

ST DUNSTAN'S Review



April 2003

www.st-dunstans.org.uk



FOR BLIND EX-SERVICE MEN AND WOMEN

Cover story:
Colin is a sure-fire winner!

Colin Best has been able to take up arms again.
Full details on page 14.

Stan battles through Hastings

Stan Grimsey tackles the Hastings Half-marathon.
Full details on page 10.



A cut above the rest!

ROVI Ian submits to the sharp blades of Steve "Sweeny Todd" Nixon.
Full details on page 22.

Open all channels.

St Dunstaners are back on the airwaves.
Full details on page 12.

insight

The second issue of the **insight** newsletter is included with this edition of **ST DUNSTAN'S Review**. This newsletter is being sent to some 250,000 donors who continue to support the work of St Dunstan's, creating an independent future for blind ex-servicemen and women.

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computer disk, via e-mail and in large print.

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NLB offers personal
bookshelf



From the Chairman



I HAVE PREVIOUSLY referred to departments either at Harcourt Street or at Ovingdean, whose work is essential to the smooth operation of our organisation. This time, I would like to mention the Human Resources department, formerly called Personnel. They are responsible for all matters relating to staff - records, training, discipline and employment. As a final part of the senior management team coming together, Suzanne Cameron has now moved to a full time office in Harcourt Street.

Today, there is a mass of legislation relating to employment, health and safety and training. It requires serious concentration and knowledge to digest and ensure that we conform both with the myriad of necessary regulations, and the trivia. The well qualified and trained staff will mean a better service to our working staff and to St Dunstaners, which must always be our underlying purpose. We thank them for their efforts and hard work.

The first of our reunions was at Shaftesbury. This took place on March 5th with our President, Colin Beaumont-Edmonds presiding, and was a great success. Colin has now been a St Dunstaner for 60 years, and like many of you, wears his Jubilee St Dunstan's badge with enormous pride.

Michael Gordon-Lennox

Captain Michael Gordon-Lennox, RN

**ST DUNSTAN'S
Calendar**

Ex-POW Reunion	April 4th-7th
Widows' Week (1)	April 7th-14th
Brighton Club 50th Anniversary	April 9th
Golf Club	April 12th-13th
Dutch Memorial Laying of Flowers	April 10th
London Marathon	April 13th
Norwich Reunion	April 16th
Masonic Reunion	April 25th-27th
London Reunion	April 30th
Exeter Reunion	May 7th
Handless Reunion	May 7th-13th
Blackpool Reunion	May 13th
Liverpool Reunion	May 14th
Exercise Ironman	May 15th
Gardening Week	May 19th-26th
Edinburgh Reunion	May 21st
Penzance Reunion	May 21st
Chichester Reunion	May 28th

**DEADLINES FOR
FUTURE ISSUES**

The final date for submitting items
for publication in the May **Review**
is April 7th 2003.

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

insight

ST DUNSTAN'S NEWSLETTER • SPRING 2003



Mark Threadgold tests the new St Dunstan's website using a screen reader that reads out the text.

Surfing Blind

This month sees the launch of the new, redesigned, St Dunstan's website, a rich and easily accessible resource full of news, events, fascinating facts and useful information.

"It's important that we have a website that tells everyone about the great work we do and helps potential St Dunstaners find out about our admissions process," said Ray Hazan, Head of PR. "The site has to be easy for both sighted and visually impaired visitors to gain information. I'm delighted we have achieved all this and more."

The visually impaired use specialist computer software enabling them to access the Internet.

Screen readers read out text that appears on the screen, however, the format needs to be organised in a simple, straightforward style and this means really detailed planning is necessary to achieve the right result.

A team of St Dunstaners helped to develop the new site, providing invaluable advice. "The format of the pages on the site enables my screen reader to skip all the links, going directly to read the actual page content. It's great because the links are often very long and tiresome for the visually impaired to read," said Mark Threadgold, one of the team. "I made the suggestion to the developers. It's great to see my ideas put into practice."

"Computers and the Internet provide a new interest for St Dunstaners, but there aren't many sites that are easy for them to access." Janis Sharp, IT Instructor explains. "Ours is."

St Dunstan's welcomes your feedback, which you can send from the site at www.st-dunstans.org.uk.



Janis Sharp teaches computer skills to St Dunstaners

MEET THE ST DUNSTANERS MEET THE ST DUNSTANERS MEET THE ST

60 years on...



"It was 1942, Enfadaville, Tunisia. A ridge, manned with an Italian machine gun post, stood between my platoon and the final line of the 8th Army. Taking charge of a second platoon that had lost its Officer, I got them to take position at the side of the ridge, whilst my platoon charged the hill to take out the machine gun post. It was here I was blinded by German covering fire."

As a result of his bravery, Colin was awarded a Military Cross.

Colin Beaumont-Edmonds, currently President of St Dunstan's, is proud to be a part of the charity that helped him to cope with his sight loss.

"When I came to St Dunstan's I was helped by First World War St Dunstaners. That really lifts you. We all help each other cope."

After a year's rehabilitation and training at the wartime centre at Church Stretton, Shropshire, Colin went on to study Political Science, Philosophy and Economics at Oxford - though his life at university was much harder than most.

"I wanted to gain experience in a sighted world, but technology back then wasn't advanced, and I had to rely on someone to read out all the course books for me."



After Colin scans the documents the computer reads it back to him.

For over 60 years, Colin has been leading a fulfilling life, undeterred by his sight loss. He has worked for prestigious companies like ICI and NatWest and - to his enormous pride - Colin was elected Mayor in 1964. He also founded, and still works for, the Sidvale and Eastern Devon Talking Newspaper. Colin has a five minute slot on the newspaper, which keeps the blind community informed about coping with sight loss, new pieces of equipment and other useful resources.

Computer technology has been invaluable for Colin.

"The computer, with email and the scanner is a wonderful help to me. I no longer have to rely on my wife to read everything to me."

BLIND AMBITION BLIND AMBITION BLIND AMBITION BLIND AMBITION

Speedy Mark Makes Waves Again

Fresh from his success in setting a new Blind World Endurance record in a Rigid Inflatable Boat around the Isle of Wight, St Dunstaner Mark Threadgold is planning his second challenge. In October 2003 he will attempt the Blind Water Speed Record at the RYA's annual Speed Week on Lake Windermere. The current Blind Water Speed Record stands at 73.06mph, but Mark is aiming to achieve a speed of 100mph in a Bladerunner R56 powerboat, sponsored by ICE Marine.

Mark set his first record in August 2002, as part of St Dunstan's Blind Ambition Campaign. With the invaluable support of his sponsors and the Army's Exercise Rigid Lion Round UK Team, he successfully circumnavigated a single lap of the Isle of Wight in a record breaking 1 hour 51 minutes, raising over £3,000. Mark's record breaking attempt was one of three presentations given to HM The Queen in January 2003 by the Army's Chief of General Staff.

If you would like to support Mark, please complete the form on page 5 or sponsor online at www.st-dunstans.org.uk/ambition.



Mark hopes to achieve 100mph in this Bladerunner R56 powerboat.

Colin's Target

Colin, who is totally blind, will compete in the second annual St Dunstan's Charity Clay Pigeon Shoot at Bisley on 29th April 2003, as part of the St Dunstan's Shooting Team.

Colin, 47, from Saintfield in Northern Ireland, served in The Royal Irish Rangers for twelve years before losing his sight in a road accident in August 2000.

As part of the St Dunstan's Blind Ambition Campaign, Colin is currently on target to design and develop an audible clay.

If you wish to find out more about Colin's Blind Ambition or purchase tickets for St Dunstan's Shoot at Bisley, please complete the form on page 5 or email fundraising@st-dunstans.org.uk.



Billy's Record Attempt Picks Up Pace



Daredevil Billy 'the Whizz' Baxter is on track to smash the Blind Solo World Land Speed Record on a motorcycle in August 2003. The practice sessions for Billy's Blind Ambition are well underway and he is rapidly building up speed and confidence as the big day draws nearer.

Funds raised for the Blind Ambition Campaign so far are £42,000 and climbing daily. Billy himself will be raising money on a second nationwide tour with 'The Flying Gunners', the Royal Artillery Motorcycle Display Team.

The collective monies from all the Blind Ambition challenges, including Billy's, will help enable all St Dunstaners to achieve their own personal ambitions - whether ordinary or extraordinary.



Catch Billy at the following locations...

- 4-5 May Truckfest, Peterborough
- 17-18 May BMF, Peterborough
- 24-25 May Archants Exhibition, Knebworth
- 26 May Chalfont Fair, Chalfont
- 8-9 June JHQ Show, München Gladbach
- 10-12 June AES Edinburgh, Scotland
- 14-15 June BMF, Kent
- 8-19 June Lincolnshire Show, Lincoln
- 24-26 June AES Bassingbourn, Royston, Cambridgeshire

If you would like to support Billy to achieve his Blind Ambition, please complete the How you can help form on page 5 or sponsor online at www.st-dunstans.org.uk/ambition.

FUNDRAISING FUNDRAISING FUNDRAISING

Raising the Roof

The Bromley Oecumenical Singers and Concert Orchestra put on a rousing performance at their concert on 23rd November 2002 at St John the Evangelist, Bromley, raising a fantastic £700 for St Dunstan's.

The Choir comprises over 60 singers with a wide age range, led by conductor Richard Apsley. 'Out of Darkness', the evening's programme, appropriately included performances of 'In Flanders Fields' and Vilem Tausky's 'Coventry', which he wrote after being sent in to clear the devastation at the blitz-hit city.

The concert was enjoyed by all who attended and St Dunstan's would like to thank the

Bromley Oecumenical Singers for choosing us as the beneficiary of the proceeds.

If you are interested in raising money for St Dunstan's, please email us at fundraising@st-dunstans.org.uk or go online at www.st-dunstans.org.uk for some great ideas for fundraising.



MEET OUR STAFF MEET OUR STAFF MEET OUR

Jackie, our Head of Nursing

"I am extremely proud of the high quality of service we offer to those St Dunstaners needing full-time nursing care," says Jackie Greer, who, together with the nursing team she manages, faces a wide variety of challenges in delivering that care.

The excellent facilities at St Dunstan's Ovingdean, enable the staff to focus on caring for individual St Dunstaners on a one-on-one basis, whether they are recuperating from an operation or suffering from long term ill-health. Over 100,000 hours of support are provided each year for those needing full-time nursing care (60%), residential care (28%) and respite care (12%).

Jackie loves to spend time with the St Dunstaners. "They have incredible stories to tell. It's very uplifting hearing how they've overcome tremendous adversity."

Jackie has great admiration for St Dunstaners and admits to learning a lot about nursing care

from them. "Working with them has taught me how to be a better nurse. You have to treat them with dignity and respect - always. Knowing when to offer support and more importantly when not to is something I've learned over the years."



"There is a real family spirit at St Dunstan's and I am glad to be a part of it."

Thanks to your support, St Dunstan's is able to buy crucial medical equipment and mobility aids for St Dunstaners, including wheelchairs, entry-assisted baths and custom beds.

Cost Cutting Reaps Rewards

For the fifth year running, St Dunstan's has succeeded in increasing the share of every gift that goes directly towards supporting St Dunstaners. In 2002, over 88p in each pound was spent where it matters - up over a penny on 2001 - and St Dunstan's is constantly searching for new savings opportunities.

By transferring to an advanced form of electronic banking we have saved almost £15,000 so far this year. This has already helped pay for four computers and a part-time trainer at the National Centre in Ovingdean, enabling more St Dunstaners to use screen-readers to read their bank statements and personal mail privately.

TEXT YOUR FRIENDS AND HELP RAISE FUNDS!



Wouldn't it be great to send a text message to your friend's mobile from your computer and help St Dunstan's raise funds while you do?

