



FOR BLIND EX-SERVICE MEN AND WOMEN

St Dunstan's Golfer named Sports Person of the Year

A local newspaper has voted St Dunstaner David Morris their Sports Person of the Year after he won the World Blind Golf Championship in Canada.

Full details on page 6.

Rehab craft an early Christmas

A group of visually impaired children joined St Dunstaner Billy Baxter and the Rehab & Training Crew for a day of fun at Ovingdean.

Full details on page 12.

Cover story:

Challenge of the Inca Trail

St Dunstaner Jamie Weller picked up his backpack and trekked through the green and grey mountains of Peru in a quest to explore the lost world of the Incas. He is pictured in the lost city of Macchu Picchu.

Full details on page 14.

Plus your letters and news!!!

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Noticeboard

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Canadian memoir

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Singin' the Blues

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WFT Holidays

Feedback response

From the Chairman

Captain Gordon-Lennox
with St Dunstaner
Michael Rice



THE YEAR MAY not have got off to the best of starts with a downbeat message from the Prime Minister as to the future of the economy, despite a more balanced view from the Bank of England's Chairman, Sir Edward George. In addition, there were some 130 flood warnings and the departure of an HMS Ark Royal battle group to eastern regions. All this does not make for a happy prognosis.

But St Dunstan's and St Dunstaners always seem to contemplate the coming year with fortitude and a spirit of challenge. I know that in the last **Review** of the year, in 11 months' time, we shall once again look back at many achievements. Even as you read this, the skiers will have been and gone and we shall have held a training day for those who have offered to speak on behalf of St Dunstan's, either to interested groups or to the media.

From time to time, reference is made in the **Review** to members of Council, especially when they join or leave. The Council of St Dunstan's is responsible for the overall integrity of the organisation, to ensure that its policies and objectives are being met. The Council delegates to the Finance and General Purposes Committee the responsibility of regulating the financial policy. Readers have asked to learn more about the person behind the name of the Council member. In this respect, we intend to publish a couple of pen pictures per issue commencing with myself and our President, who lost his sight exactly 60 years ago in Tunisia during the Second World War (when I was 5!).

Captain Michael Gordon-Lennox, RN

ST DUNSTAN'S Calendar

Archery Club	February 7th - 16th
Music Appreciation Week	February 17th - 24th
Shaftesbury Reunion	March 5th
Computer Club	March 5th-6th
Amateur Radio	March 7th-9th
Bowling Club	March 14th-28th
Golf Club at RAF Chivenor	March 20th-21st
Derby Reunion	March 26th
Brighton Reunion	April 2nd
Ex-POW Reunion	April 4th-7th

THANK YOU FOR CHRISTMAS GREETINGS

Members of staff throughout the country, both serving and retired, wish to thank all St Dunstaners, beneficiaries of the Diana Gubbay Trust, widows, widowers and their families for their cards and kind wishes received over the Christmas period. They reiterate their wishes for a healthy and happy 2003.

DEADLINES FOR FUTURE ISSUES

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

The final date for submitting items for publication in the April *Review* is March 10th 2003.

Noticeboard

Dates for your diary and useful information

VITAL 195 DIRECTORY ENQUIRY SERVICE CONTINUES

Telecoms regulator Oftel has pledged to continue directory enquiry services for blind people using the 195 code despite phasing out 192 in favour of a variety of competing services. "Oftel will maintain the 195 code for blind people and others who cannot use printed directories. These changes will not affect this vital service in any way," said Oftel's Director General David Edmonds.

British Telecom's free 195 Directory Enquiry service gives visually impaired people a personal identification number (PIN) so they can call at any time for free access to UK and International directory enquiry facilities. The service will also connect the call if requested. New users can join the service by dialling 195 and ask for registration. It is also available to people who are not BT users.

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.

CUP FINAL TICKET DRAW

The FA Cup Final will take place at Cardiff on Saturday, May 17th 2003. It is possible that St Dunstan's will be allocated tickets. Any St Dunstaner wishing to go should send their name and address to Marion Lurot at St Dunstan's Headquarters by April 5th.

TARGETING THE WEB

Up to the minute archery news can be found on St Dunstan's Archery Club's very own website. Designed by St Dunstaner Dave Poyner, it is screenreader friendly and features details of forthcoming events, club history and their recent success in local, national and international contests.

The Portsmouth Ladder provides a leaderboard of how St Dunstan's Archers are shooting against each other, placing Tom Roddy in the lead at presstime.

Log on <http://www14.brinkster.com/stdarcheryclub>.

NOT BAD FOR A SERGEANT

Canadian St Dunstaner Barney Danson tells his life story in a new book – Not Bad for a Sergeant.

Lt Col the Honourable Barnett J. Danson, PC, OC, LLD (Hon), OM (Fr) enlisted when he was 18 and served with the Queen's Own Rifles of Canada. He was wounded in Normandy losing the sight of one eye. His book tells a touching and often humorous story of a generation of Canadians who faced the hardships of the Depression, the reality of war and the changes that followed.

The book also offers insights into the character of Canadian Prime Minister Pierre Trudeau as Danson became his parliamentary secretary and, eventually, Minister of National Defence.

Not Bad for a Sergeant – The Memoirs of Barney Danson by Barney Danson and Curtis Fahey (Hardcover, 366 pages, Dundurn Group, ISBN 155002437X) is available from <http://www.amazon.co.uk> though price may fluctuate.

EUROPEAN YEAR OF PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES

By declaring 2003 to be the European Year of People with Disabilities (EYPD), the EU's governments hope to drive progress towards achieving equal rights for people with disabilities. They have high expectations for action at national level to prevent discrimination, new initiatives and new and stronger alliances.

Festivals, debates, partnerships, conferences, protests, parties and lobbying events are planned, linked by a People's March. A specially designed European Year bus has set off through cities, towns and villages in the 15 EU Member States.

The organisers point out that there are 37 million people (one-in-ten) with disabilities in the European Union. Despite disabled people are people having equal rights as workers, consumers, taxpayers, politicians, students or neighbours they are not treated that way. Disabled people are often excluded from society through poor education and unemployment, leading to poverty.

The EYPD 2003 is intended as an opportunity to change the future for disabled people.

The European Year is organised by the European Commission in collaboration with the European Disability Forum (EDF). Details can be found on their website <http://www.eypd2003.org> while UK initiatives can be examined on <http://www.disability.gov.uk/euro/euro.html>.

I WOKE UP THIS YEAR AND CELEBRATED THE BLUES

The origins of popular music are to be celebrated as The Year of the Blues commenced on February 1st. It marks the centennial anniversary of when trained musician WC Handy first heard the blues in a train station in Mississippi, allowing him to adapt the rhythm and structure for his own compositions. Since then it has influenced rock and roll, jazz and country musicians throughout the world.

There is an official website on <http://www.yearoftheblues.org> which includes links to the Blues Society and other features.

PREPARING FOR FLOODS

Information about preparing for flood risk can be obtained from the Environment Agency's Floodline on 0845 988 1188. They have information packs available in braille, large print and audio cassette. The line can also be used to report potential floods and to monitor current flood warnings.

WFT HOLIDAYS

WFT Holidays (previously the GDBA's holiday service), provides year-round holiday breaks for visually impaired people. The organisation offers a wide range of holidays on a group basis in the UK and abroad. There are programmes for active and not-so-active holidaymakers with brochures produced every six months. A membership fee is payable in order to receive the up-to-date publication. Brochures are provided in large print, braille or tape formats. For further details please contact WFT Holidays, Shap Road, Kendal LA9 6NZ. Telephone 01539 735 080. Fax 01539 735567. E-mail holidays@wft.org.uk.

THANK YOU FOR REVIEW FEEDBACK RESPONSES

We would like to thank everyone who responded to **Review** feedback for November. There were a variety of suggestions which we hope to incorporate in future editions.

The most popular items in the November **Review** were as follows:

- 1st Bill Shea interview
- 2nd Ten Questions
- 3rd Noticeboard/ What's On
- 4th Duke of Kent visit
- 5th Ray Jumps into Arnhem
- 6th In Memory
- 7th Balancing the Books
- 8th Poets' Corner
- 9th From the Chairman
- 10th Good catch down South

As ever, contributions, comments and suggestions are always welcome. Write to St Dunstan's **ST DUNSTAN'S Review** 12-14 Harcourt Street, London W1H 4HD.

Review feedback

WE WOULD APPRECIATE your comments on the February issue of **ST DUNSTAN'S Review**.

Name

Address

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 any publication format that would ease your use of **ST DUNSTAN'S Review**?

Have you used and audio-described video or DVD?

Have you been to an audio-described theatre or cinema performance?

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

David Morris named Top Sports Person

A ST DUNSTANERS golfing skills have earned him the ultimate accolade from a Plymouth newspaper. David Morris of Plymstock was declared Sports Person of the Year by the Evening Herald, Plymouth in December. The award was prompted by his success in the IBGA Championships in Canada last year when he became world champion blind golfer.

He was nominated for the award along with a disabled archer who won team gold at the European Archery Championships and Malta rugby international Paul Cioffi.

"I felt very humble because of the company I'm in. To be mentioned in the same breath as all the winners tonight is unbelievable," said David Morris. Other prizes

were presented to Argyle boss Paul Sturrock and Greens' keeper Romain Larrieu (both professional sportsmen). David became the first amateur sports person to receive an award.

David's award was presented to him by James Coulton of Plymouth City Council. "I just stood there and I just didn't know what to say. I didn't have anything prepared because I just didn't think that I'd get it. Even to get short-listed was, to me, a great honour."

