained as a telephonist. He remained a keen gardener over the years and also took up woodwork. Our sympathy goes to his son David, daughter Sylvia and all members of the family.



Dilligence and determination are the buzzwords of these craftwork samples created by our artistic St Dunstaners.

Artists to the letter

A RANGE OF energetic and eclectic examples of St Dunstaners skills in arts and crafts now adorns the Workshop walls at Ovingdean. The Alphabet Project was conceived as a series of material and craft technique samples to demonstrate to new St Dunstaners and visitors the scope of projects available to the creative blind person.

The full artisans alphabet consists of: **A** Ceramic tiles; **B** Papier mâché; **C** Pottery; **D** Chair caning; **E** Toy kits; **F** Soft toys; **G** Resin casting; **H** Mosaic; **I** Chair weaving; **J** Soft modelling material; **K** Brass work; **L** Picture framing; **M** Stained

glass; **N** Rag tapestry; **O** Tray caning; **P** Kitchen skills; **Q** Wood carving; **R** Wool rugging; **S** Fruit bowls; **T** Clay modelling; **U** Leather work; **V** Wood turning; **W** Picture framing mounts; **X** Woodwork; **Y** Pottery press mould; **Z** Fabric upholstery.

The St Dunstaners who brought this project to life with humour and panache were, in alphabetical order, Barbara Bell, Harry Best, Colin Best, Alf Brewer, Ken Burdon, Wallace Burnet-Smith, Steve Finlay, Cliff Ford, Alice Gimbere, Derek Hagger, Vic Hamling, Laurie Huck, Ron Layer,

Iain Millard, Eddie O'Brien, Norman Perry, James Poole, Dave Thomas, Ron Tingay, Frank Tinsley, Norman Wagstaff and Nigel Whiteley. All gave their alphabest work!