You can send text messages to anyone with a mobile phone in over 90 countries.

How does this help St Dunstan's?

For each text message you send, you pay just 7p (inc. VAT) and St Dunstan's receives 1p - that's nearly 15%. The more you use it, the more you help St Dunstan's.

How does it work?

Visit www.st-dunstans.org.uk/sms to register. You get 10 free credits to get you started. It's that simple, so tell your friends!

As well as sending text messages, there's an address book, templates for your most common messages, message scheduling and a web2sms chat facility.

You can also donate to St Dunstan's by using your mobile. To find out more about Text messaging, please complete the form overleaf or visit our site www.st-dunstans.org.uk/sms.

Do Your Bit!

Although this newsletter costs just 8p to print, you can help us to cut costs even further by requesting to receive it by email. Go online at www.st-dunstans.org.uk/news and register to receive Insight by email or complete the form overleaf. The money we save will go directly towards helping more St Dunstaners.

SPREAD THE WORD SPREAD THE WORD SPREAD THE WORD SPREAD

Do you know someone who may be eligible for help from St Dunstan's?

St Dunstan's cares for anyone who has served in the UK Armed Forces and has lost their sight or become severely visually impaired, due to age, war, accident or illness. You do not have to have been serving at the time of your sight loss to qualify so, even if you served your country years ago and have

only recently become blind, you should contact St Dunstan's right away. These entry criteria apply equally to those who have served in the Polish Forces under British Command or in the Merchant Navy during World War II.

St Dunstan's also cares for men and women who have served in the

Emergency Services (Police, Fire and Ambulance) and who have lost their sight whilst on duty.

Please help St Dunstan's to help others by spreading the word and, if you know of anyone who you think may be eligible for help, please call Admissions on 020 7723 5021.

MEET THE ST DUNSTANERS MEET THE ST DU

Amy Gets a New Lease of Life



ROVI Paul Hartley instructs Amy on using a text reader

Ninety year old Amy Gordon is proof that it's never too late to become a St Dunstaner and enrich your life by learning new skills. Amy began to lose her sight to macular degeneration in 1993 and it was her husband who cared for her and became her eyes. In 1999 her husband passed away leaving her alone to cope with her sight loss and arthritis. Too ill to visit friends and relatives, Amy felt lonely and isolated.

Then St Dunstaner Cliff Gower gave a talk at Amy's local club for the blind, and she realised that the time she'd spent as a Matron with the Territorial Army Nursing Services during World War II made her eligible to join. "That Christmas was the first I had spent at St Dunstan's, and was one of the best I've had in a long time."

Because of her Service background, Amy particularly relishes the company of other St Dunstaners. "We all speak the same language and we understand each other. We chat lots about our past."

The independence that training at St Dunstan's has given Amy has really turned her world around. After her initial assessment to determine the level of support and training needed, Amy spent a whole day in the training kitchen, learning to make a meal safely using gadgets designed for the visually impaired. At home, she's now happy using a liquid level indicator, a specially adapted cooker and a talking microwave.

St Dunstan's Rehabilitation Officer for the Visually Impaired (ROVI), Paul Hartley, has



been instrumental in training Amy to live independently in her own home.

"I'm very proud of Amy. She has adapted well to the new technologies and is always willing to learn new skills."

A text reader allows Amy to scan documents, which then reads back to her. She is no longer reliant on her neighbours to read her mail. "Paul has been an inspiration to me. I feel I can achieve anything," says Amy.

Amy's next challenge is a two-week course on computers, where she'll learn to use screen-readers and send email. It will also be an opportunity to use the craft workshop at Ovingdean and generally enjoy the social aspects of life at St Dunstan's which, she says, make her feel physically and mentally uplifted.

"When you get to my age, all you need is stimulation, stimulation, stimulation. I certainly get that here."

01980 592 935 • www.st-dunstans.org.uk

How you can help...

If you would like more information about St Dunstan's, fill in this tear-off form and return it in the enclosed pre-paid envelope.

I would like to help St Dunstan's by:

- supporting Mark's powerboat record
- supporting Billy's Land speed record
- supporting Colin's Blind Ambition
- supporting the Marathon runners



WW1 poems and songs

We have a limited number of CDs, produced by the Queen Elizabeth Grammar School. The CD contains a collection of WW1 songs and poems.

If you would like a copy of this CD, please tick this box
(£7 plus £2.50 p&p)

I would like to find out more about:

- Text messaging whilst raising money for St Dunstan's
- Setting up a Standing Order
- Leaving a Legacy

Please email me this newsletter, to save St Dunstan's money. Email:

I no longer wish to receive this newsletter

I wish to be removed entirely from the St Dunstan's mailing list

Mr A B Sample
1 Sample Road
Sample Town
Sample County
WX1 9YZ

St Dunstan's, Room NG02,
Freepost LON20762
SALISBURY, SP4 7SL
Email: insight@st-dunstans.org.uk



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01/9999999/76929A/249925

Remembrance begins in the classroom

St Dunstan's is bringing insight and learning to a new generation with its Schools Programme, which is being rolled out nationally following its launch at the Imperial War Museum in November 2002. The interactive teaching programme links directly to the History and Citizenship requirements of the National Curriculum.



"We felt it was time we brought the story of St Dunstan's to a younger audience", says Robert Leader, Chief Executive of St Dunstan's.

"We're bringing 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 blind ex-Service men and women have rebuilt their shattered lives."

The presentations, given in part by St Dunstaners, promote pupil participation and build empathy with the visually impaired. Written in partnership with teachers and educational bodies, they fit into the History curriculum at Key Stage 3 and the Citizenship curriculum at Key Stage 2.

The pilot scheme has been extremely well received. David Salmon, Deputy Head of Ratton School in Eastbourne says: "We are always looking for ways to bring lessons to life and give students 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."

If you are a teacher and want to find out more about the schools programme, visit www.st-dunstans.org.uk/schools or email schools@st-dunstans.org.uk.

Countdown to Marathon

There is only one month to go until the Flora London Marathon on 13th April 2003. So no doubt all those trainers, long forgotten in the back of the cupboard, are being put to good use!

This year, St Dunstan's is guaranteed a good turn-out of runners - both St Dunstaners and supporters. One St Dunstaner everyone will be rooting for is WWII POW veteran Stan Grimsey who, at the age of 85 and totally blind, is undaunted by the 26 mile slog through London. Other St Dunstaners running include Dave Powell, Iain Millard and Steve Sparkes, all of whom will be accompanied by sighted guides.

We would like to wish all those taking part the very best of luck.

If you would like to support the St Dunstan's runners, please complete the How you can help form on page 5 or sponsor the runners online at www.st-dunstans.org.uk/sponsor.



85 year old Stan to run the London Marathon

AMEX Deserves Credit



As 'Friends of St Dunstan's', the European Risk Management department at American Express is actively supporting St Dunstan's through community-relations projects, including volunteer assistance and fundraising events.

If your company would like to support St Dunstan's, please contact us at corporates@st-dunstans.org.uk.

ST DUNSTAN'S

an independent future for blind ex-Service men and women

Patron: Her Majesty The Queen
Charity Registration Number: 216227

St Dunstan's
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Freepost LON20762
SALISBURY
SP4 7SL

Tel: 01980 592 935

Thank you

St Dunstan's would like to thank everyone who has given their support over the years. You've made a real difference to the lives of the St Dunstaners and their families.

The response to the Christmas Cards last year was truly overwhelming - far greater than anticipated. St Dunstan's wishes to thank everyone who bought the cards and offer our apologies for the delay in sending the orders to you. We raised £15,104.23, including additional donations. Thank you.



Mr A B Sample
1 Sample Road
Sample Town
Sample County
WX1 9YZ

Noticeboard

Dates for your diary and useful information

REVISED SMOKING POLICY AT ST DUNSTAN'S O Vingdean

Recently a resident in a care home in East Sussex died as a result of a tragic accident caused by smoking. As a consequence, the East Sussex Fire Brigade and the National Care Standards Commission have issued stricter guidance regarding smoking within registered premises such as St Dunstan's Ovingdean. The guidance states that a "care home should try and instigate and perpetuate a NO smoking policy." The guidance also acknowledges that this will not always be practical, so we have adjusted St Dunstan's Ovingdean's smoking policy accordingly to recognise that this is home for the permanent residents. For some time staff have not been allowed to smoke anywhere inside the building and this will continue but we have now introduced stricter guidance for those who live here and those who visit.

The communal smoking areas for St Dunstaners are now limited to:

- The bar area of the Main Lounge
- The Stables
- The Bullnose
- The Winter Garden for a few special occasions

In principle, all other areas inside Ovingdean are non-smoking and this includes all accommodation including private rooms except as specifically relaxed below. Smoking outside on the balconies, in the inner garden or in the grounds is permitted. Holiday visitors and other temporary visitors may only smoke in the areas listed above and are not now allowed to smoke in their rooms. Prior to any permanent care resident being able to smoke, the security staff who

are responsible for fire safety will carry out an individual risk assessment to identify how much of a risk the smoking by the resident creates. Permanent residents may then smoke in their rooms if it is assessed as safe to do so. Residents who are deemed to be at risk can only smoke in the Bullnose or other communal smoking areas and only if overseen by a member of staff.

Whilst I recognise that, for smokers, this may be seen as yet another attempt to limit their basic rights, we nevertheless have a duty of care to both those who choose to smoke and to those who choose not to. That duty has been firmly re-enforced by this latest guidance.

Dick Lake,
Ovingdean Manager

SERVICE MAGAZINES ON TAPE

Soldier and Sapper magazines are available in tape format from St Dunstan's. The first is a monthly magazine covering all aspects of Army life, while the latter deals with the Royal Engineers. A tape edition of FEPOW Post is also available. St Dunstaners wishing to receive any of these magazines should contact Ray Hazan in the Fundraising and Communications department on 020 7723 5021.

The Talking Navy News is also published monthly on cassette and is available from Talking Navy News, Portsmouth Area Talking News, 48 Stubbington Avenue, Portsmouth, Hampshire PO2 0HY. Tel: 02392 690851. The quarterly journal of the RAF Association, *The Talking Airmail* may be obtained by contacting Mrs Berry, 660 Bradford Road, Birkenshaw, Bradford, West Yorkshire BD11 2EE. Tel: 01274 681571.

ACCESS IMPROVEMENTS AT THE IMPERIAL WAR MUSEUM

The Imperial War Museum Library has introduced new facilities for blind and visually impaired readers. They now have a Pulsedata Smartview CCTV image enhancer/magnifier and a Dolphin Supernova image magnifier/voice synthesizer. Future plans include relocating the library to a wheelchair-friendly part of the building, however in the meantime they have adapted a study room near the main reading room.

The IWM Library is open Monday to Saturday, 10am till 5pm (appointments are strongly recommended as space is limited). They offer in-depth coverage of military action since 1914, including the Home Front and the social and political history of the period. If visiting in person is not an option, they also have a telephone and e-mail enquiry service – 020 7416 5342 or books@iwm.org.uk. Readers can also make an appointment to visit on these numbers.

This is part of a wider package from the Museum in London which is summarised in a new leaflet "Facilities for Visitors with Disabilities", available by contacting Jane Dunn, the Museum's Visitor Services Officer (e-mail: jdunn@iwm.org.uk).

CONCESSIONARY FARES

When a registered visually impaired person travels with a companion for any purpose and does not hold a Disabled Persons Railcard, the following discounts on full fare tickets apply for both people:

Single	34 per cent off
First Class/Standard Day Return	50 per cent off
First Class/Standard Open Return	34 per cent off

To obtain these discounts a document confirming disability, issued by a recognised institution, should be presented when purchasing tickets. St Dunstan's provides an identity card which can be used in this fashion. St Dunstaners can obtain their card by sending a passport photograph to Simon Rogers, **ST DUNSTAN'S Review**, 12-14 Harcourt Street, London W1H 4HD. The Disabled Persons Railcard cost £14 per year and can be purchased from most railway stations.