Talking about his game, David paid tribute to his guide Linda Charlton. "Linda's learnt my game inside out – how to read the greens, line me up and make sure I play to my potential. If we can do that and exceed my potential on the day then we can win."

Quick and easy recipes wanted

St Dunstan Peter Hammond is seeking quick and easy recipes for a blind-friendly cookbook. "Many of the cookbooks available to blind people are very formal, I'm hoping to gather some menus that are easy to prepare without too much fuss," said Peter. Any suggestions can be sent to Peter c/o **ST DUNSTAN'S Review**, 12-14 Harcourt Street, London W1H 4HD.

VIP musicians in focus strikes a chord

MUSICIANS IN FOCUS is an initiative to advise and train visually impaired musicians throughout the UK. They have organised a series of workshops aimed at musicians of all ages and abilities. Workshops will be held in London on February 10th-14th, Truro on February 17th-21st and

Leeds on March 3rd-7th. There is also an E-learning project for those who cannot attend in person. For further details contact Jacqueline Clifton, Musicians in Focus, 1 Poets Road, London N5 2SL. Tel: 020 7354 2050. E-mail: jackie@musiciansinfocus.org. Website: www.musiciansinfocus.org.

Adelaide sees her century in the stars



Adelaide Martyn proudly displays her message from The Queen.

WHEN YOU HAVE a very special birthday, the only way to celebrate it is in the stars. St Dunstan's Widow Adelaide Martyn of Amersham, Buckinghamshire celebrated her 100th birthday on December 31st and one of her grandchildren marked the occasion by having a star named after her.

Apart from toasting her birthday with members of her family, Mrs Martyn returned to a dancing club where she has been a member for over 50 years. "They said you must come back for your birthday, so I did and about 100 people turned up. I was so surprised."

Music has always had a special place for Adelaide who enjoyed taking the starring role in several Gilbert and Sullivan shows. She was offered the chance to tour but turned it down.

So how does it feel to be 100? "Actually it doesn't feel any different," says Mrs Martyn. "I try and keep myself distracted. I go to a quiz every week, any bingo, an exercise session. Anything that's going."

It is with some pride that she shows her message of congratulations from Her Majesty The Queen as it brings back memories of St Dunstan's 85th Anniversary reception at Buckingham Palace in 2001. "I mentioned that I had received a message from The Queen Mother on my birthday and asked her to send my love. My daughter was mortified but she said that she would."

Mrs Martyn's late husband St Dunstan Herbert Martyn served as a Sergeant in the Royal Army Medical Corps from 1914 to 1919. "He was blinded on the Somme. He suffered terribly as a result but he never complained. He was a wonderful man," said Mrs Martyn.

Congratulations to Viv and Michael

Congratulations to Viv and Michael Jackson of Sandhurst, who are pleased to announce the birth of their first grandchild, Joshua on December 16th. Many St Dunstaners will recall Viv from her days as a Welfare Officer in the South.

Ten questions on ...

"Quotations"

Quizmaster Harry Beevers challenges you to fill in the famous words

Can you supply the missing final word in each of the following quotations?

- 1) "Houston, we've had a —"
(Jack Swigert, Command Module Pilot of Apollo 13).
- 2) "In the Spring a young man's fancy lightly turns to thoughts of —".
(Alfred Lord Tennyson).
- 3) "God could not be everywhere so he made —"
(A Jewish proverb).
- 4) "Youth is a wonderful thing, what a crime to waste it on —"
(G.B. Shaw).
- 5) "Pride goeth before —"
(Book of Proverbs).
- 6) "Candy is dandy, but liquor is —"
(Ogden Nash).
- 7) "Be like Dad, keep —"
(Poster of World War II warning against dangerous talk).
- 8) "A Psychiatrist is a man who goes to the Folies Bergere and looks at the —"
(Mervyn Stockwood).
- 9) "If you want to eat well in England eat three —"
(Somerset Maugham).
- 10) "Genius is one per cent inspiration and ninety-nine per cent —"
US inventor (Thomas Edison).

Answers on page 22.

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.

GDOs need quality control

THE RECENT ARTICLE by Dick Lake concerning guide dogs and Ovingdean will no doubt cause a lot of comment. What he said would indicate that guide dogs are not welcome.

As a Guide Dog Owner of some 17 years I have considered from time to time bringing my guide dog to Ovingdean. Having worked out several good walks around the area I felt we could enjoy ourselves. My three guide dogs have travelled with me all over the UK and I have never had any problems. As working dogs, and not pets, they have behaved admirably to their credit and that of the Association. However observing the behaviour of guide dogs at Ovingdean and elsewhere on St Dunstan's occasions and the attitude of non-GDOs I had decided against it.

There is no doubt that the quality of control by GDOs when at Ovingdean falls far short of what I

was taught when becoming a GDO. The problems that have been encountered are clearly the fault of those who bring guide dogs and have ignored the careful discipline procedures taught when training.

It may however be argued that the somewhat different training procedures now being offered by Guide Dogs has created for newer GDO's a less than satisfactory performance in environments away from home. Such a situation simply brings the guide dog to the attention of the general public who, after all, are the main source of funding for those of us who rely heavily on such a resource. The best advert for guide dogs are the dogs themselves. Those owners who do not obey the rules have created this situation to the detriment of the Guide Dog Association and those of us who maintain the strict procedures for a working dog.

**Rev'd David Youngson,
Billingham, Cleveland**

GDOs should club together

IN VIEW of Mr Lake's comments regarding guide dogs and owners in last month's **Review**, I wonder if anyone would be interested in forming a Guide Dog Owners and Friends Club at St Dunstan's. I do not feel able to run the club myself, but would be interested in becoming involved if anyone is willing and able to start one. I know two people plus myself who would be interested in joining a club like this.

Personally, I was very upset by Mr Lake's remarks and I am not alone in this. I do agree with some of his comments, but on the whole feel they were not fully justified. Something needs to be done to ensure a permanent place for Guide dogs at St Dunstan's whether resident or non resident, and I think a Guide Dog Owner's and Friend's Club would give Guide Dogs Owners a voice that they do not have at this time.

**Eric Colman,
Harrogate, North Yorkshire**

He's my eyes, my best friend and constant companion

As a newcomer to St Dunstan's in March 02, I was shocked by the report in December's **Review** on guide dogs. I thought St Dunstan's were there to help blind people not to hinder them!!!

Farley and I have been together for five years. He is a working dog but also my eyes, my best friend

and constant companion. We have just been to Ovingdean on holiday in November where we made many friends.

On the trips to Brighton and Eastbourne, I could not have a guide. Thank goodness I had Farley or I would have been totally lost.

I phoned Dick Lake and had a nice chat to him. I love coming to St Dunstan's and they have done a great deal for me. I am due to come on a course in January which I was looking forward to, but I was prepared to give this up if I could not bring Farley.

**Brian Beniston, Billington,
Clitheroe, Lancashire**

Dick Lake, Ovingdean Manager replies:

I AM GRATEFUL for those who took the time to write. Notwithstanding individual (mis)interpretations about a ban on guide dogs, my call was simple: please, can we all take a balanced view and consider those who are also at Ovingdean. In essence, the guidelines set out in the December **Review** ask all at Ovingdean to respect the guide dog as a working animal while being mindful of fellow St Dunstaners. Keeping guide dogs in working mode whilst in the house and grounds maintains this distinction. They can be let off the lead in the dog run, which also has washing and grooming facilities.

We prefer that owners should sit with their dogs away from areas, such as the bar, where they might be tripped over or stood upon by other blind people. For similar reasons we ask that long leads should not be used. Unless there is a compelling reason, dogs should not be taken into the dining room - many owners were horrified that I had even raised the suggestion but this has to be an individual decision. I accept that if one is not using one's room, leaving several animals in the pen at the same time and in inclement weather to boot might get us into trouble with the RSPCA! We can find an alternative empty space - even my office, dare I suggest. Again, balance must prevail. If dogs do come into the dining area, they must remain under the table, not be 'petted' by anybody or fed tit-bits, nor allowed to interfere with other diners. That is just another way of saying that they should behave the way they were trained to do.

Following these simple rules helps the guide dog remain an effective assistant for St Dunstaner GDOs without becoming a hazard to other St Dunstaners. We will make up a little leaflet for visitors based on all this so that people have a ready reference.

Testing our freedom

IN RESPONSE to the article on travel to and from St Dunstan's, it has long been my feeling that if we, as blind/partially-sighted folk, are saying how much we enjoy having our independence how can we expect a charity for the visually impaired to ferry us to and from all parts of the country.

With so much being done by rail and road transport to make things easier for us to maintain that independence I feel we should be

encouraged by our peers to show some of that freedom which can be ours.

In a short time now we will be at the stage when the Disability Discrimination Act (DDA) comes into being.

What better time to test the water by giving it a try for it is only by our feedback that the situation can and will improve.

Alan Brown, Bristol

Use computers to our benefit

LAST YEAR, I successfully challenged Orange mobile phones, and now receive my bills in the format of my choice, namely, e-mail. This is the right for a person who is registered blind, under the Disability Discrimination Act.

Having spoke to Orange billing this month, I was quite surprised to find, that I am their only subscriber who has their bills by e-mail. I would have thought that with more and more visually-impaired people being computer literate, this format would have been in greater demand. According to statistics, five per cent of the visually impaired read braille, and five per cent read large print; therefore what do the rest do?