DOCKLAND SAILING

Tideway Sailability are hosting a sailing event for people with a visual impairment in London on Sunday, May 18th.

The event will take place on Greenland Dock, near Canada Water underground station and should include a variety of activities to cater for all sailing abilities: from those who have been sailing at a high standard for years to those who have never even sat in a sailing dinghy before. The idea is to get visually impaired people, of all ages, together to sail, to meet other sailors, exchange experiences and to encourage others to sail more.

There is unlikely to be any charge for this one-day event. For further details please contact David Apps, by e-mail at dsch@btinternet.com or by telephone on 020 85669443. There is also a website at www.tidewaysailability.com. He would be keen to have your suggestions as to what type of activities you would like to get up to. If you have any other disabilities, please let him know how you can best be enabled to have a great time with everybody else.

LIZ PEARCE TO RETIRE

Liz Pearce will be retiring from her position of Senior Welfare Officer with St Dunstan's at the end of May 2003. Liz has been a leading member of the Welfare Team since she joined us in 1988. Unswerving in her dedication to the job, Liz has helped many St Dunstaners and their families over the years to benefit from the services we offer. She will be much missed, particularly in the South West and the West Country where she has always endeavoured to give a first class service to individuals in addition to organising many excellent Reunions. If any St Dunstaner would like to contribute to a collection, please contact Marion Lurot in the Welfare department at Harcourt Street.

INSTRUCTION REMINDER

Losing the instructions to Speechmaster products need not be a problem any more. Cobolt Systems have added a facility to their website enabling users to download instructions. For details log on at <http://www.cobolt.co.uk>.

ACTION STATIONS FOR ST DUNSTAN'S ACTIVITY WEEK

The rough 'n' tumble, get-up-and-go escapades of the Activity Week are scheduled for September 1st-5th. Previous programmes have included rock climbing, whitewater rafting and water skiing. Anyone who feels they are up to the challenge should contact Sports and Recreation Supervisor Louise Timms at St Dunstan's Ovingdean on 01273 302704.

WHIZZ OFF TO MEET BILLY

St Dunstaner Billy "the Whizz" Baxter and the Flying Gunners will be revving up their motorcycles for some death-defying daredevil stunts across the country.

Catch Billy at the following locations:

Truckfest, Peterborough	May 4th-5th
BMF, Peterborough	May 17th-18th
Archants Exhibition, Knebworth	May 24th-25th
Chalfont Fair, Chalfont	May 26th
JHQ Show, München Gladbach	June 8th-9th
AES Edinburgh, Scotland	June 10th-12th
BMF, Kent	June 14th-15th
Lincolnshire Show, Lincoln	June 18th-19th
AES Bassingbourn, Royston, Cambridgeshire	June 24th-26th
Manchester Tattoo	June 27th-28th

A TASTE OF THE MARTIAL ARTS

The South of England Martial Arts Festival for Disabled People takes place on December 3rd-4th in Gravesend, Kent. The event includes taster sessions in karate, judo and aikido. Contact Terry Taylor on 07812 100420 or e-mail terry.taylor@dial.pipex.com for details. Website: www.twt.org.uk.

EASY BROWSING WITH PERSONAL BOOKSHELF

The National Library for the Blind is offering all readers their own virtual "Personal Bookshelf" – the list of books that you want to read. Every time you hear about a book that you would like to read, contact the NLB Customer Assistants on 0161 355 2000 (or by e-mail on reader.advice@nlbuk.org), tell them the title and they will add it to your Personal Bookshelf. Books will then be sent to you as they become available.

TRY YOUR LUCK WITH THE DERBY SWEEPSTAKE 2003

The horses are moving up to the gate in preparation for the Derby on June 7th. **ST DUNSTAN'S Review** is running its annual Derby Sweepstake. The draw is open to St Dunstaners, beneficiaries of the Diana Gubbay Trust, widows and widowers.

Tickets are 30p each and issued consecutively to a maximum of 25 (costing £7.50). Cheques should be made payable to St Dunstan's and crossed. Loose money should not be sent unless it is registered. The closing date is June 4th and the draw will be made that day.

Each applicant should send their name and address, the number of tickets required, and a stamped addressed envelope, to The Editor, Derby Sweepstake Department, **ST DUNSTAN'S Review**, 12-14 Harcourt Street, London W1H 4HD.

Of the total money received, distribution amongst the winners will be as follows:

50 per cent to the holder of the ticket drawing the winning horse.

20 per cent to the holder of the ticket drawing the second horse.

10 per cent to the holder of the ticket drawing the third horse.

20 per cent to be divided equally among those drawing a horse which actually starts the race.

No prize won in the sweepstake will be paid to any person other than the person to whom the winning ticket was sold.

The draw will take place in London on June 4th.

FINAL CALL FOR SULTAN

The annual camp at HMS *Sultan* will take place from Friday, July 25th until the morning of Saturday, August 2nd. Any St Dunstaner wishing to join in the activities should contact Elspeth Grant at High Acre, Catmere End, Saffron Walden CB11 4XG or telephone her on 01799 522874. Please contact her by May 8th at the latest.

INTRODUCING A NEW METHOD OF BENEFITS PAYMENT

Beginning in April 2003 the government has decided to introduce a new method of paying benefits, pensions and tax credits. For all those in receipt of a War Pensions (WP), WP allowances, and all Department of Work & Pensions (DWP) allowances including the Retirement Pension orderbooks and giro cheques will eventually be phased out. There will be new alternative methods of payment. The Post Office is also working in conjunction with the banks so they can deliver the same banking services.

There are a number of options available for you to withdraw your pensions:

- Use an existing bank or building society account.
- Open a new current account at a bank or building society.
- Open a Post Office Card account.
- Payment through a basic bank account will also be accessible at post offices (without overdraft facilities).
- Withdraw money from your account free of charge at any post office branch using a cheque and cheque guarantee card. Please check with your local bank of post office branch for details.

All customers will continue to be able to receive their money on a weekly basis if they want to. The DWP and Veterans Agency will commence the changeover from April 2003 on a phased basis and it is expected to be completed by 2005.

The Veterans Agency has written to all War Pensioners explaining the changes in more detail. The War Pension Welfare Service and the Veterans Agency Helpline staff will also be available to advise War Pensioners and can be contacted on freephone 0800 107 2000. The DWP will also be writing in due course.

If you require any further information please do not hesitate to call Sheila Sauba Head of Pensions at St Dunstan's Headquarters on 020 7723 5021.

BOARD AND ACCOMMODATION CHARGES AT OIVINGDEAN

There was an increase in Board and Accommodation charges at St Dunstan's Ovingdean from April 5th 2003. The new rates are as follows:

Nursing Care	£245.00 per week
Residential Care	£154.00 per week
Hotel Visitors	£147.00 per week.

Odd days will be charged at £35 on Nursing Care, £22 on Residential and £21 for Hotel Visitors. Children will still be free of charge under the age of 3 years, for those aged 3 to 14 years the rate has decreased to £10.50 per night (or £73.50 per week). If a resident has three or more days out of the house for any reason, he will still receive a reduction of £6.00 per day.

SATISFACTION SURVEY

A Customer Satisfaction Survey is to be carried out by an external research team in the next few weeks. They will be asking for comments on the services provided to and from Harcourt Street/Ovingdean/Field Staff (Welfare Officers and Surveyors). Only a random selection of St Dunstaners will be called and each call should only take a maximum of 20 minutes. If you do not want to be involved please inform Susan Harrison, Director of Professional Services, at Headquarters as soon as possible. Thank you in advance for your anticipated cooperation.

Susan Harrison,
Director of Professional Services

THE MILITARY TATTOO

The Military Tattoo promises to display the best of the Armed Forces in a stunning show. The event takes place on June 28th at the Manchester Evening News Arena, Manchester. Full details can be obtained by calling 0870 190 8000 or the Special Needs Ticket Line on 0161 950 5229.

ST DUNSTAN'S TIE

A Navy blue tie in polyester, with a centred St Dunstan's badge, is available at £5 including postage and packing.

Please contact Carole Woodgate on 020 7723 5021.

It strikes me ...



with Gog and Magog

Gog hears from our Belfast correspondent who says "Recent publicity given to the exhibition of a replica of the well-known statue by Rodin known as 'The Kiss', twined round with cord has brought the following incident to mind." Thirty odd years ago, during a week of sightseeing in France, two totally blind St Dunstaners, one of them without hands, were exploring the Rodin Museum in Paris. Since the Blind in France are allowed to handle statues, the man with hands (who had a loud Ulster accent) was exploring the exhibit in detail, relaying all to his friend, whose even louder voice was distinctively of a London origin. He went through the details of the positions and shape of the heads, the arms, the legs and the hands and his friend boomed "And what sort of mood is he in, Joe?" "Don't know Tom," came the reply, hands anxiously searching. "I think the chisel slipped!" Two embarrassed wives were, of course overcome with mirth.

Magog hears from a St Dunstaner who has entered the **Review's** Derby Sweepstake (see Noticeboard, page 6 for details). He hopes, that if he draws a horse on June 4th it fares better than the one he drew last year. "That unlucky animal dropped down dead yards from the finishing post," he tells us.

RAF trainees support St Dunstan's



SQUADRON-LEADER Julian Fowell of RAF Church Fenton, supported by members of the University Squadron, presented a cheque for £1,000. It was accepted on behalf of all St Dunstaners by Harry Beevers. Harry also spoke to the trainees about the work of St Dunstan's.

St Dunstan's new Mr Pastry

PBK MAY HAVE to cook to their laurels, there is a new master chef in town. St Dunstaner Steve Pendleton of Hoo, Rochester, Kent recently confirmed his credentials as King of the kitchen when he passed his NVQ (National Vocational Qualification) Level 2 in Hospitality and Catering.

"It's something that people don't expect a blind man to be doing," said Steve who professes an affinity for pastry and dough-based

cooking. "I did it because no one else has done it." Steve served in The Royal Green Jackets before he became a St Dunstaner.

Our Masonic Master of March

Our congratulations go to St Dunstaner Jerry Lynch of Horsham, East Sussex. He has been made Master of March and Darnley Lodge for this year.

REUNION ROUND UP

Reunion season opened in fine form in Shaftesbury when 13 St Dunstaners and 18 widows gathered at The Royal Chase Hotel, Shaftesbury, Dorset on March 5th. St Dunstan's President, Colin Beaumont-Edmonds was presiding at the event.

All the best, Barbara

St Dunstan's voice retires from HQ



Barbara Stanley during Christmas celebrations at Harcourt Street, London.

CHANCES ARE THAT anyone telephoning or visiting St Dunstan's Headquarters over the last three decades will have been directed to the appropriate department by Barbara Stanley.

Having joined the organisation in October 1972, Barbara has been the public voice of St Dunstan's in London, manning the reception switchboard. Many St Dunstaners will be familiar with her tones when calling or attending clinics. With 31 years of service behind her, she recently retired. We wish Barbara a long and happy retirement.

Sydney Alexander Colvin

OUR CONDOLENCES go to the family and friends of Sydney Alexander Colvin. He served as an Air Crew Officer in the Royal Air Force and had lost his sight in recent years.

Mourners raised £340 for St Dunstan's in lieu of flowers.

His grandson is St Dunstaner Matthew Rhodes of Peacehaven, East Sussex.

Dame Thora Hird

DAME THORA HIRD, one of Britain's best loved actresses died on March 15th, aged 91. Practically born to the stage, she made her debut as an eight week old, carried by her mother. By the age of three she was singing to soldiers wounded in the First World War. She starred in countless movies, and television programmes such as *In Loving Memory* and *Last of the*

Summer Wine. She was also a regular presenter on *Songs of Praise* and was feted for "communicating faith with simplicity and fun." On many occasions during the post-war years, Dame Thora and her daughter Jeanette Scott lent their talents to a variety of St Dunstan's activities in London, Blackpool and Brighton. We send our sympathy to her family.