This month I achieved another milestone in this disabling world. I now receive my bills from NTL, the cable company, by e-mail. This involved a year long battle and the grateful help and advice of the Royal National Institute of the Blind's legal department. So, to all you computer users out there, why not use that machine to your benefit?

**Dave Poyner,
Sale, Manchester**

Thank you all

My husband Ernie and I were delighted to receive flowers and cards on the December 23rd, when we celebrated 63 years of marriage. Thank you all.

**Gwen Obern,
Aberdare**

I would like to thank St Dunstan's Chairman for his congratulations on the occasion of my 90th birthday. To my friends from the Bowling Club (happy memories), other friends and family who sent cards, I wish to thank you all for making my birthday so perfect.

**Joseph Harris,
Tavistock, Devon**

Greetings from Oz

MY HUSBAND, Colin and I are always very pleased to receive the **Review**, even though there are fewer names with whom we are familiar. Old soldiers do fade away eventually! We used to look forward to reading Syd Scroggie and wish his amusing and wise writings could have gone into a book. Ted Bunting's book reviews are a delight and his review of *Nora* in the October **Review** – marvellous! I took it along to the Book Reading Group to which I belong, as an example of a "pithy" critique and I was pleased to see a very solemn ex-Headmaster laughing out loud. Best wishes for Christmas to all at St Dunstan's and a safe and peaceful new year.

Elizabeth Johnston,
Whealers Hill, Victoria,
Australia

Best wishes

I was quite moved by all the cards and letters that St Dunstaners sent on my retirement. There were so many that it is difficult to reply personally, but I would like to thank everyone for their thoughts.

Dorothy Rose,
London

Legend of St Dunstan's pincers

A CENTURY-and-a-half before Willy the Corn Curer set foot in Sussex, St Dunstan lived in the county. One day, while he was in a blacksmith's forge, the devil, in the disguise of a woman, tried to tempt him, but St Dunstan saw the cloven hoof marks in the mud and so he heated a pair of pincers in the forge and grabbed the devil by

A symbol of ambition

DOWNLAND BEHIND IT, St Dunstan's training centre at Ovingdean stands on the top of chalk cliffs from where it gets an unimpeded view of the English channel and where it is such a dominating feature that it is noted as a landmark on Naval charts. It does not grow out of the landscape, but has been imposed upon it in a way symbolic of Sir Arthur Pearson's attitude to his own and everybody else's blindness, that it must assert itself if it is to get anywhere in a world hitherto convinced that to tell fortunes or sell matches was the link of capacity of the blind. The sea below, as it surges along the pebbles of the undercliff, is likewise symbolic of irresistible power. The larks which twitter far above the grassy downland, maintaining their position in the teeth of the gale, may be thought to stand for that new ambition with which Pearson infused the first inmates of his institution and will always continue in St Dunstan's so long as the old firm remains faithful to the spirit of its founder.

Sydney Scroggie,
Roseangle, Strathclyde

Bowled over by the boys

BEING A NEWCOMER to bowling and having played only a few matches and never entered a competition like this I did not know what to expect, but what an eye opener it was (Winter of Bowling Content, December **Review**). The jokes and laughter that rang around the sports hall was wonderful and the bowling was very good. We may not have won many matches but it is not the winning but the taking part. I think

my best end was after a rather heavy lunch. I had to play and sent my first four woods straight into the ditch! Do you think that if I talk nicely to the sports people they will move the ditches to Brighton and Rottingdean?

Any way Boys, thank you for a most entertaining and enjoyable two weeks bowling and I hope to see you all again in March 2003.

Marjorie Scott,
Lancing, West Sussex

the nose with them. The devil to cool it a bit plunged his snitch into a local brook which is the origin of Tunbridge Wells.

Legend? Some years ago when I was in physiotherapy practice in Bexhill, one of my patients was a music teacher named Dennis Dance who taught at a Roman

Catholic girls school in Mayfield where they claim to have the pincers he used!!

I'm told that St Dunstan is the patron saint of gold and silver wire drawers, but I do not think he wore them.

AC 'John' Pointon,
Peacehaven, East Sussex

St Dunstan's archers hit a Broads target Portsmouth win in Norwich

A TEAM OF EIGHT St Dunstan's archers, spotters, coaches, (and of course Brian) were heading for Norwich on Friday, November 15th. They arrived by car, train and coach, travelling from North, South and the West.

We were staying at the Broads in Wroxham, and having sorted out the usual confusion when a group of independent St Dunstaners descend on the unsuspecting public, settled down for a carvery. Everything went fine until, on finishing our meal, we went into the bar, for a quiet drink and a chat. We were met by a barrage of keyboard music. After a while we all went to our rooms and waited for the noise to finish, and sleep. Prior to this we watched Sue Habgood do the most amazing solo rhythm dancing. Perhaps we all need to be that supple and in tune to be successful archers.

Saturday morning saw us head for the sports hall where the archery match was to take place. The hall was a lot warmer than the last time. Having set up with no hitches, we shot a complete Portsmouth round in the morning. Lunch was provided at the hall, and then onto the second Portsmouth in the afternoon. For the uninitiated a Portsmouth is five dozen arrows.

We then moved into the bar for the results. St Dunstan's beat Taverham 23389 to 22953. The St Dunstan's winning team in



CONGRATULATIONS to Sue Habgood on being selected as Archery Development Officer for British Blind Sports. Sue is also a County Coach and her tireless efforts on behalf of St Dunstan's Archery Club over the past decade have produced several national champions.

Dave Poyner reports

order was Tom Roddy first, Dave Poyner, Nigel Whiteley, Derek Hagger, Clive Jones, John Lilley, Steve Moseley and Norman Perry.

Back at the hotel we sat down for another carvery with some Taverham archers, and the two judges. The conversation was of course archery. However at the end of the meal Clive and Dave were presented with medals for acting like a married couple all weekend. I think that it was the never-ending banter and nothing to do with exchanging mobile phones when taking a bath (it's only a rumour). After the meal some found a quiet place to chat.

Sunday morning saw us depositing Steve Moseley, Tom

Roddy and Jenny at the train station. The rest headed off ten-pin bowling, hindered a little by getting lost. John and Sue Lilley and Dave Poyner said their goodbyes for the cross-country trek to Cheshire. The rest bowled, and went back to the hotel for lunch; before heading back to Ovingdean.

We would really like to thank Taverham Archers, and in particular Graham Harris of Clickers Archery for their hard work in setting up and running this weekend for us.

Graham has also invited three St Dunstan's archers to shoot at the National Indoor Championships at Lilleshall, Shropshire in March, which he is sponsoring. This is to shoot alongside sighted archers in their national event.

A day of fun for Visually Impaired children

Cooking up a crafty Christmas



Having filled his Christmas Cracker with goodies, Daniel, 10 years old and totally blind, closes the ends with a few twists.

grown-ups to the various tasks set up for them in the training kitchen, making cookies, flapjacks and brownies... just one problem though, they were going to be blindfolded!

The older group of children started in the computer suite. There was a quiz to undertake and jokes to be written for the crackers to be made later on. The parents not making a mess in the kitchen were able to learn more about the kind of computer technology available and have a go themselves, trying to touch-type and use the speech software under blindfold.

The noise coming from the Ballroom was evidence of the fun being had in there with the younger group getting stuck into making peppermint creams, coconut ice, marzipan and Christmas crackers, complete with sound touch and smell. Once pulled on Christmas day,

they would not only go bang, provide a joke, hat and small gift, but would also scatter glitter paper and cinnamon; hopefully they weren't opened over the Christmas dinner itself!

Meanwhile, the grown-ups were making a mess in the kitchen, taking it in turns giving out the instructions to the blindfolded others. It was a chance for parents to meet, experience the difficulties that their children cope with on a daily basis and to learn more of the gadgets, methods and technology used to overcome some of these problems.

Lunch, despite Billy's threat of brussel sprouts and cabbage, was burgers, hot dogs and chips and going by the noise being made, everyone was relaxed and making new friends.

After lunch Billy played a short video outlining his motorbike land speed attempt next year and Mark Threadgold's Isle of Wight RIB record achieved earlier in the year, fascinating parents and children alike. The kids weren't shy in asking questions ranging from why Billy was blind, how he can ride his bike and how fast he's going to be going. Quote of the day had to go to John James who after Billy told us that he planned to smash the world record, asked "Why don't you use a hammer?"

In the afternoon, the groups swapped round with the computers and crafts while the rest of the parents were guided down to the kitchen for more cookie making madness.

The day was rounded up with Christmas presents for all the kids. It was particularly touching when, without prompting,



Handicrafts Supervisor Sarah Jarron has a few hints for Diarmuid.

Matthew said that despite being blind, when he grows up he wants to go to schools and help other blind children. Daniel shouted out "Thank you everyone for a brilliant day!" There was nothing that could be added to that.

A team photo was all that was left before everyone piled onto the coaches and made their way back to Hampshire, the excitement slowly turning to tiredness. Ironically, the time was passed and the journey made shorter with a little game... of I spy.

Thanks go to the St Dunstan's staff who helped organise and run the day, Billy for the relentless enthusiasm and inspiration he conveys wherever he goes and Marion Shaw for making the idea a reality. But mostly, thanks to David, Tierney, Daniel, Matthew, Josh, John James, Diarmuid, Karl, Holly, Adam, Kelly, Jordan and Becky for putting a smile on all our faces and making Christmas really feel like it had started two weeks early.