Ten questions on...

"Names and Nicknames"

Quizmaster Harry Beevers tests your knowledge of alternative identities

- 1) What nickname has been given to St Dunstaner Billy Baxter whose sponsored motor-cycle world record attempt is to be made on August 2nd and 3rd this year?
- 2) Born in Hoboken, New Jersey, which American entertainer was known as "Old Blue Eyes"?
- 3) "The Fair Maid of February" is another name for which flower?
- 4) Which World War II British aircraft was known as "Wimpy"?
- 5) Played by actress Linda Carter in a TV series of the 1970's, how was the character Diana Prince more widely known?
- 6) Which fictitious crime-fighter was known as "The Caped Crusader"?
- 7) Which English city was nicknamed "Cottonopolis" in the 19th century being the centre of the country's cotton trade?
- 8) Which country's international soccer team is known as "The Socceroos"?
- 9) The name of which cheese combines the name of a mythical Greek monster and the surname of a French novelist?
- 10) Why is the overture to Mozart's opera *The Marriage of Figaro* known as "The egg-timer"?

Answers on page 26.

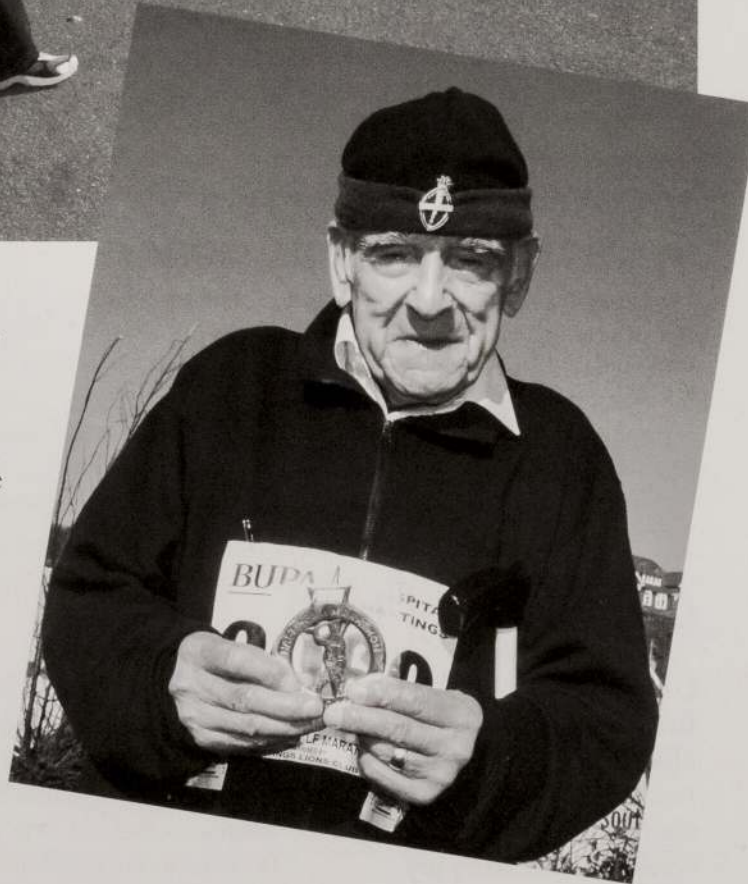
Best foot forward, Stan



ST DUNSTANER Stan Grimsey, a former Far East Prisoner of War, went the full distance when he tackled the uphill undulations of the Hastings Half Marathon on Sunday March 16th. Despite injuries received while labouring as a captive of the Japanese, Stan persevered with the Hastings run at his own steady pace. He was escorted on the 13-mile trek by St Dunstan's Sports and Recreation Supervisor Louise Timms.

Stan, now 86, became a St Dunstaner after the privations he experienced during three years of captivity in Singapore took their toll on his eyesight. He has previously taken part in the Rottingdean Windmill Walk and has been for several years their eldest participant.

Starting on the seafront in West St Leonard's, Stan and Louise followed the steep route towards Battle, passing through lonely countryside and suburban areas. Eventually the course turned down through Hastings Old Town and back on to the seafront for a sunny push towards the finish.



Top: Final stretch! Stan and Louise take a determined stride along the Hastings seafront.

Above: Stan proudly holds up his medal which depicts King Harold, mortally wounded by an arrow to his eye at the Battle of Hastings in 1066.

Ray Hazan reports on the Computer Club meeting, March 5th-6th

What is a Nibble?

LIKE A MOUSE, there are some events which click, whilst others wobble all over the screen! Our meeting was of the former type and it was a very successful two days of learning, new horizons, and above all, good fellowship.

It has become a tradition to start the gathering with the help of Brad, a local consultant, whose knowledge of both software programmes and hardware equipment is unmatched. You can throw any question at him and receive an intelligible reply in comprehensible terms. The conclusion was that there are currently no major breakthroughs in computing and if you have Windows 98 SE on your system, then stay with it as long as you can!

The Club also took the opportunity to look at the new St Dunstan's Website. Once the layout had been understood, navigation proved to be reasonable and test questions and form filling became manageable.

PBK are used to praise but have not let that go to their heads! The buffet supper served in the Winter Garden was excellent, going by the number of wine bottles emptied and the late departure of some participants. It was interesting to note that the older the St Dunstaner, the later the departure!

We were pleased to welcome Steve Nutt of Computer Room Services on the second day. Steve

St Dunstaners take an eloquent byte of blind-friendly mobile telephone

markets many computer-related items and is an agent for several American catalogues of 'talking goods'. He is currently selling the Talks software, a programme which makes, amongst others, the Nokia 9210i Communicator accessible to visually impaired people. The 9210i is more than just a mobile telephone. The Eloquence speech gives the user access to the telephone address book, battery and signal strengths, a word processor, spread sheet, e-mail and a very comprehensive diary. Additional programmes such as voice-dialling can be added and eventually, it is hoped users will be able to browse the web – not currently available. Most of the programmes operate on four function keys. Speech clearly labels these keys, indicating their functions within each programme.

The unit is some eight inches long, by three wide and two thick. The top has the conventional telephone keypad. But when the unit is opened up like a book, the speech is accessed and a keyboard revealed. The keys are not too small, but they are close together, rather like a laptop. There are no markings on the keys and there is insufficient room between the two halves for bump-ons to be put on the keys. You should not expect, therefore, to type a long file with ease!

Steve sells the phone and software for £800 or the Talks software on its own for £250. A manual on CD and cassette is available via Computer Room Services. For the busy person on the move, this would be a real bonus.

We finished off with a quiz, when we discovered that a nibble was half a bit and twice that made a byte. These are all technical terms for size relating to stored information and knowledge that one can well manage without! However, the quiz provided knowledge, debate, amusement and who knows when a nibble might come in useful?

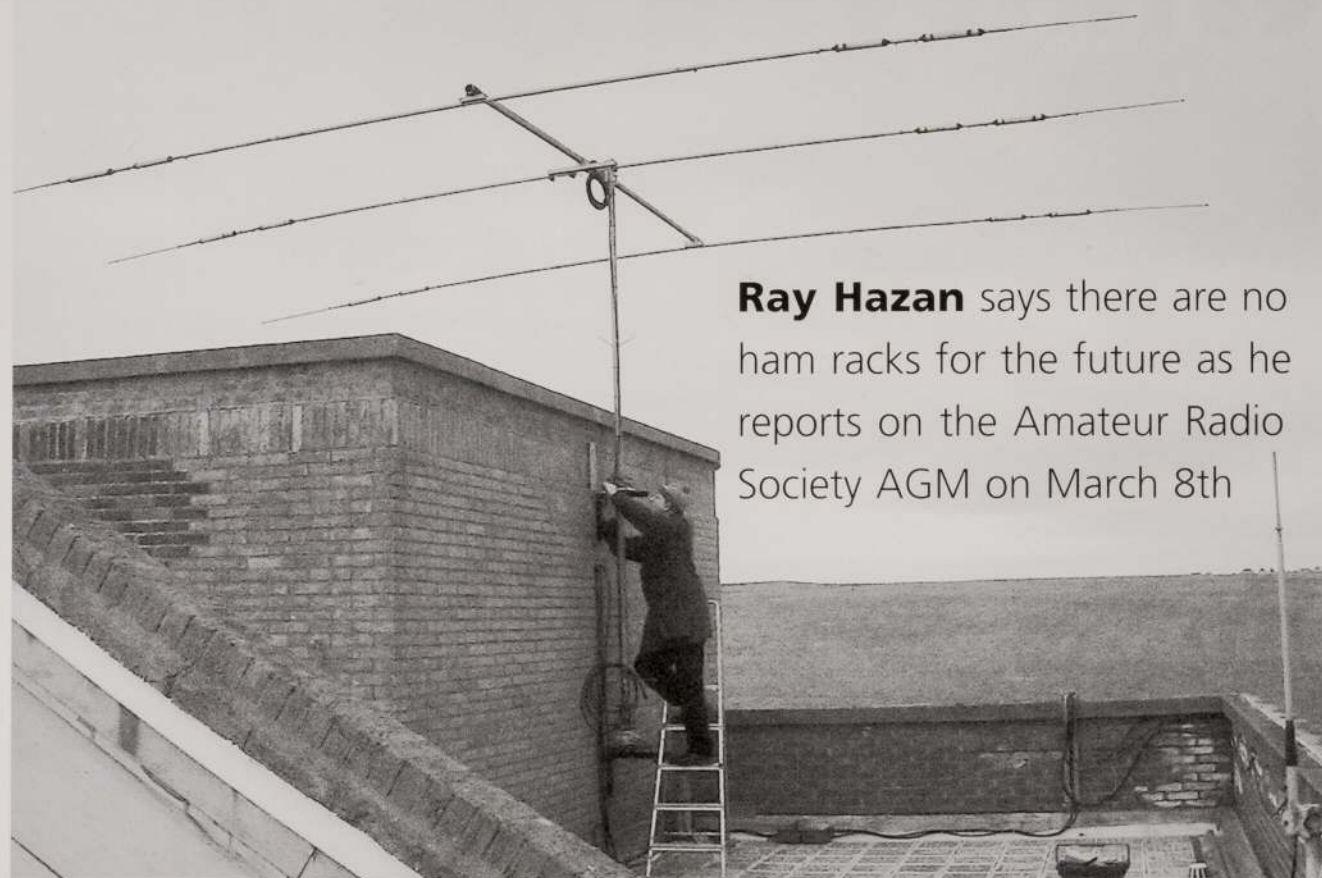
The combined thanks of Mark Threadgold, Mike Tetley, Walter Briggs, Eric Sayce, Stuart Middleton, Bill Shea, Tom Frankland, Tom Hart, Harry Smith Ray Hazan and Peter Hammond go to Janis, Gaye, Donna and Sylvia for their help.

Computer Room Services can be contacted on 01438 742286 or e-mail steve@comproom.co.uk.

For foreign telephone calls at local rates consult the website: www.telediscount.co.uk.

The next meeting of the Computer Club is October 8th-9th.

STD ARS on the air



Ray Hazan says there are no ham racks for the future as he reports on the Amateur Radio Society AGM on March 8th

Eddie Wilson climbs the ladder on the roof of St Dunstan's Ovingdean to adjust the radio mast.



Packed in the shack! St Dunstaners Ted John and Bill Shea with "Freeman, Hardy and Willis".

IT IS PERHAPS unfortunate that to be classed as a radio 'ham' is a little derogatory in implication. Yet, as a hobby, it can satisfy the communicator, the linguist, the constructor, the adventurer. No longer does amateur radio consist of racks of equipment, with hot, glowing valves and complicated tuning of equipment to be rewarded with hiss and crackle and a voice seemingly many millions of miles away.