There was a unanimous feeling

that this event should become annual and so it was felt that maybe we could raise funds to cover the costs of next year's event. For those who don't know me, I have, for the past 12 years had a ponytail. My mother will be pleased to hear that I am prepared to have my hair cut, as a sponsored event, to raise money for the 2003 Hampshire Visually Impaired Children's Activity Day. So, if anyone would like to sponsor me for this event, you may do so by contacting me at St Dunstan's Ovingdean.



A quick computer lesson.

I FELT AS THOUGH Christmas day had come early on Saturday December 14th when 13 Visually Impaired children descended upon Ovingdean for a day of activities and fun.

The idea, like all good plans, was first conceived in a pub some 11 months before. Marion Shaw, a ROVI working with children in Hampshire, met amongst others Billy Baxter one evening, and from there the seed was sown, for Marion's clients to meet, be inspired by and have fun at St Dunstan's for a day.

Billy was the natural choice as compere for the day. The 13 children aged between six and 16, all with a parent, arrived about 10.30am to be greeted by Billy, getting the children relaxed and excited. The parents thought

Ian Hebborn reports

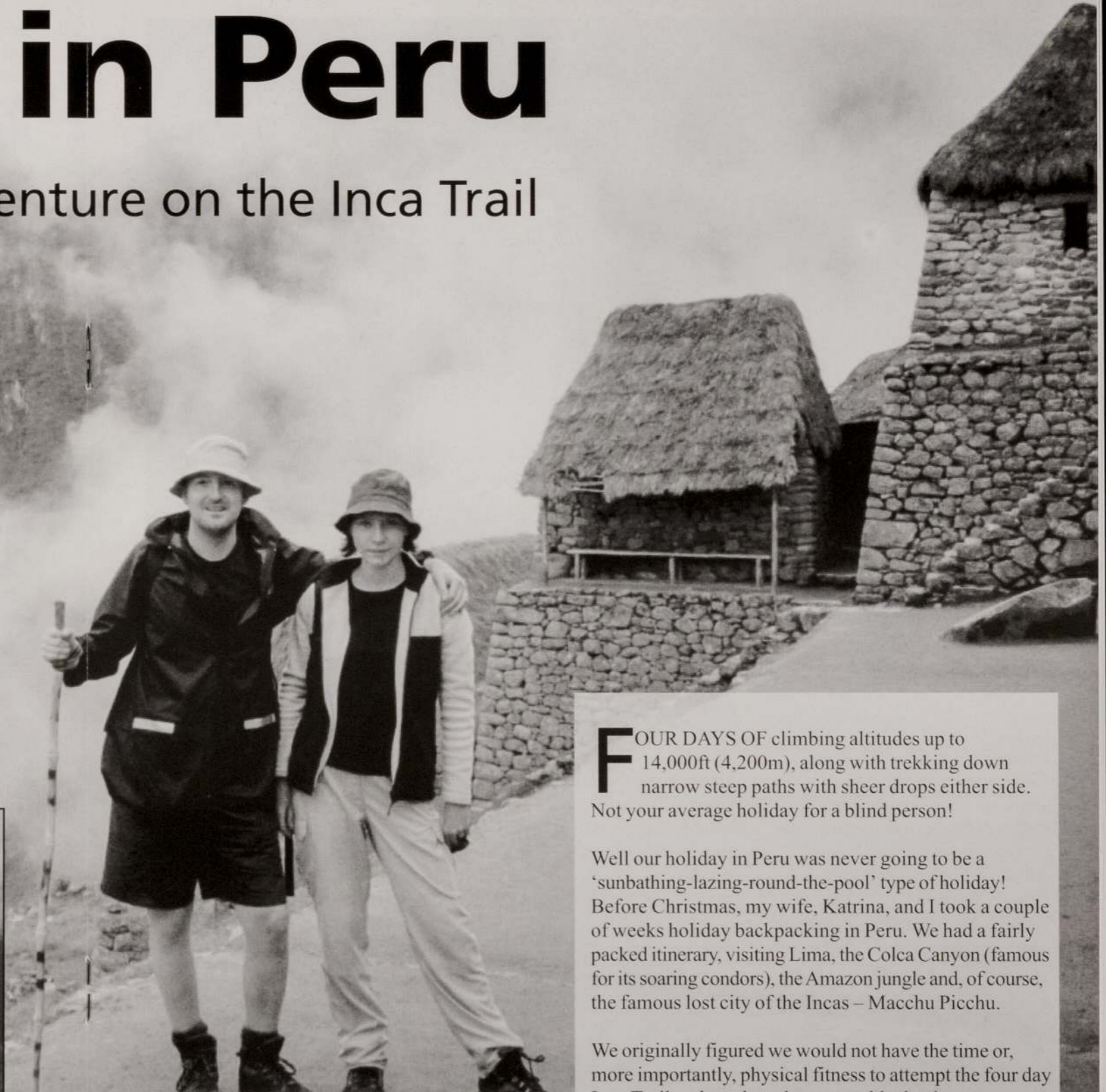
they'd be taking a back seat and watching their children join in with the activities, but this wasn't to be. To shouts of approval from the kids, Billy challenged the



At the end of a perfect day - the Hampshire kids and grown-ups with Billy and the St Dunstan's Rehab and Training Crew.

As they do in Peru

St Dunstaner Jamie Weller seeks adventure on the Inca Trail



Above: Jamie and Katrina Weller on a residential terrace at Macchu Picchu. Jamie served in the Royal Navy before he became a St Dunstaner.

Left: Macchu Picchu - the legendary abandoned city of the Incas. The lost city is cradled between two mountains Macchu Picchu (ancient mountain) and Huayna Picchu (young mountain).

FOUR DAYS OF climbing altitudes up to 14,000ft (4,200m), along with trekking down narrow steep paths with sheer drops either side. Not your average holiday for a blind person!

Well our holiday in Peru was never going to be a 'sunbathing-lazing-round-the-pool' type of holiday! Before Christmas, my wife, Katrina, and I took a couple of weeks holiday backpacking in Peru. We had a fairly packed itinerary, visiting Lima, the Colca Canyon (famous for its soaring condors), the Amazon jungle and, of course, the famous lost city of the Incas – Macchu Picchu.

We originally figured we would not have the time or, more importantly, physical fitness to attempt the four day Inca Trail and we thought we would take the more relaxing route – the train. I also doubted whether my eyesight problems would allow me to do it. However, after speaking with other backpackers, we decided we should not pass up this wonderful opportunity.

We set off from Cuzco with our Peruvian guide, Saul. We were with a group of nine other backpackers of different nationalities, including Dutch, German and



Jamie and Katrina Weller on the rough mountain road to Macchu Picchu.

American. In addition there were five porters to carry the equipment and food, and a cook.

At the start I tried to explain the problems I have with my vision, telling him that I had no central vision and could only see sideways out of my peripheral vision. He took it in his stride, but did not appreciate that I could only see about 1/60 of normal vision. (He even pointed out a chemist if I needed to get some medicine for my eyes!)

The first day was a supposedly gentle introduction to the trek, walking for six hours to the first campsite. Not quite so gentle as expected! I had planned on hiring one of the porters to carry our backpacks – containing one change of clothes each for the freezing nights at altitude, but unfortunately none of them were available until day two. This was our first taste of the magnificent Andes – we walked through

mountains and valleys in the cloud forest. The amazing views continued throughout the trip and became more impressive as our group went on and me struggling breathlessly on with them.

Arriving at our campsite in the evening, we were greeted by the welcome smells of local dishes prepared by our cook. The food was delicious, some of the best we had in Peru. We drank lots of coca tea, good for overcoming the effects of the altitude.

The second day was the most physically demanding as we climbed up through the clouds to 14,000 feet. Things began to get trickier for me as the path began to narrow and head steeply upwards. I had to begin concentrating more on my footing on the path. At that altitude I really started feeling the effects of the thinning air (and probably lack of fitness!). I started feeling queasy, light headed and very exhausted.

Every step was such a struggle. My breathing was never normal and I was continually gasping for air. It was such an effort, no air to breathe, muscles completely fatigued and clothes soaking with sweat. I had never appreciated the effects of altitude until then and will never forget the experience. The climb was never ending. I remember that every spare moment where I wasn't focussed on falling off the mountain and getting my breath, I was hoping that the peak was just around the corner. I had a massive energy burst as I neared the peak and was clapped and cheered on by the others already there. The satisfaction on reaching the highest point was incredible but the hard part was just about to begin.

Days three and four thankfully for most involved more downhill paths, although it was still a total of about 15 hours walking (including rest stops). Downhill walking on uneven steep rocky

paths cause many difficulties and much frustration for me. In fact a great deal of mental concentration was required otherwise I could have easily lost my footing and slipped several hundred feet or so.

My eyesight problem (cone dystrophy) means that I have peripheral vision but a large blind spot in front of me. I can walk unaided on good even ground but need help round some obstacles. In terms of the trek this meant I could cope with the uphill parts – it's more difficult to fall uphill and my depth perspective can cope and I can see the change in ground level as the terrain climbs upwards away from me. However major difficulties arise on the downhill parts and this was the real challenge. To help you imagine it, because I have poor depth perspective, I cannot see the difference in ground levels when looking down a slope – it all seems smooth and continuous. I can only sense the drop in height by literally walking down and waiting for my feet to hit the floor.

I had two walking sticks to help but it is still very difficult to get footing when walking downhill – trying to avoid rocks and dips in the path. Added to this much of the third day involved treacherous stretches along narrow cliff edge paths, with steep mountain drops on one side. Whilst others admired the fantastic view of the steep mountainside and mountains beyond, each step for me involved a lot of nerve and mental effort. If you imagine all I could see was the shear drops out of my peripheral vision, while the path ahead was lost in my central vision. At times I was so scared I wanted a helicopter to come and take me off the mountain.

One of the Germans on the trip, Ralph, proved to be of invaluable help. Whilst I held his arm we walked together in step and he shouted a running commentary of the path. The rest of the group were entertained with "little stone here, careful on your right, big stone, step down" etc. Ralph was tireless through my moments of

frustration. I nicknamed him my 'German shepherd' and without his help I would not have made it.

There was an early start on day four. We got rudely awakened in the cold and dark at 4am. However the "treasure" at the end of the trail kept me going and we eventually arrived at the lost city, Macchu Picchu at about 9am. The intention had been to see the sunrise at the Sun Gate above the lost city. Unfortunately this wasn't to be as the sun came up through thick cloud making anything beyond 10 metres invisible. However, later, as we sat above Macchu Picchu the cloud slowly cleared revealing the amazing ruins of the lost city.

I was surprised at the great scale of the city. We heard from the guide how the Incas lived in the city and stories about why the Incas may have deserted the city when the Spanish conquerors came. It was a shame to come back to reality and have to leave Macchu Picchu at the end of the day.

The clouds touch the mountains - quite literally - as Jamie stands in the lost city.



50 YEARS AGO

SIR IAN FRASER discussed the question of whether television could be adapted to convey visual images to the brain in order to help the blind to see. He called on the views of Professor E.D. Adrian, OM, President of the Royal Society and Chairman of St Dunstan's Scientific Advisory Committee. "If we could produce an electrical version of the visual scene and transfer it to the surface of the brain, we might be able to produce visual sensations corresponding in some degree to the visual scene, but it is quite likely that the correspondence would never be close enough to be much use," wrote Professor Adrian.

"If we knew how to keep electrodes permanently in contact with the brain without danger, and we knew how to produce the right kind of electrical pattern to arouse worthwhile visual sensation, there would still be the question whether anyone would want to rely on the elaborate apparatus needed to set up the pattern; but at present the brain is still too inaccessible to make it worth contemplating any practical development of the idea."

Wilfred Pickles was back at Ovingdean, this time for *Can I Come In?* He interviewed New Zealand St Dunstaner Stuart Craig who had been blinded in Korea. William Young, who had been a prisoner of war in Germany sang *Just a'wearying for you*. A repeat broadcast was able to include Sammy Webster, a St Dunstaner who had been a telephonist in Fleet Street for 35 years. "They just dust me down with the inventory," he said.

It was chocs away when rationing came in, but in February 1953 the restrictions came off the sweet shop!

Golden return of the chocolate bar

THE PEOPLE OF BRITAIN are renowned for their sweet tooth writes Simon Rogers. We consume, by several pounds a year, far more chocolate, toffee, fudge and fizzy things than our European or American cousins. Selling confectionery was once a favoured occupation amongst St Dunstaners. At least one St Dunstaner tested the market by selling sticks of St Dunstan's rock. However, when the outbreak of war forced a collective tightening of the buckle, sweets became a luxury item, restricted by the ration book.

No doubt some readers will recall with glee that it was 50 years ago this month that sweet rationing came to an end and confectioners went back to making a mint.

The restoration of sweet privileges was, of course, a prelude to all rationing restrictions being lifted. The return of a ha'penny bag of humbugs heralded the return of the Sunday Roast and other staple dishes that had been put on hold.

Our friends at Cadbury's suggest the following as tasty treat to celebrate this anniversary.

Flip Triangles

Ingredients

200g Cadbury's Bournville chocolate
5oz (150g) butter

24-26 very fresh ice cream wafers
A small can of condensed milk
4oz (125g) caster sugar
2 tbs (40ml) golden syrup
3 tps (15ml) smooth peanut butter

Utensil:

A 7x11 inch (18x28cm) swiss roll tin, strip lined with foil.

Method:

Melt chocolate with 25g (1oz) of the butter then spread half over the foil. Press on 12 wafers, trimming to fit.

Stir the remaining butter condensed milk, sugar and syrup in a pan over a gentle heat until completely dissolved then boil for three minutes, still stirring. Off heat, beat in peanut butter until smooth, then spread mixture evenly in the tin. Place wafers on top. Spread with remaining chocolate and set. Later, cut into eight squares, then into triangles.

Happy Birthday, Isobel

Congratulations and many happy returns to Isobel Preston of Woking, Surrey. She celebrated her 90th birthday on November 30th. Her late husband St Dunstaner Geoffrey served in the Lincolnshire Regiment.



Bromley singers light the way

BROMLEY ECUMENICAL SINGERS and their Concert Orchestra (pictured) delivered a bravura performance on behalf of St Dunstan's on November 23rd. With Remembrance Sunday still in mind, their programme included Fauré's *Requiem* and Holst's *A Choral Fantasia*.

They also performed *Coventry - Meditation for a String Quartet* by their President and Musical Director Vilém Tausky. The piece was inspired by the bravery of the people of Coventry during the bombing of 1940. "That was a terrible raid," said Tausky then serving with the Free Czech Army at Leamington. "We soldiers were sent to Coventry to try and restore some order, but there was no Coventry - only the tower of the old cathedral, miraculously untouched and standing out against the night sky and the flames."

The event also saw the British premiere of an arrangement of *In Flanders Fields* by conductor Richard Apsley. The performance, dubbed *Out of Darkness*, was part of the *Heaven & Earth* season of themed concerts and raised £700 for St Dunstan's.

Good news from Ringwood

The Parish of Ringwood in Hampshire named St Dunstan's as their Good Cause for the month of November. Their Parish Newsletter reported on a talk St Dunstaner Terry Bullingham had given at the local branch of The Royal British Legion.

BALANCING THE BOOKS

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

Three Men in New Suits

Author: J. B. Priestley
Read by Bruce Montague
Duration: 5 Hours 45 minutes.
Catalogue Number: 5685

Amongst the prolific output of J.B. Priestley you may well be familiar with *The Good Companions*, *Angel Pavement* and also *An Inspector Calls*; it is less likely I think, that you will know this little novel although to me it exhibits properties which make it quite unique. The suits in the title are de-mob suits and the men inside them, are a sergeant, a corporal and a private from the same battalion, each returning to his former home and finding civilian conditions at variance to his hopes and expectations. Of course, post-war Britain was extremely drab, and with continuing rationing and shortages, some discontent amongst the population was inevitable. But by no means can this account for the depressing picture which Priestley has painted here. Remarkably (and this is why I think it unique), although there are lots of characters in the book, there wasn't a single one I could either identify with or feel any sympathy for. The private is a beer-swilling brute, too ready to use his fists; the corporal, a farmer's son, seems to do nothing but complain about every thing and everyone, and the sergeant, whose father was a baronet or some such, is afflicted with verbal diarrhoea. And all the other characters are worthless too, from the sergeant's improbable brother who ends his every sentence with "Old Boy", to the private's old witch of a neighbour; you wouldn't give a pinch of snuff for the lot of them. How such a book found a publisher is difficult to imagine; as a story it rings as true as a cracked bell and in the entertainment stakes it is a pathetic non-starter.

Welcome to ST DUNSTAN'S

November 22nd

Colin Bewley of Paignton, Devon served in the Royal Air Force from 1941 to 1946. Having worked in the boat trade, he was commissioned into Air-Sea Rescue where his first boat was the last he had delivered as a civilian. He served in various locations including Cornwall, Devon and finally Shetland. At the end of the war he returned to buying and selling boats and organising sailing trips. He has a son, Roger.

Winifred Bishop of Lewes served with the Auxiliary Territorial Service from 1941 to 1946.

Margaret Dunn of Gateshead, Tyne & Wear served in the Royal Air Force between 1942 to 1946. She initially served in I Maintenance Unit in London, moving to Blackpool and Wiltshire before qualifying as a wireless operator. She finished her service as a clerical assistant in Gloucester. After the war she returned to the civil service in Newcastle DHSS. She used to enjoy reading, dance and exercise.

Eleanor Galloway of Clayton, Newcastle under Lyme served with Auxiliary Territorial Service between 1939 to 1941. She initially trained as a clerk and then became a cook based in York before moving to Durham. She then left to start a family. She had a wide range of interests including painting, embroidery, nature and gardening. She has one son, two daughters and five grandchildren.

Gordon Grimsey of Seaford, East Sussex served in the Royal Army Ordnance Corps and then Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers from 1939 to 1946. He took part in the Normandy landings and completed operations in France, Belgium, Holland and Germany. He was Mentioned in Dispatches during the latter phase of the war. In civilian life he worked with Consolidated Gold Fields. He was keen on photography and gardening. He and his wife Wilma have three daughters and six grandchildren.

Vera Hall of Banstead, Surrey served with the Auxiliary Territorial Service from 1942 to 1945. After training she was posted to an Ack Ack brigade

HQ in Northumbria as a clerk. She was then posted to GHQ in London for another year and completed her final year in an Ordnance Supply depot in Middlesex. After the war she returned to her office job with Unilever but soon left to raise her family. Her interests include handicrafts. She has a son, Stephen and one granddaughter.