It was a small but select band, which gathered at Ovingdean for the bi-annual meeting. The society's President, Captain Michael Gordon-Lennox RN, attended the AGM at which Bill Shea G4AUJ, presided, assisted by Secretary/Treasurer Ted John G3SEJ, ably assisted by his XYL (wife) Beryl. After a silence in memory of Arthur Taylor, the meeting went on to report on the state of the newly redecorated shack and the state of the station, which is so generously maintained by our three favourite outside volunteers, Freeman, Hardy and Willis as

they are affectionately known. Existing Officers and Committee members were re-elected with the addition of Tom Frankland, G4INM.

Concern was expressed that members booking in at reception were not informed of the alterations made to doors and corridors at the back of the kitchen where the shack is located. Other concerns were expressed at bed availability. In short, the society is in good health, but can always do with new members.

The meeting was followed by a very pleasant lunch in the Winter Garden, where the society was able to express its gratitude to all our helpers. We also belatedly celebrated Ted and Beryl's Golden Wedding Anniversary.

Where two or more radio amateurs are gathered together, they will 'chew the rag' either amongst themselves or via the radio waves. There was plenty of this and the shack was full of conversations throughout the weekend. After a fairly slow start on Saturday afternoon, Bill Shea managed to break the ice with a long distance call to nearby Sussex! Fortunately, our reach extended and Canada, the Ukraine, Belgium and other countries were regaled with details about St Dunstan's. The society, thereby, performs a long-distance PR role in telling the world about our organisation.



Calling the world! Ted and Bill are joined in the Ovingdean radio shack by their fellow St Dunstaner radio hams.

Amateur radio is a fascinating hobby in that you can travel the world from your front room. The many aspects of the hobby mean that varied interests can be served. The exam required to obtain a transmitting licence has been made much easier. If you are interested in finding out more, please contact the secretary, Ted John on 0151 638 5514.

The next meeting will be held at Ovingdean from October Friday 10th to Sunday 12th. You don't have to be a member of the Society to join in and see what happens.

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

I am writing to thank you for all your kindness, condolences and floral tributes following the death of my wife, Bette last year. I would also like to thank Dianne Wye for her attendance at the funeral it meant a great deal to myself and family. I would also like to thank Dianne for arranging the visit of Lesley who has provided much appreciated help and support. Following my visit to Ovingdean in February, I thank all concerned for their care, attention and support. To Sue especially, for her patience in guiding me and numerous helpful hints to aid me in coping in my home, also a big thank you to Lesley for giving me a big morale boost. Many thanks also to the Bar staff for their help in providing liquid refreshment and also thanks to Colin for a pleasurable and safe journey to and from Ovingdean. I would also like to thank

St Dunstan's for the loan of aids which have proved to be a godsend, especially the ID Mate which has become my closest friend. Thanking you also, in anticipation for the new additions, which if half as good as the ones received will prove invaluable in helping me cope with life alone.

Ken Brooke, Sheffield

We would like to thank the Chairman and St Dunstan's for the lovely flowers, which we received on our Golden Wedding day. We are also grateful for the greetings from many friends. We had a really memorable and happy day with our family and friends.

Ted and Beryl John, Wallasey, Merseyside

COLIN GETS BACK IN THE FIRING LINE

St Dunstaner is sure of targeting another shot at his favourite sport

by Robert Nelson

AS A MEMBER of the Royal Irish Rangers, Colin Best was part of the battalion's award-winning gun team, picking off the prime prizes at national competitions. He continued with the sport in civilian life, but after a terrible car crash it seemed that shooting would be a thing of the past.

One man died and while Colin escaped with his life, he was left permanently blind. The crash also fractured his skull, broke his nose, neck, collarbone, ribs and punctured both lungs. "My optic nerves were stretched. I'm completely screwed and wired together," he said.

During three months in Belfast's Royal Victoria Hospital, Colin had to learn to walk again. For a while he was haunted by the prospect that he would be paralysed from the neck down.

However, like all St Dunstaners he subsequently discovered that being blind is no restriction to an independent life. Indeed having a positive attitude is an asset in picking up the pieces and starting again. "I can either lie down and let it beat me, or I can get up and get on with it," he adds.

"I can't say it doesn't annoy me that I'm blind but it is not the end

of the world." Now Colin has been able to resume shooting. He has joined other St Dunstaners clay pigeon shooting at Bisley Shooting Ground.

"People think you are joking when you tell them you are shooting. My instructor has been fantastic in helping me take up the sport again.

"He tells me what direction the bird is going, and I rely on the clay being released to guide me.

"People don't realise, when they are shooting how much they rely on their ears. At the moment, I'm still missing more than I hit, but it is a real thrill to take part and enjoy the sport again!"

Colin has also conceived the idea of an audible clay and is examining several options to make it a reality. "I'm convinced it would not only be of help to blind shooters, but also sighted people. I hope St Dunstan's will manage to help me see the idea through to fruition."

Colin and other St Dunstaners will be competing against sighted shooting teams at Bisley later this month. May the best shot win!

Author's fantasy was terrifying vision of future

The Romance of Total Destruction

IN 1896, THE attentions of Sir Arthur Pearson, as yet unconcerned by the welfare of blinded servicemen, were directed towards his publishing business. The forgotten Father of Fleet Street had launched a monthly general interest title, called with all due humility *Pearson's Magazine*. He already had some success with the similarly named *Pearson's Weekly* and there was clearly an expanding market to be exploited. With his new title underway, the search for contributors stepped up a pace or two.

Amongst other writers, Pearson wrote to a young fellow from Bromley, Kent who had enjoyed significant acclaim for his scientific romance, *The Time Machine* and rather the reverse for his second tome, *The Island of Dr Moreau*. Regardless of their respective reception, these novels had established their author, H.G. Wells as an inquiring mind with an uncanny perception of how our society would develop.

Pearson suggested that Wells might like to contribute to his new periodical. The author agreed he would be delighted to do so, adding that he had been impressed by early issues of *Pearson's Magazine*. Within a couple of months, he had written two short stories which were duly published.

Simon Rogers finds out how St Dunstan's founder brought HG Wells' Martians down to earth

However, a more significant event lay on the horizon. Wells had been working on his third scientific romance though he still felt disgruntled by the critical beating *Dr Moreau* had received in some quarters. When seeking a publisher for the serialised version of his initial draft, Wells instructed his agent to avoid particular publications at all cost.

The path came back to Pearson's door, though he initially hedged his bets on the conclusion of the tale before making a commitment. Wells satirised the process in a series of doodles, casting himself as a devil who cuts off his pointed tail, sells it to Pearson for £200 and walks away with a big grin as a new tail grows. In the eventuality, Pearson settled on a payment of £550 for first UK publication of the new novel.

It was agreed that it would be published across nine issues of *Pearson's Magazine*, starting in April 1897. That issue also included a profile of H.G. Wells and other prominent authors of the day. Thus it was that Arthur

Pearson introduced the world to a prophetic vision of future conflict, all the more terrifying because it placed such total destruction in its readers' all too familiar back yard.

War of the Worlds tells of Martian invaders who impose their destructive will across well-known areas of Britain, trampling Woking and Primrose Hill with callous disregard. Wells drew on Royal Ordnance Survey maps to chart the progress of an unstoppable foe sweeping everything aside.

At the time, it was seen as a metaphor for Britain's colonial tendencies, a "How would you like it if we were invaded?" form of social commentary. As years moved on, this view would fade. *War of the Worlds* would be remembered for its vision of the mechanisation of battle! Wells discards all notions of face to face combat. The invading Martians stride across the earth in impregnable tripod machines, they attack initially with a heat ray that burns man and metal with ease or unleash a creeping black gas that sears the flesh from any who have

the misfortune to be caught within its clouds.

In the early chapters, Wells maintains this apocalypse with unrelenting perseverance, the Martian war machines rule supreme and their ultimate defeat is only happenstance. However, in the real world we don't need Martians. Within two decades man would recreate these scenes for himself, as countless thousands perished on the fields of Europe. The imagined carnage was now reality and Pearson drew on his own visions to convince society of the necessity of an organisation such as St Dunstan's.

Wells used the response from the forum Pearson afforded him to refine and edit his work. One wonders if they experienced a clash of personalities during this period, since the first publication to resume printing after the Martians are toppled is Northcliffe's *Daily Mail* rather than Pearson's *Daily Express*. At the least it shows an unparalleled level of magnanimity on the part of our founder.

The power of the concepts within *War of the Worlds* were later underlined by the work of another Welles. It had all the hallmarks of an April Fool's joke, except that it occurred on October 30th 1938.

Orson Welles, the wild young Turk of Broadway had transferred his Mercury Theatre troupe to radio. On this occasion, they latched upon *War of the Worlds* as a suitable inspiration for their production. Victorian England was replaced by New Jersey. The Woking beachhead became Grovers Mill and events were converted into a news report style of narrative.

Listeners tuning from a break with radio ventriloquist dummy Charlie



Picture courtesy of Michael Condon. www.mcondon.co.uk

The Woking Martian

Probably a ROVI's nightmare, Woking marked the centenary of *War of the Worlds* with a sculpture, The Martian Fighting Machine. It represents one of the vast metal tripods from which the invading Martians wreaked havoc with their deadly Heat Ray. The chrome-plated stainless-steel sculpture is 23ft (7m) tall with legs 7in (17 cm) in diameter. It is depicted advancing from the direction of Horsell Common, the first landing site in the novel.

McCarthy found themselves listening to the sounds of a heat ray attack. The Philadelphia Inquirer responded by sending out a local stringer, police stations found their switchboards ringing off the hooks with enquiries, while some people rounded up posses armed with pitchfork and shotgun fearing the broadcast was some kind of Japanese deception.

War of the Worlds is available on Talking Books, Catalogue No

1900, or online at <http://gutenberg.teleglobe.net/etext92/warw12.txt> (though the novel is preceded by some legal clarifications). *The Complete "War of the Worlds": Mars' Invasion of Earth from H.G. Wells to Orson Welles* (edited by Brian Holmsten and Alex Lubertozzi) includes a cd of the Mercury Theatre broadcast with documentary material and the novel as it appeared in *Pearson's Magazine*.

Desert Bat Roraigh Ainslie records his run across the sands of Tunisia

More dune run fun in the sun

THE TRANS333, as **Review** readers may recall, is a little known ultra race 333km (210 miles) long, a non-stop foot race in the Sahara Desert, North Africa. Organised by Frenchman Alain Gestain, the field is international and small. When St Dunstaner Jamie Cuthbertson and I took part in the 2001 Trans333 in Mauretania there were 120, this time only 39 runners had taken the challenge. All ranges of ability take part - seriously tough adventure racers, veterans and first timers. I was only able to enter with incredibly generous sponsorship from Marine Air Systems.

Why do it? Because I wanted to! I think that choosing difficult challenges of your own brings great satisfaction when they are beaten, making other obstacles easier to confront. When Jamie and I made the last run, we had to break off at the 100km point. It was a major disappointment for me, since I had promised several people we would finish. One of them was my wife who was keen for it to be my last long race. Before I broached the idea of going back in 2002 to complete unfinished business, she told me to go - knowing I needed to do it. What a top bird!

Roraigh's Race Diary

November 15th

After flying to Tozeur, Tunisia, we are taken to our base hotel and meet the other runners who are mainly European. I have travelled out with a mate who did not finish last year either. Check points (CP) are every 20 km and you can pre-drop, a bag at them. I have worked out what I want in each drop ranging from isotonic powder, batteries, medical kit, clothing, snacks and main meals.

November 16th

Wind has reduced visibility to about 2km! Due to the dusty conditions and the fact we are due to go near the Tunisian/Algerian border, they cancel the planned start just as we are preparing to bus out. It is assessed that there may be problems with racers

unwittingly crossing the border or the Algerian reaction to a load of head-torch bearing runners appearing out of the gloom. We enjoy another night in the hotel.

November 17th

We are transported to the start, which is on the edge of a huge dry salt lake, west of Tozeur. The landscape is depressingly bleak, but the going is flat and hard. The field looks tiny when we all line up. Setting off at 08:00, I am well behind the rest by the time the race has gone a mile. I have to remind myself that my plan is for a finish time of around 95 hours - nearly four days - and this is just the sprint away from the start!

Out to CP3 (11hrs)

We go up a long road with the

Algerian border to the left. There is a ditch with very salty water either side and encrusted minerals on the rocks. It is a veritable wasteland. I minimise time in CPs, just enough to check in and take on water. I eat one of the French meals at CP2 - salmon steak and pasta out of a tin. It is really excellent! The CPs are run by local Tunisians who do a good job.

Out to CP5 (22.5 hrs)

Part of the route is on tarmac in the dark. There is some light rain and lots of lightning in the distance. I walk part of the way with Simon Eadie and an American called Dimitri. He is good company but very sceptical about my walking boots! I leave them behind and the track goes into sand and occasional slippery mud. My feet weigh a ton and I have to kick off clotted mud and sand. There is a building that seems close but takes hours to get to. Distance at night is very disorientating. Back on tarmac, I wend up a very steep road into the hills. I am unsure of the way as it is poorly marked, though a driver has assured me it is "just around the corner". At dawn I reach the CP in the town of Tamsou. I sort out a toenail (spectacular squirt of blood) and am told I must wait two hours due to mist making the next part difficult. Eventually they change the route and three of us set off together. It is really frustrating to be held up at this stage. I have worked hard to get here in this time and could have been two hours further on.

Out to CP8 (41 hrs)

A long stretch in the heat of the day on tarmac. For once I can see people ahead. Most of the race is spent on my own, though the desert is now attractive rolling hills. Cactuses have been planted in rows and there are a few locals farming out here. I marry up with a short Frenchman called Michelle. His partner is out with the race encouraging him and he is hoping to see her at the next CP. We tab through a village teeming with hundreds of schoolchildren, carrying books and zipping about on mopeds. Some of the men are threatening, so we stick together. Leaving, we head into high hills and can see the track wending down towards the salt plain. In the setting sun it is spectacular! There is evidence of old mines in the hills - entrances and ledges cut into the rock. At the CP, I eat and have a luxurious 45 minute kip. There is no room in the tent, so I curl up in the dust outside.

Out to CP13 (73hrs)

An excellent track on the salt lake. There are a few houses and some cultivation. Barking dogs at each encampment will be an abiding memory of Tunisia. My brain is tired and I start seeing graveyards either side of the track. Mausoleums as far as the eye can see! The route is very flat under a crystal clear night - sky and full moon. As the moon dips, there is a long spectacular shower of shooting stars, some of which streak briefly while others burst like fireworks. I have the chorus of the Hebrew Slaves on the walkman and it is a magical moment. Later comes Bat Out of Hell by Meatloaf and I play a little air guitar with my walking poles!

At CP9 I have a short kip and put on fresh kit. I get lost and have to re-track. It costs me the best part

of an hour and I curse wearily. The route varies between soft sand and hard track. The rain has dried out and brought all the minerals to the surface. The landscape in the moonlight looks like a short fall of snow has occurred. On an endless soft sandy track I decide to treat myself to a short kip. I have not seen a vehicle for hours. When I wake up and start tabbing again, a vehicle comes towards me, blinding me with its headlights. I have been going the wrong way. They turned up at just the right time. Next time I mark the direction to go in. As dawn breaks, I tab through the town of Netud. I am sore and tired and at one stage attacked by a pack of angry dogs. Later in the town the sight of a man with bare legs raises much mirth with the local schoolchildren.

Out to CP15 (82.5hrs)

Another long stretch on hot tarmac. I am slowly catching up with Richard from Ireland. I meet his sister at the CP and we chat for a bit. It is a fantastic morale boost to talk English and she raises my spirits enormously. A Doc Trotter vehicle stops and offers me a slice of chocolate cake. It is excellent and I set off again. Eventually, the road turns down to a flat plain and more sand dunes with a Star Wars village at the foot. On the plain it gets steadily hotter and I see several vehicles tracking about. The plain is covered with chips of mica, a shiny glassy mineral. It is in lumps that have flaked apart in layers in the sand and it looks to me like the remains of alien books from some ancient lost library. Must be the Star Wars influence!

Final leg (87.5hrs)

A Doc Trotter medic asks me if I have any pain. My feet are now

feeling pretty bruised and she gives me two pills to put under my tongue. Pretty soon (five minutes) the pain is gone and I am flying along. The track is undulating sand dunes with scrub. It reminds me of some parts of Iraq.

I meet up with another of the Organisers in a vehicle and it turns out he was in the French Army. He tells me that Michelle (who I walked with earlier) is a three-star general in the French Army and something of a legend. I am really flying along as darkness falls and, to my surprise, I am really enjoying the last stages of the race. At the last CP I eat another excellent meal, take a ten-minute nap and then hit the road for the last section. I meet the organiser, Alan as well as a couple of early finishers who have come out to cheer slower competitors. It is a fantastic morale boost and I can see the town lights in the distance.

The Finish

Crossing the line is not really emotional, I am just glad to have cracked the race. Several early finishers and Simon, who was pulled out when he got hypothermic, have walked the last couple of kilometres with me and I really appreciate their support. Simon has a room ready at the hotel. After a bath and a couple of celebratory beers, I crash out. Mission accomplished in a total of 87 hours, finishing 17th overall.

Congratulations

Our hearty congratulations to Roraigh for completing the Trans 333, particularly since his endurance (with exceptional assistance from The Medway Branch of the Royal Engineers Association) raised over £1,200 for St Dunstan's.

Welcome to **ST DUNSTAN'S**

February 14th

Kevin Alderton of Daventry, Northamptonshire has served as a Trooper in the Honourable Artillery Company (TA) since 1988. A former Court Bailiff, he is due to take stewardship of a local club. He is a keen skier and drummer.

Ernest Benjamin of Walton-on-Thames, Surrey served in the Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire Regiment and the Royal Signals from 1940 to 1946. After training, he guarded airfields in the UK before shipping out to India. He saw action in Burma, fighting with Indian Troops throughout the campaign. On return to the UK he trained as a carpenter and spent three years building film sets. He then worked as a painter, decorator and general builder until he lost his sight in 1994. A keen gardener, he is also fond of music and singing. He has one son and three grandchildren.

Ingram Blenkarn of Worplesdon, Surrey served with the Royal Army Service Corps from 1940 to 1946. He served in the 8th Army through Bardia to Tobruk, then El Alamein to Tunis. He also served in Malta, Sicily, Italy, France, Belgium and Hamburg. In civilian life he worked in banking and engineering before becoming a teacher. He enjoys music but his great passion is Rugby, having joined Guildford Rugby club in 1946.

Leslie Butler of Wimborne, Dorset served in the Royal Engineers from 1940 to 1946. He completed his engineer specialist training in Northern Ireland before being posted to Burma. After the retreat from Rangoon, he was involved in the defence of Imphal, but later had to be evacuated to India. In civilian life, he worked in the housing department of a local authority, later joining a regional hospital. His interests included cricket and football. He and his wife Ruby have a son, daughter, five grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren.

Squadron Leader Betty Chalmers of Barnwell, Peterborough served in the Royal Air Force from 1951 to 1974. She served in the UK and Cyprus. Before she joined the Royal Air Force she

worked in a factory in Northolt making Oerlikon guns. After leaving the Service, she became the personal secretary to Princess Alice. She is an active and keen member of the Women's Institute and enjoys the radio and listening to music.

Marjory Collins of Dumfries, Scotland served in the Auxiliary Territorial Services for one year before transferring to the Women's Royal Army Corps between 1949-1954. She served in Perth, Edinburgh and Berlin. On returning to Dumfries, she joined the Inland Revenue as a shorthand typist.

Glyn Davies of Holywell, Flintshire served with the Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers from 1949 to 1951. He was deployed in support of a civilian armourer. He served a further three years in a Royal Artillery TA mortar unit. In civilian life, he worked in a lead mine, a steel works and as a welder in Deeside. A keen footballer, he has been involved in running local clubs and was a representative on the North Wales Association. He is a guide dog owner. He and his wife Gladys have a son and daughter.

Martine Freestone of Cambridge served in the Auxiliary Territorial Services from 1942-1946. She was posted as a cook to an Ack Ack unit based on Wimbledon Common. After the war she returned to Cambridge, working in a broom factory and the Corn Exchange Café before raising a family. She and her husband have four sons, three grandchildren and two great-grandchildren. Her brother, Roy French of South Africa is also a St Dunstaner.

Hugh Hartley of Southampton, Hampshire served with the Middlesex Regiment from 1942 to 1946. He served in Iraq, Palestine, Syria and later Italy. In civilian life, he worked for Debenhams before joining Shand Kydd, the computer firm. He and his wife have two children and nine great-grandchildren.

Frederick Hipwell of Litcham, Norfolk served in the 2nd Battalion Queen's Regiment from 1945 to 1948. He was posted to Germany and then onto

India, helping with riot control during the lead up to independence. In civilian life he was a painter and decorator but was forced to retire after an incident which blinded him in the left eye. He used to enjoy football, gardening and until recently swimming. He has a daughter and three grandchildren.

George Sulter of Eastbourne, East Sussex served with the Royal Air Force from 1941 to 1944. He served as a Radar Technician and was based at Kinloss. Before the war he worked in a large Canadian Department Store before joining Marks & Spencers in the UK. After the war he set up his own company which developed and designed equipment for GCHQ. He and his wife have a son, four grandchildren and one great-grandchild.

James Woods of Edgware, Middlesex served with the Royal Army Ordnance Corps from 1940 to 1941. Before the war he worked as a packer, assembler and dispatcher. After the war he joined the maintenance department of a bakery before moving to London Transport where he later became head of security. He is a keen keyboard player and passes the time playing and listening to his favourite music. He has two sons, a daughter, 11 grandchildren and one great-grandchild.

February 28th

Lawrence Abbot of London served in the Royal Air Force from 1940 to 1946. He was posted to Eastchurch, Cosford and Egypt. In civilian life he worked in sales. As a young man he enjoyed sports and played football, cricket and badminton. He has two daughters and six grandchildren.

Gerald Cockell of Hove, East Sussex served in the Royal Corps of Military Police and Intelligence Corps in Field Security from 1938 to 1946. He served in the UK, France, Egypt, Palestine and Salerno, Rome and Bari in Italy. He was raised in China until the age of 13 when he returned to the UK on the Trans Siberian Express. Before the war he worked for the National Discount Company. After the war, he joined the Foreign Office, working in Buenos Aires, Argentina. Back in the UK, he worked for the Guinness family. His great interests were antiques and stamp collecting.

Basil Gibson of Guisborough, Cleveland served in the Green Howards and Reconnaissance Corps from 1940 to 1946. He served in England, Ireland and East Africa where he learnt to speak Swahili. Before the war he was a painter and decorator, after the war he worked for ICI. His interests include music. He is married and has a son.

John Rose of Tadworth, Surrey served in the Royal Navy in the Atlantic and Mediterranean from 1943 to 1946. Before the war, he was an office worker for London Home Counties Electricity. After the war he ran a couple of shops before joining London Scottish banking. He later turned to renovating houses in London. He used to enjoy football and tennis when he was younger and enjoyed reading and gardening. He is married and has two children and 5 grandchildren.