Brian Hopkins of Shouldham, Kings Lynn served with the Royal Navy from 1953 to 1961. He joined as a junior stoker on a 12-year engagement and was soon deployed to the Far East on HMS Cossack, taking part in the Formosa Run during the Korean war. Still only 16, he was not allowed his 'tot' or to go on night leave but took part in operations. He was later deployed on a series of tours with Ton Class coastal sweepers and submarines. In civilian life, he became a sign writer and occasional mechanic, before moving into print. He later ran a delicatessen shop. A keen artist, he sold his own paintings and drawings until he lost his sight and was a keen mechanic with an interest in DIY. He and his wife Ann have a son and daughter and two grandchildren.

Arthur Martin of Colindale, London served with the Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers from 1943 to 1945. He was a London bus driver in the Reserved Occupation force from 1937 to 1943 until he was released for service in the Army. He trained in recovering tanks from the battlefield and was later based at a repair unit in London. In civilian life, he repaired cars before becoming a driver and finally, transport supervisor. He was a keen gardener and DIY handyman. He has three sons, one daughter, nine grandchildren and ten great-grandchildren.

Joan Shreeve of Norwich, Norfolk served in the Auxiliary Territorial Service from 1939 to 1945. After a short period as a cook, she became a pay clerk at Britannia Barracks. She married her husband in 1941 (he was taken prisoner by the Japanese while serving in the Royal Norfolk regiment). At the end of the war she resumed work with the Norwich Union before leaving to raise her family. She used to enjoy reading, embroidery and gardening and was very committed to the Brownie and Guide movement. She has three sons.

Leonard Wickson of Brighton served in the Royal Army Service Corps from 1942 to 1946. Attached to the 2nd Parachute Regiment, 1st Airborne Brigade, he was deployed to Africa. He continued to support the Parachute Regiment driving supplies throughout the Italian campaign. He returned to the UK in 1945 and was then deployed to Palestine and joined a medical unit in Gaza until being de-mobbed. He returned to his peace-time occupation as a brick layer.

December 6th

George Collins of Hove, East Sussex served in the Royal Air Force from 1954 to 1956. He was posted to Malta maintaining a VHF station connected with radar. After completing his service he returned to British Telecom as an electrical engineer. He has always been interested in sport and still plays golf with the help of friends. He and his wife Val have two sons, a daughter and eight grandchildren.

Ernest Goodwin of Lee-on-Solent, Hampshire served in the Royal Air Force from 1943 to 1946. He was posted overseas and joined a mobile repair unit that supported the 8th Army. A specialist carpenter he also helped to repair aircraft and gliders. After the war he returned to his job as a butcher. He used to enjoy dancing and gardening and is an active member of the local Royal British Legion committee.

Francis Irwin of Neasham, Darlington served in the Women's Royal Naval Service from 1944 to 1947. Posted to Scotland, she worked as a steward on the Fleet Air Arm base within the signals department. She later carried out demobilisation procedures. After raising a family, she worked as a Doctor's receptionist and within the Post Office. She has always enjoyed gardening. She and her husband John have a son and grandson.

Ronald Spathaky of Chesterton, Cambridge served in Royal Army Service Corps from 1941 to 1943 and then the Army Education Corps until 1946. He served as a clerk before transferring to the Education Corps where he was attached to the Guider Pilot Regiment as an intelligence instructor. He was then posted to North Africa and supported the landing in Syracuse, Sicily and then the invasion of Italy. He later joined 2nd Infantry Division and

landed in Normandy on D+6. His final posting was in Palestine. He then returned to teaching modern languages at a grammar school, later becoming Deputy Headmaster. He enjoys swimming. He and his wife Kathleen have a daughter, two sons, seven grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.

December 13th

Stanley Arnold of Yeovil, Somerset served in the Royal Army Service Corps and the Royal Artillery between 1940 and 1946. After training, he transferred to the Royal Artillery serving in London, Coventry, Ireland and Liverpool. Later he volunteered to join the War Graves Commission and was posted to Germany where he worked to the end of the war. After leaving the services he returned to his job in a printing press in London but soon left to run a hotel in Bloomsbury. He and his wife Thelma have two sons and two daughters.

Robert Braithwaite of Spondon, Derbyshire served in the Royal Army Service Corps from 1947 to 1959. After basic training he was posted to an ammunition depot 'Kineton' and was then posted to Germany. He later became a drill instructor, which he continued to do as Sergeant for the rest of his service. In civilian life he worked for Rolls Royce, the Post Office, disinfected farms with TB and was a MOT inspector. He used to enjoy woodcarving and computing. He and his wife Janet have three daughters and a number of grandchildren.

Bernard Cooper of Street, Somerset served in the 10th Battalion, Gloucestershire Regiment from 1940 to 1941. After training, he was on exercise in a Bren Carrier which had an accident and he broke his ribs and damaged his leg. He had many different jobs over the years including acting as special constable, a major domo in the cinema and a stoker. He has had many interests and hobbies over the years and was a very active gardener, specialising in roses. He also enjoyed writing, particularly poetry, and is also keen on photography. He is married to Ivy and has a son from his first marriage.

Edward Cooper of Aylesford, Kent served in the Pioneer Corps from 1944 to 1948. He served at a number of different UK stations including Orkney and Shetland, before being posted to Newton-Stuart to supervise prisoners of war. In civilian life, he worked for Lewisham Hospital as a decorator

before branching out as a builder. He used to enjoy DIY maintenance, maintains an electric train set and likes music. He and his wife have two daughters, three grandsons and three granddaughters.

John Ellson of Finedon, Northamptonshire served in the Royal Navy from 1942 to 1946. After completing his training he joined HMS Vimmy and spent two years on Atlantic convoys before taking part in the D-Day landings. The ship was damaged and returned to Liverpool for repairs but later became the first ship into Antwerp. He then sailed to the Far East in support of the Pacific fleet. Remaining in the Royal Fleet Reserve for 15 years, he was called up for Korea but did not serve there. In civilian life, he worked in retail and personnel. A prolific writer, he has had several poems published and has earned the Freedom of the City of London for his work for charities. He has two daughters, one son, seven grandchildren and six great grandchildren.

Iris Filgiano of Horsham, West Sussex served in the Women's Royal Air Force from 1942 to 1946.

Gordon Hulme of Highfields, Stafford served with the Royal Signals in Poona, India and Catterick from 1944 to 1948. On leaving the services he was employed by General Electric in Stafford. He and his wife have four sons and eight grandchildren.

Joyce Laing of Hebburn, Tyne & Wear served in the Auxiliary Territorial Services from 1942 to 1946. She was deployed in various administrative positions, including training recruits and working with the Royal Army Ordnance Corps despatching stores to the Far East. After the war she worked for her father running a hotel and, after getting married, joined the Gateshead Local Authority. She used to enjoy driving and reading. She has one son and one grandson.

Herbert Mead of Taunton, Somerset served in the East Surrey, Queen's Regiment and the Wiltshire Regiment between 1931 and 1945. He was evacuated from Dunkirk and subsequently took part in the D-Day invasion on Sword beach with the Canadian Forces. On leaving the services he worked in industry. He and his wife have four daughters and a son and a total of 30 grandchildren and great grandchildren.

William Mepham of Heathfield served in the Royal Engineers from 1940 to 1945. He was deployed to North Africa and was captured at Tobruk. Thereafter he was taken to Italy and on to Germany where he repaired the bombed railways. He was not impressed with this and made the mistake of commenting within earshot of an English speaking German officer. He spent the rest of the war in Poland in a punishment camp. After the war he worked in Bexhill as gardener/driver/handyman at a home for children.

Geoffrey Smith of Morley, Leeds served in the Royal Air Force from 1946 to 1949. After basic training he served in Norfolk/Suffolk on a number of different master diversion airfields. He worked in the Orderly Room and finished as corporal in charge. In civilian life he supplied equipment to catering firms. He used to enjoy sport and reading and still does some gardening and runs a local community group. He and his wife Jean have one son.

Ronald Utton of Hailsham, East Sussex served in the Royal Warwickshire Regiment from 1940 to 1946. He was deployed to Normandy on D+1 and after the Battle of Caen was wounded in the arm, hand and ears. After the war, he joined Prudential Insurance. He enjoys walking, visits to the country and used to enjoy reading.

Iris Wells of Woodingdean, Brighton served in the Women's Royal Naval Service from 1943 to 1945. Posted to HMS Dolphin, the submarine depot at Gosport, she spent two years in supplies. She used to enjoy driving her car and was a member of the Women's Institute. She has two sons, five grandchildren and nearly three great-grandchildren.

Ten Answers

Answers from page 7.

The missing words were as follows:

- 1) "...problem." 2) "...love." 3) "...mothers."
- 4) "...children." 5) "...destruction." ("An haughty spirit comes before a fall"). 6) "...quicker".
- 7) "...Mum." 8) "...audience". 9) "...breakfasts".
- 10) "...perspiration".



ST DUNSTAN'S Council

Responding to reader request, **The Review** starts a series of profiles of the members of St Dunstan's Council.

Colin Beaumont-Edmonds, MC President of St Dunstan's

LEAVING BOARDING school at the age of 17 in 1940, I spent six weeks as a Carter's boy, looking after five horses and helping to get the harvest in on a large Wiltshire farm. Within three weeks of my 18th birthday, I volunteered to join The Royal Sussex Regiment, and in July 1942 I was commissioned into The Queen's Royal Regiment (West Surrey's). Three weeks later was on my way to Kirkuk, in North Iraq, guarding oil wells.

When the Germans capitulated to the Russians, there was no need to remain there, so we moved to catch up with the 8th Army, which we achieved when they reached their final line at Enfadaville in Tunisia. It was here that I was blinded while removing an Italian machine-gun position, for which I received my Military Cross.

I was accepted for a job in the Personnel department of ICI's Metals Division (later IMI). After a year at St Dunstan's Church Stretton, it was thought best for me to do a two-year diploma Course at Magdalen College, Oxford, studying Political Science, Philosophy and Economics. These two years enabled me to settle down to an active life in a sighted world. Amongst other activities I stroked the Third College Eight.

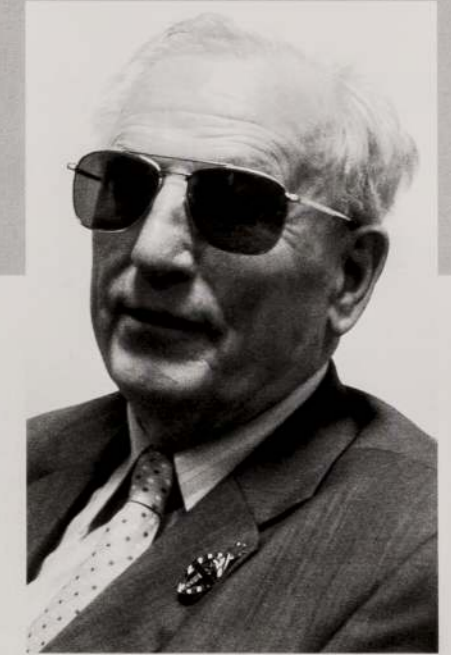
In February 1947 I started at Kyynoch Works in Birmingham,

living in digs in Sutton Coldfield. In an effort to get to know people in the area, I joined the Young Conservatives, eventually becoming Divisional Chairman. It was at a debate with their Edgbaston Branch that I met Joyce, and we were married in 1950.

I became Secretary to The Sutton Coldfield Scout Association in 1952, obtaining the Wood Badge in time for the 1957 Jubilee Jamboree, and became their District Commissioner in 1968.

In 1954, I was elected to the Borough Council of Sutton Coldfield, which also enabled me to sit on the governing bodies of primary and secondary schools, and ten years later I was elected Mayor of The Royal Town. These positions required a considerable amount of reading, and I could not have carried out the duties without Joyce's support, as she had to do all the reading. With local government reorganisation in 1974, Sutton Coldfield was taken over by Birmingham and I became an Honorary Alderman of the City Council, a position I still hold.

We moved to Folkestone to care for my aged parents, and I became a telephonist with the NatWest Bank. Away from the bank I kept my interest in local politics and the Scouting Movement, and was also Chairman of the newly formed



branch of NADFAS (National Association of Decorative and Fine Arts).

The Bank retired me in 1985 when we moved to Sidmouth. The next year I was appointed President of St Dunstan's. I became involved in various organisations, started The Sidvale and Eastern Devon Talking Newspaper (which now sends out over 200 copies a week), joined the Road Safety Committee, was elected Speakers Secretary to The East Devon Lunch Club, and was appointed to The Northcott Foundation, which dispenses funds to help the disabled throughout Devon. I remain a member of The Sidmouth Probus Club and The Men's Forum, having been a Committee member and President of both organisations, and enjoy attending Music Appreciation Classes during the winter months.

The computer, with e-mail, and the scanner is a wonderful help to us both. Joyce no longer has to read everything to me. However, I still read Braille books, receive various magazine tapes, and for the past ten years have attended Bristol University special Summer School for the visually impaired.

Captain Gordon-Lennox, RN, Chairman of St Dunstan's

BORN IN LONDON in 1938, Michael Gordon-Lennox joined the Royal Navy in 1957 as a Cadet at Britannia Royal Naval College Dartmouth. In 1960 he served in HMS Salisbury, qualifying as a Ship's Diver during a Far East deployment, in HM Yacht Britannia and later as the First Lieutenant of the Inshore mine hunter HMS Squirrel on Fishery Protection duties. As a Lieutenant he served in the first commission of the guided missile destroyer HMS Kent before being appointed ADC to the unified Commander-in-Chief Far East in Singapore for the duration of the Indonesian Confrontation campaign of 1964-66.

On return to the United Kingdom, he specialised in anti-submarine warfare and took up various relevant appointments.

From 1974-76 he served on the staff of the Flag Officer First Flotilla (then Vice-Admiral Henry Leach) and was promoted Commander, thence to the Operational Requirements Directorate in the Ministry of Defence before commanding the Vosper Frigate HMS Active from 1978-80.

Promoted Captain in June 1985, he became Chief of Staff to the Flag Officer Scotland, until being appointed Chief Staff Officer for Reserves and Cadets to the CINC Naval Home Command in April 1988; then to Hong Kong as Captain in Charge of the naval base and patrol craft until 1991. He was appointed the Commodore Admiralty Interview Board in April 1992, and left the Royal Navy in 1994.

As a Retired Officer he then ran the RN Personnel Security vetting organisation in Portsmouth. He now works part-time as Trust Secretary for the Coastal Forces Heritage Trust, in the Royal Navy Museum.

Michael Gordon-Lennox married Jenny in 1974, and has two daughters and a son. He lives near Midhurst in West Sussex and his interests include fishing, shooting, golf, cricket, gardening and other country pursuits. He completed five years as a school governor at Wantage. He is a member of the Queen's Bodyguard for Scotland (Royal Company of Archers). He joined the Council of St Dunstan's in 1994, and became chairman in October 1998.

A brief history of the family name Gordon-Lennox

THE GORDON-LENNOX family stems from Charles II, and his liaison with the French Breton lady Louise de Keroualle. Later to become the Duchess of Portsmouth, she was acclaimed as the prettiest and most intelligent of the King's mistresses. She was herself created Duchess of Aubigny and was granted the estates by Louis XIV. One of her sons, in 1672, became the Duke of Richmond and Lennox. To give him his full titles, which are still used today by his descendants, the young Charles Lennox was created Baron of Settrington, Earl of March and Duke of Richmond (Yorkshire) in the English peerage; Baron Methuan of Tarbolton, Earl

of Darnley and Duke of Lennox in the peerage of Scotland.

The Lennox and Gordon families were united in 1789 when Charles Lennox, the future 4th Duke of Richmond and Lennox, married a daughter of the 4th Duke of Gordon. When the 5th Duke of Gordon died without heirs in 1836, the title became extinct, and his Scottish estates passed to the 5th Duke of Richmond. Forty years later in 1876, Queen Victoria revived the Dukedom of Gordon, and conferred it with the Earldom of Kinrara (near Newtonmore), on the 6th Duke of Richmond for his public services. Today the full title is the Duke of Richmond, Lennox, Gordon and Aubigny. The eldest son and heir is the Earl of March and Kinrara, and in turn his eldest son is Lord Settrington. Those other members of the family retain the combined name of Gordon Lennox! The Duke lives at Goodwood in West Sussex. His traditional Scottish home of Gordon Castle in Fochabers, Morayshire, is now owned by Major General Bernard Gordon-Lennox, a second cousin of the present Duke, and a first cousin of Michael Gordon-Lennox.

The 9th Duke, Frederick, broke from tradition, flew aeroplanes, and successfully raced cars at the famous 1930's circuit at Brooklands. After World War II he opened the Goodwood motor racing circuit, which was the perimeter track of Westhampnett airfield, a wartime satellite of RAF Tangmere. His grandson, the present Earl of March and Kinrara, was instrumental in creating the internationally acclaimed annual "Festival of Speed", and in September 1998 achieved the reopening of the Goodwood Motor circuit for annual three day revival meetings.



A RARE TELEVISION performance by late St Dunstaner Esmond Knight is released on audio CD this month. A six-part adventure story, Dr Who: The Space Pirates, has been collected on a two-CD set with additional narration by Fraser Hines. The original video and film copies were destroyed bar one episode, making this soundtrack recording all that remains of Esmond's portrayal of an interstellar captive.

Having started a theatrical career in 1925, Esmond established himself as a popular actor on the West End stage. This was set aside with outbreak of the Second World War as he joined the Royal Navy. He became a St Dunstaner when blinded while serving on HMS Prince of Wales.

Corporal Bill Sparks



THE LAST OF the "Cockleshell Heroes" passed away on November 30th. Royal Marine Corporal Bill Sparks was one of 12 men who raided the German occupied French port of Bordeaux by canoe. Their mission was to attack enemy shipping. The Marines crippled four merchant-men, a tanker and a German naval auxiliary, though only two returned from the mission. Sparks made his way to Gibraltar but was arrested on arrival and sent home under guard. He later served in Burma, Africa and Italy. St Dunstaners may recall swapping stories with Corporal Sparks on several occasions when he visited St Dunstan's Ovingdean.

Sound regeneration for TV show lost in space It was one small step for a St Dunstaner in the TARDIS

With true St Dunstan's spirit he set about rebuilding his acting career in film, theatre, radio and later television. The Space Pirates was broadcast on Saturday afternoons through March and April 1969, taking its cue from contemporary flights around the moon by Apollo 8 and 9 crews. Although it would be another three months before Neil Armstrong set foot on the moon, BBC special effects placed Esmond far outside the bounds of the Solar System.

There was a distinct Naval persuasion to the cast. Dr Who Patrick Troughton served on MGBs out of Great Yarmouth and he would soon relinquish the part to Jon Pertwee, a friend and colleague of Esmond's, who had served on HMS Hood.

FAMILY NEWS

BIRTHS

Congratulations on the birth of:

Luke Mahoney on October 9th. He is the son of Andy and Lorna Mahoney of Alexandria, Dunbartonshire.