Wheel runners

Simon Rogers recalls his encounter with a legend of the running track

IN THE EARLY Eighties, I was reporting for a newspaper which decided to sponsor some London Marathon runners. One of our athletes was a gentleman from Deptford, restricted to a wheelchair by a debilitating disease with terminal prognosis. However, before that happened the Marathon represented a challenge for him to conquer.

Suddenly, he and other wheelchair athletes were banned from the event. I spoke to its founder, Chris Brasher, who told me in a voice that vacillated violently in pitch that these wheelchair people were being terribly inconsiderate towards normal runners and they really should accept that.

Of course, by the end of the week, wheelchair users were told that they would be allowed to take part - and have been ever since! Somehow I find it difficult to reconcile the fellow I spoke to, with the aspirational Chris Brasher - Olympic gold medallist and one of the pacemakers who helped Roger Bannister run the first four-minute mile. When he passed away recently, he was quoted as having said "If you can dream it, you can do it." And that would appear to be the case, even if you are in a wheelchair.

BALANCING THE BOOKS

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

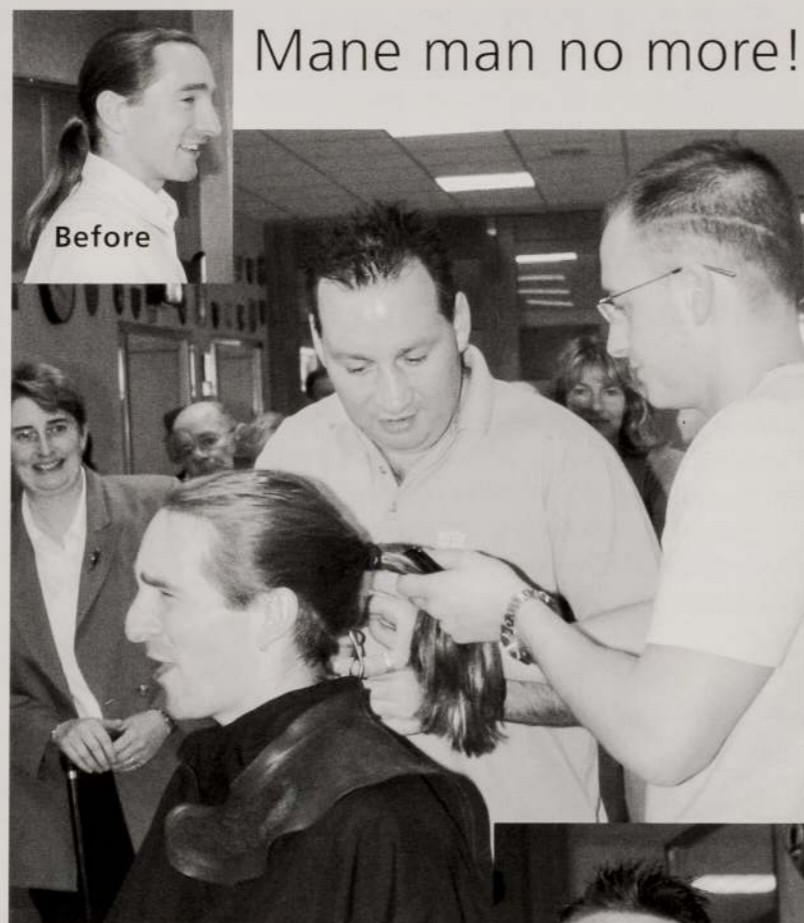
The Uncensored Boy's Own

Author: Dick Beresford.
Reader: Alistair Maydon
Catalogue No: 8499
Duration: 25 minutes.

AS WELL AS being easily the shortest book I've ever received from the talking book library, *The Uncensored Boy's Own* is also the most ridiculous. "Too daft to laugh at" as they say up north, yet one does laugh! The parody of the public-school "Ripping yarn" is so outrageous that it becomes quite appealing. Set in that mythical era when Smith major and Jones minor spent term time at "St Fred's" or some other Eton substitute, the stories from the dorm, the sports field or behind the bike shed are so tall they could dwarf Goliath. But even so, like all burlesque or caricature, an element of truth is present to help it to succeed.

I do not mean that one can credit such claims as "Boys slept two in a bed to save on laundry" or "Cartwright minor swallowed the house-master's ferret". However, searching through the school library for information about childbirth certainly rings true – as also does the absolute refusal to believe the result!

The schoolboy mind in its confident ignorance, was ever a jumble of paradox, contradiction and immature emotion, understood least of all by the schoolboy himself. Unquestionably it is Dick Beresford's rare ability to capture its essence that underpins his success in this slimmest of all volumes; I only wish he had displayed his gift a bit longer.



Mane man no more!

Before

After

ROVI Ian Hebborn proved he had the courage to live up to his convictions and sacrificed his ponytail on March 17th. This dramatic snip raised an impressive £600 towards an Activity Day for visually impaired children. St Dunstaner Steve Nixon gleefully claimed the honour of making the decisive cut as Ian lost his locks.

Website goes live

ST DUNSTAN'S REFURBISHED website "went live" on March 17th. Since then, we have received many positive comments about the new site and some constructive feedback that we will take into consideration when we prepare our next upgrade.

At this stage, the facility to send text messages to mobile phones from our site falls short of our aspirations to create a fully accessible website for the visually handicapped. Needless to say, we will be working with our supplier to make this possible and will inform you of progress in the coming issues of the **Review**.

Test the site yourself on www.st-dunstans.org.uk.



ST DUNSTAN'S Council

Continuing our series of profiles of personalities currently serving on St Dunstan's Council.

Andrew Keeling

ANDREW KEELING has been a member of Council since 1995, prior to which he served for 33 years as a Royal Marine. He learned about St Dunstan's following the accidents which befell Steve Nixon and Reg Perrin. Having been invited to Ovingdean to present these two members of his Corps with their St Dunstan's badges he was (to use his own word) 'hooked' by the spirit of our organisation. He therefore asked the Chairman, Sir Henry Leach, if he could somehow become involved with us and Sir Henry asked him to join the Council.

After a lengthy period as a serving officer it is perhaps not surprising that Andrew is still closely involved

with Service people and charities. Apart from his involvement with St Dunstan's, he is active in the Royal British Legion and the Royal Marines Association. He has recently completed a four-year period as the Representative Colonel Commandant Royal Marines and he remains the President of the Special Boat Service Association and the Royal Marines Physical Training Branch Reunion Club.

When he left uniformed service he worked for refugees in the Middle East and Eastern Europe for a year in a small humanitarian aid organisation. For the past six years he has been a self-employed consultant dealing with Defence and



Crisis Management matters. He also spent a year as a specialist adviser to the House of Commons Defence Select Committee. In addition to his business activities, he is also the Secretary of the Salisbury Diocese Sudan Committee which provides a vibrant link between the diocese and the Episcopal Church of Sudan. As their country has been subjected to a grisly and hugely costly civil war for many years this link with Salisbury provides a vital lifeline for many Sudanese Christians.

Having lived near Salisbury for several years he recently moved to Devon. He has three married children, six grandchildren and a dog.

Drew Lyburn

AS GOVERNOR OF the Management Committee of the Scottish National Institute for the War Blinded, Drew is a co-opted member of St Dunstan's Council. By profession he is an actuary (a past Vice-President of The Faculty of Actuaries) and spent most of his working years with Standard Life (including six years in Canada) retiring as a senior executive in 1991. His main work was on pensions and he was Chairman of various professional and insurance industry pension committees and he was a member of the Occupational Pensions Board from 1982-1997.



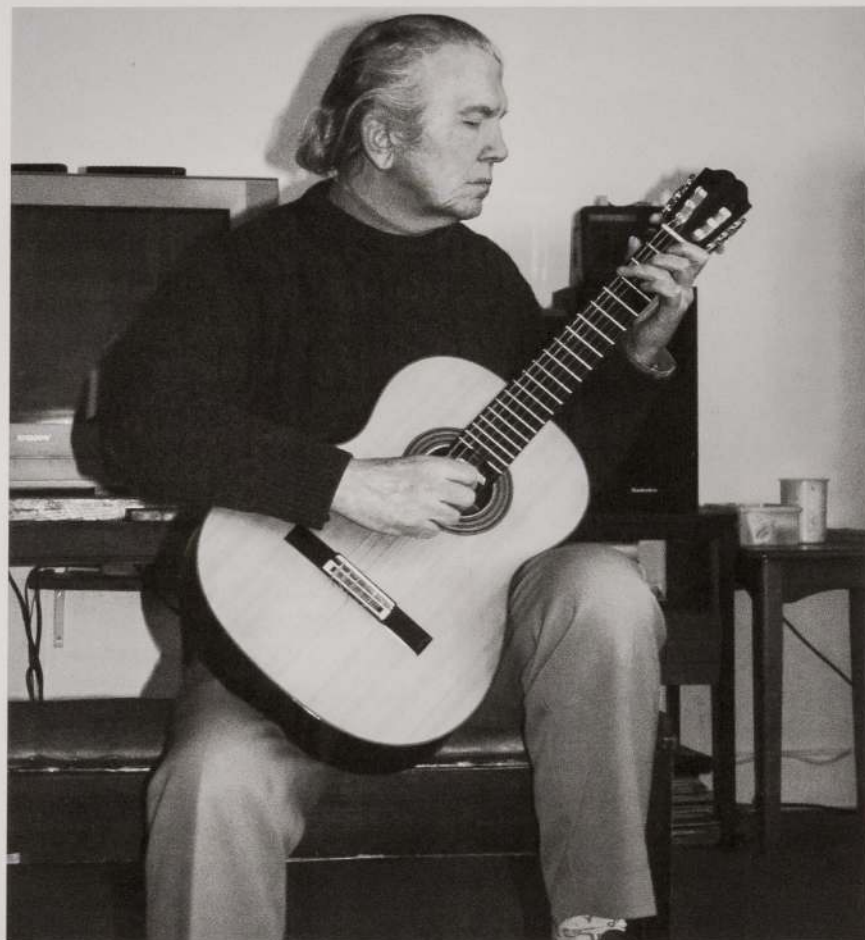
He has also worked for oil and gas exploration, property and engineering companies. He remains active for several Scottish charities, mainly on finance or investment matters. His interests, past and

present, include bridge, golf, gardening, rugby, squash, hill walking, opera and bird watching.

He completed National Service in the Royal Air Force. After gaining his pilot's wings at Portage la Prairie, Canada, he was based at Shawbury, Dishforth and Lyneham. Having thoroughly enjoyed his RAF years, he believes he is the only National Service officer to have applied for, and been granted, an extension of service. This was to enable him to complete a transport flight, carrying radioactive material to Australia.

He has three sons and a daughter from his first wife, Joan, who died in 1994. He married his second wife, Evelyn, in 1999.

Music Week hits the right note



ST DUNSTANER Maurice Aldridge set the mood for the Music Week at Ovingdean in February. He delighted an enraptured audience with a selection of classical guitar works. Apart from his skill playing the guitar, Maurice entertained those present with a few comments on the history of the music that made up his recital.

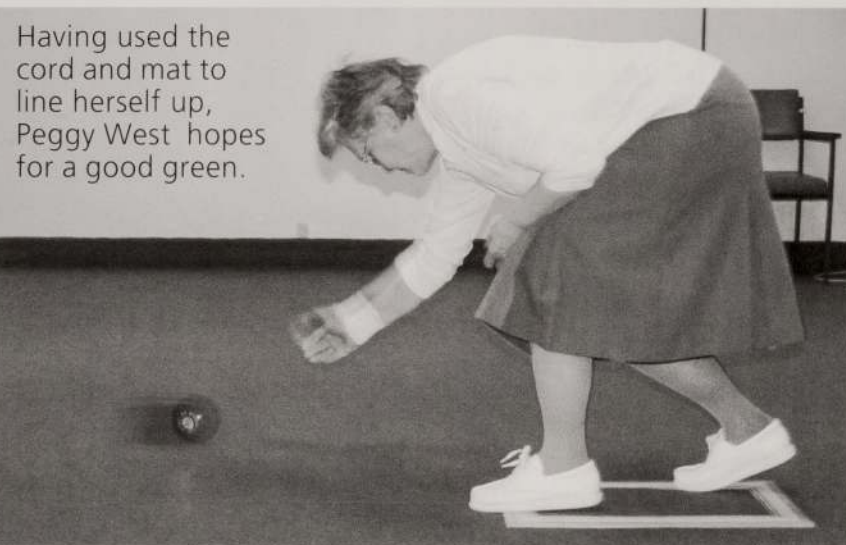
Other activities during the Music Week included lunchtime performance of Bach, Hindemith and Schubert, classical piano and Vivaldi CD session.