Amy Kay on January 11th. She is the daughter of Steve and Michala Pendleton of Rochester, Kent.

SILVER ANNIVERSARIES

Congratulations to:

Joe and Stella Attfield of Paignton, Devon on November 25th.

Samuel and Jean Threlfall of Stockport, Cheshire on December 24th.

RUBY ANNIVERSARIES

Congratulations to:

Robert and Margaret Waller of Preston, Lancashire on December 1st.

GOLDEN ANNIVERSARIES

Congratulations to:

Harry and Joyce Blamire of Lytham St Anne's, Lancashire on January 17th.

DIAMOND ANNIVERSARIES

Congratulations to:

Ernest and Vera Parker of Westergate, West Sussex on January 1st.

Jeffrey and Betty Redbond of Cleethorpes, South Humberside on January 7th.

SPECIAL ANNIVERSARIES

Congratulations to:

Tom and Doris Adams of Kingsteignton, Newton Abbot, Devon who celebrated 62 years together on January 4th.

Gwenllian and Ernest Obern of Aberdare, Mid Glamorgan who celebrated 63 years of marriage on December 23rd.

DEATHS

We regret to announce the death of:

Ellen Turner on October 28th. She was the wife of *George Turner* of Bexleyheath, Kent.

Alice Poole of Cottingham, Cambridgeshire on November 22nd. She was the widow of St Dunstaner *George Poole*.

Ethel Price of Hythe, Kent on November 30th. She was the widow of *Henry Price*.

Alice Richardson of Abingdon, Oxfordshire on December 11th. She was the widow of St Dunstaner *Gordon Richardson*.

Lyn Evans of Mansfield, Nottinghamshire on December 13th. She was the widow of *Robert Evans*.

Barbara Wrigley of Droylsden, Manchester on December 13th. She was the widow of St Dunstaner *William Wrigley*.

Margaret Varnam of Todmorden, Lancashire on December 26th. She was the widow of St Dunstaner *Walter Varnam*.

Jean Duncan of South Shields, Tyne & Wear on December 27th. She was the widow of St Dunstaner *William Duncan*.

Alice Carney of Dunstable, Bedfordshire on December 28th. She was the widow of *Joseph Carney*.

Bertha King of Crowborough, East Sussex on January 3rd. She was the widow of *Harold King*.

Kathleen Bullingham on December 5th. She was the mother of St Dunstaner *Terry Bullingham* of Smethwick, West Midlands and the grandmother of RGN *Helen Bullingham*.

Arthur Dakin of Okefitzpaine, Dorset on November 22nd. He was the son of the late *Harry Dakin* and leaves a widow, Jackie.

Jimmy Costello of Presnton, Lancashire on December 9th. He was the son of *Jenny Costello* of Garstang, Lancashire and the late St Dunstaner *Jimmy Costello*.

Our sympathy goes to their families and friends.

IN MEMORY

Joseph Day

Royal Army Service Corps

Joseph Day of Kings Heath, Birmingham died on November 17th, aged 87. He served in the Royal Army Service Corps from 1940 to 1946. He trained for the Special Boat Battalion but was injured. Transferring to the RASC as a driver mechanic he served in Iraq, the Western Desert and with the American Army in Italy. He was injured at Salerno. After the war he raced motorcycles. Our sympathy goes to his widow *Lillian* and all of the family.

William Roberts

Royal Canadian Air Force

William Llewelyn Roberts of Toronto, Canada died in December, aged 83. He served with the Royal Canadian Air Force. In civilian life he worked as a computer programmer. Our sympathy goes to his widow *Thelma*, son *Doug* and all of the family.

William Hayes

Merchant Navy

William Alexander Hayes of Wallasey, Merseyside died on December 3rd, aged 83. He served as a Seaman in the Merchant Navy from 1935 to 1945 on the North Atlantic convoys. He was a prisoner of war for some time. In civilian life he taught mathematics. Our sympathy goes to his daughters *Sandra* and *Janet* and all members of the family.

Bernard Dixon

Royal Engineers

Bernard Dixon of Brighton died on December 7th, aged 83. He served in the Royal Army Service Corps from 1939 to 1940 and the Royal Engineers from 1940 to 1945. Having deployed to France with the BEF as an advanced driver, he was evacuated the day the French surrendered. Later transferring to the Royal Engineers as a carpenter, he joined the 8th Army for mine clearing duties. Mr Dixon was wounded during the D-Day landings and evacuated after his right leg was amputated. After the war he returned to work building railway carriage interiors, which he did for 30 years. He then worked for West Engineering. Our sympathy goes to all the family.

Arthur Taylor

Royal Air Force

Alfred Arthur Taylor of Freshwater, Isle of Wight died on December 10th, aged 81. He had been a St Dunstaner since 1982. Having worked as a machine tool setter, he joined the Royal Air Force in 1945 and served as an Aircraftman before being invalided out in 1947. In civilian life he was a Civil Servant. His interests included music, writing, walking and handicrafts, in particular picture framing. Being a keen short wave listener, he was also a member of St Dunstan's Amateur Radio Society, regularly reporting on their activities for St Dunstan's Review. Our sympathy goes to his widow *Ula*, sons *Brian* and *Alan*, and all other members of the family.

Leslie Copeland

Yorks & Lancaster Regiment

Leslie Copeland of Ovingdean, Brighton died on December 17th, aged 86. He had been a St Dunstaner since 1940. Having worked in a colliery, he joined the Yorks & Lancaster Regiment in 1939 and served as a Private. He was blinded when a rifle accidentally discharged. In civilian life he worked as a capstan lathe operator and telephonist, later turning to rug making and string bags. His interests included walking and bowls. Our sympathy goes to his son *Lionel* and all members of family.

Ronald Cattell

Royal Artillery

Ronald Edwin Cattell of Ovingdean, Brighton died on December 27th, aged 84. He had been a St Dunstaner since 1987. Having enlisted with the Royal Artillery in 1939, he was serving as a Lance

Bombardier when evacuated from Dunkirk. Posted to Singapore in 1941, he was taken prisoner by the Japanese. The malnutrition and privation he experienced during captivity would eventually cause loss of sight. He was discharged in 1946. In civilian life he worked for London Electricity Board in Properties and Insurance. His interests included archery, handicrafts, cookery and masonics. Our sympathy goes to his son *Russell*, stepson *Gary* and all members of the family.

William Allen

5th Field, Royal Horse Artillery

William Allen of Ovingdean, Brighton died on December 30th, aged 86. He had been a St Dunstaner since 1940. He worked as a Post Office Engineer before joining the Royal Horse Artillery as a Gunner in 1932. Blinded in 1940 when a shell exploded in the gun breach, he also suffering injuries to his right arm. After training at St Dunstan's, he managed a Confectioner Tobacconist Newsagent shop until 1968. His interests included bridge and bowls. Our sympathy goes to his widow *Frances*, sons *Graham*, *Ashley* and *Paul*, daughters *Elizabeth* and *Janet* and all other members of the family.

James Sparks

Royal Air Force

James Lytton Alexander Sparks of Saltdean, Brighton died on January 5th, aged 81. He served in the Royal Air Force from 1938 to 1948 and was seconded to the Fleet Air Arm. Sailing on the Russian convoys, he also served in Canada and India. After leaving the RAF he spent 25 years in the Birmingham City Police Force and then joined National Westminster Bank. His interests included bowls. Our sympathy goes to his widow *Joy* and all members of the family.

Ernest Stainthorp

Royal Artillery

Ernest Trueman Stainthorp of Darlington, County Durham died on January 8th, aged 87. He served in the Royal Artillery from 1940 to 1946 in North Africa and Germany. After leaving the service he worked in the building trade and as a wagon repairer on the railways. He used to enjoy football and cricket and played in the district league. Our sympathy goes to all of his family.

St Dunstan's has a cracking Christmas on the coast!

A season of song and dance

FESTIVE ACTIVITIES at Ovingdean got off to a fine start with the annual visit by the Southover school choir from Lewes. They came to perform a delightful Christmas concert for us on December 11th.

This set things in motion for the season. In the run up to Christmas we had entertainment from various different sources including a visit from the Salvation Army and favourites like the Park Lane Duo, Alison and Graham Tucker and Andrew Varley.

What was particularly nice was to see our Chapel full on Saturday December 14th for a Christmas carol concert. It had been beautifully decorated by Linda Barley (PA to Dick Lake) with festive greenery and white candles lighting the pews. Father Tony Otterwell had raised a good choir for the day.

Everybody was in fine voice and thoroughly enjoyed themselves during the concert and chatting away with friends whilst having tea in the lounge afterwards. My thanks go to Father Tony for the time he spent helping to arrange it.



Happy Christmas! Sylvia and Ken Burton with Winifred Jordan.

Lyn Mullins reports

Pictures by Paul James

Christmas Day was spent as all good Christmas days should with plenty to eat and drink and various Christmas activities including a visit to the panto followed in the days to come.

Before we knew it, New Years Eve was upon us and this year there were some changes afoot.

The party was held in the ballroom and rather than the usual fancy dress the code of the evening was black tie and evening dress and I must say I have never seen so many St Dunstaners and their family and friends looking so smart and debonair. The quiz during the evening proved a great success and the main raffle prize was won by Lawrence Huck. Rick Bonner counted the New Year in for us and then continued to entertain us until the early hours. All agreed that the evening had been a great success and we had really seen 2003 in ...IN STYLE!!



St Dunstaners receive presents with eager anticipation.



Colwyn Lloyd in festive mood.