St Dunstaners also had the chance to exercise their own musical spirit in a musical workshop with Savita Burke who plundered the sounds of Hindu chants. Using many different vocal sounds and instruments, the workshop proved to be fun, informative and rather relaxing.

Rolling woods signal spring is here!

DAFFODILS MIGHT BE a sign that spring is here, but a surer indication is the sound of bowling balls rolling down the green in the McKinley Sports Hall at St Dunstan's Ovingdean. The Spring Bowling Tournament got off to a good start on March 15th with several generations of St Dunstaners taking part.

Who will win? Competition is hot and fierce and the final verdicts will be published in the next issue of **ST DUNSTAN'S Review**.



Having used the cord and mat to line herself up, Peggy West hopes for a good green.

Directory

A quarterly listing of useful organisations

ST DUNSTAN'S

HEADQUARTERS

12-14 Harcourt Street, London W1H 4HD
Tel: 020 7723 5021 Fax: 020 7262 6199
E-mail: enquiries@st-dunstans.org.uk
Website: www.st-dunstans.org.uk

OVINGDEAN

Greenways, Ovingdean, Brighton BN2 7BS
Tel: 01273 307811 Fax: 01273 302704

Multiple Sclerosis Society

The MS Society funds research, runs holiday homes and respite care, provides grants, education and training on MS. They are committed to bringing high standards of quality health and social care within reach of everyone affected by MS and to encourage and support medical and applied research into its cause and control.

Head office:

MS National Centre, 372 Edgware Road,
Staples Corner, London NW2 6ND
Tel: 020 8438 0700
Helpline: 0808 800 8000
Website: www.mssociety.org.uk

Macular Disease Society

Dedicated to providing information and practical support so that those with central vision impairment may make the most of their remaining vision.

Head office:

PO Box 16, Denbigh, Denbighshire LL16 5ZA
Tel: 0800 328 2849
E-mail: info@macular-disease.org
Website: www.macular-disease.org

Combat Stress

Ex-Services Mental Welfare Society

Specialising in helping those of all ranks from the Armed Forces and the Merchant Navy suffering from psychological disability as a result of their service.

Head office:

Tyrwhitt House, Oaklawn Road
Leatherhead, Surrey KT22 0BX
Tel: 01372 841600
E-mail: contactus@combatstress.org.uk
Website: www.combatstress.com

The Princess Royal Trust for Carers

Aims to make it easier for carers to cope by providing information, support and practical help. The national network of over 100 Carers Centres across the UK currently reaches well over 100,000 carers a year.

Website: www.carers.org

London Office

142 Minories, London EC3N 1LB
Tel: 020 7480 7788 Fax: 020 7481 4729
Email: info@carers.org

Glasgow Office

Campbell House, 215 West Campbell Street,
Glasgow G2 4TT
Tel: 0141 221 5066 Fax: 0141 221 4623
Email: infoscotland@carers.org

Northern Office

Suite 4, Oak House, High St, Chorley PR7 1DW
Tel: 01257 234 070 Fax: 01257 234 105
Email: infochorley@carers.org

Suggestions for this feature should be sent to: Directory, **ST DUNSTAN'S Review**, 12-14 Harcourt Street, London W1H 4HD.

Ancient pickle sparks dig at St D's

THE SAGA OF PROPOSALS for a sewage works at Ovingdean took a new twist last month when Pop Idol Svengali Simon Cowell voiced his objections to the plan. Southern Water have suggested that a site between Roedean School and St Dunstan's would be perfect for a sewage treatment plant, though the idea has not been welcomed locally. The music mogul declared his dismay at the scheme after hearing about it from his mother.

However, the area around St Dunstan's may be subjected to a mass archaeological excavation. Workers on the Sea Defence Project have found the remains of a dill pickle prompting speculation that Ovingdean was the site of a medieval rollmop factory. Ultrasonic geophysical scans have revealed the trace of several subterranean strata along Greenways in support of this hypothesis. "We are really excited about this as it could confirm the eating habits of Saxon residents of Beorthelmes, or Old Brighton if you prefer," said a spokesman for Channel 4's *Time Team*. "The only problem is that the ancient factory seems to spread underneath St Dunstan's." The archaeologists are hoping to start digging in the area on April 1st.

Ten answers on...

From page 9.

- 1) Billy the Whizz.
- 2) Frank Sinatra.
- 3) The Snowdrop.
- 4) Wellington.
- 5) Wonder Woman.
- 6) Batman.
- 7) Manchester.
- 8) Australia's.
- 9) Gorgonzola.
- 10) Because it lasts just four minutes.

FAMILY NEWS

WEDDINGS

Congratulations to:

Christine and Peter Badenhorst on October 5th. Christine is the daughter of *Christopher Hales* of Harare, Zimbabwe.

Steven Mitchell and Dorothee Timmumans who married on February 28th. Steven is the son of St Dunstaner *Alan Mitchell* of Congleton, Cheshire and the late Pat Mitchell.

GOLDEN ANNIVERSARIES

Congratulations to:

Ted and Beryl John of Wallasey, Merseyside on February 28th.

DIAMOND ANNIVERSARIES

Congratulations to:

Arthur and Doris Thomson of Mill Hill, London on February 21st.

SPECIAL ANNIVERSARIES

Congratulations to:

Charles and Peggy Blockley of Sileby, nr Loughborough, Leicestershire who celebrated 62 years of marriage on February 19th.

DEATHS

We regret to announce the death of:

Emily Jones on January 14th. She was the wife of *Dennis Jones* of High Wycombe, Buckinghamshire.

Betty Jones of Port Talbot, West Glamorgan on February 23rd. She was the widow of *Richard Jones*.

Our sympathy goes to their friends and family.

IN MEMORY

We regret to announce the passing of the following St Dunstaners and send our condolences to their friends and family.

Francis Imrie

2nd Fife and Forfar Yeomanry (RAC)
Francis Leslie Imrie of Morpeth, Northumberland died on February 13th, aged 85. He served in the 2nd Fife and Forfar Yeomanry (RAC) from 1940 to 1945. He was Acting Sergeant when he was discharged. In civilian life he ran a village shop. His interests included carpentry and painting. Our sympathy goes to his son, daughter and all other members of the family.

Arthur Morgan

Royal Engineers

Arthur John Morgan of Brighton died on February 17th, aged 86. He served with the Royal Engineers from 1939 to 1945 as a Lance Corporal, driving in Bomb Disposal and Field Park Bridging. In civilian life he worked in the motor trade. Our sympathy goes to his widow Tina and all of the family.

Harold Gill

Reconnaissance Corps

Harold Gill of Southport, Merseyside died on February 18th, aged 83. He had been a St Dunstaner since 1997. He served in the Reconnaissance Corps from 1939 to 1947. During the Second World War Japanese forces captured him and the privations he then experienced as a Prisoner of War would eventually cause his loss of sight. In civilian life he worked for the railways and later in retail. His interests included music, particularly playing the piano. Our sympathy goes to his daughter Jane and all members of the family.

Albert White

Royal Hampshire Regiment

Albert William White of Petersfield, Hampshire died on February 19th, aged 90. He served in the Royal Hampshire Regiment from 1931 to 1938 and 1939 to 1945. Initially serving on the Isle of Wight, he was posted to India as a Corporal Signaller. He returned to the UK for discharge but was recalled in 1939. While serving in North Africa he was taken prisoner and transported via Italy to Stalag 4B in Germany. As a result of his captivity and resulting ill health, he did not see his son until he was six years old. After leaving the service he joined the Admiralty in Haslemere testing valves. Later, he worked in the building trade. A long-standing member of his local bowling club he used to enjoy snooker, darts and other games. Our sympathy goes to his son Ian and all other members of the family.

Daniel McGoohan

2nd Inniskilling Fusiliers

Daniel McGoohan of Angmering, West Sussex died on February 20th, aged 84. He had been a St Dunstaner since 1944. He was lorry driver before joining the 2nd Inniskilling Fusiliers in 1943. The following year he was injured in action at Anzio, Italy, his left eye was excised and his right leg was amputated. After training at St Dunstan's he worked

as a telephonist for the Ministry of Food, later moving to the GPO and then Barclays bank. His interests included gardening, fishing and handicrafts. Our sympathy goes to his daughters, Sheila, Frances and Anne, and all other members of the family.

John Dumbleton

Royal Signals

John Douglas Dumbleton of Southgate, London died on February 21st, aged 83. He served in the Royal Fusiliers, Royal Irish Fusiliers and Royal Signals between 1940 and 1946. He took part in the landings at Algiers and Sicily and was wounded by shrapnel. After transferring to the Royal Signals he was posted to Greece. In civilian life he joined British Telecom as an operator. His interests included foreign languages.

George Yale

Royal Welch Fusiliers

George Henry Yale of Dudley, West Midlands died on February 24th, aged 77. He had been a St Dunstaner since 1983. He served in the Royal Welch Fusiliers from 1944 to 1948. In civilian life he worked as a bus conductor. His interests included gardening. Our sympathy goes to all of the family.

Sylvester Russell-Thomas

Royal Navy

Sylvester Russell-Thomas of Brighton, East Sussex died on February 26th, aged 91. He had been a St Dunstaner since 2000. He served in the Royal Navy from 1940 to 1946. As a Chief Petty Officer in the special forces he was extensively deployed in South East Asia including China, Malaya, Burma, Indonesia, Ceylon and India. He spoke Urdu, Cantonese, Malay and Hindustani and his linguistic skills were still called upon by the police when they required an interpreter. After the war he returned to the family general trading business in SE Asia until he lost his sight. His interests included carpentry and the restoration of furniture. Our sympathy goes to his widow Pauline and all other members of the family.

John Twells

Royal Signals

John Henry Twells of Rugby, Warwickshire, died on March 16th, aged 95. He served in the Royal Signals from 1940 to 1946 in North Africa, Sicily and Italy. In civilian life, he was a milkman and also used to referee football matches. Our sympathy goes to his daughter Julia and all other members of the family.

Highlander sings on the Downs



Songs of the Glen

Main picture: Star turn! Isla St Clair brings the sounds of Scotland to St Dunstan's Ovingdean. **From the top:** Barbara Bell congratulates Isla on a grand show; Norman Perry discuss the ups and downs of weaving; Isla chats with Eddie Ginn; Ted Yeaman and Jean Miller described life at St Dunstan's.

SCOTTISH SINGING STAR Isla St Clair captivated the hearts of St Dunstaners during a concert at Ovingdean on February 28th. Isla, renowned as a singer as well as presenting TV shows such as *The Generation Game* and *Songs of Praise*, also took the opportunity to learn a little of the work of St Dunstan's, touring the Handicraft Workshop, Rehabilitation and Training department and the gym. However, the day became one to remember when she picked up her guitar and took centre stage in The Lounge. Starting with Jacobite folk song *Johnnie Cope*, Isla delivered a sparkling mix of traditional songs and humorous music, bringing the sounds of the Highlands to the Sussex Downs. In the words of St Dunstaner Eddie Ginn: "It was the best show I have been to in a long time!"

