

ST DUNSTAN'S Review

May 2003

www.st-dunstans.org.uk

There are 26 miles to go, so start running now:

Greenwich Park, Charlton Way, Charlton Road, Charlton Village, Charlton Park Road, Little Heath, Hillreach, Artillery Place, John Wilson Street, Woolwich Church Street, Woolwich Road, Trafalgar Road, Romney Road, Creek Road, Evelyn Street, Lower Road, Surrey Quays Road, Canada Street, Redriff Road, Salter Road, Brunel Road, Jamaica Road, Tower Bridge, East Smithfield, Highway, Narrow Street, Limehouse Causeway, Ferry Road, East Ferry Road, Limeharbour, West India Avenue, Cabot Square, Canada Square, South Colonnade, Canada Square, Chancery Lane, Trafalgar Way, Prestons Road, Poplar Highway, West India Dock Road, Limehouse Road, Commercial Road, The Highway, Thomas Moore Street, St Katharine's Way, St Mews Street, Lower Thames Street, Upper Thames Street, Victoria Embankment, Bridge Street, Parliament Square, Great George Street, Birdcage Walk, Spur Road, Queen Victoria Memorial, The Mall. Finish! **That was the London Marathon!**



FOR BLIND EX-SERVICE MEN AND WOMEN



Cover story:
Iain goes the distance!

Once more unto the breach! St Dunstaner Iain Millard starts his third London Marathon. The roads covered over the 26 mile route are spelt out behind him.
Dash on to page 14 for full details.

Libberton hold Alan Logan Trophy
St Dunstan's Golf Club look forward to Devon rematch.
Tee off on page 9.

Mayor of Brighton visits Ovingdean
St Dunstaners meet with local dignitary.
Details on page 11.

Brighton Club celebrates half century
Golden years for Brighton St Dunstaners.
Full details on page 13.

Bowling at its best
Who came top in the Spring Bowling Tournament?
Find out on page 18.

**Plus Balancing the Books,
Ten Questions and other favourites!!!**

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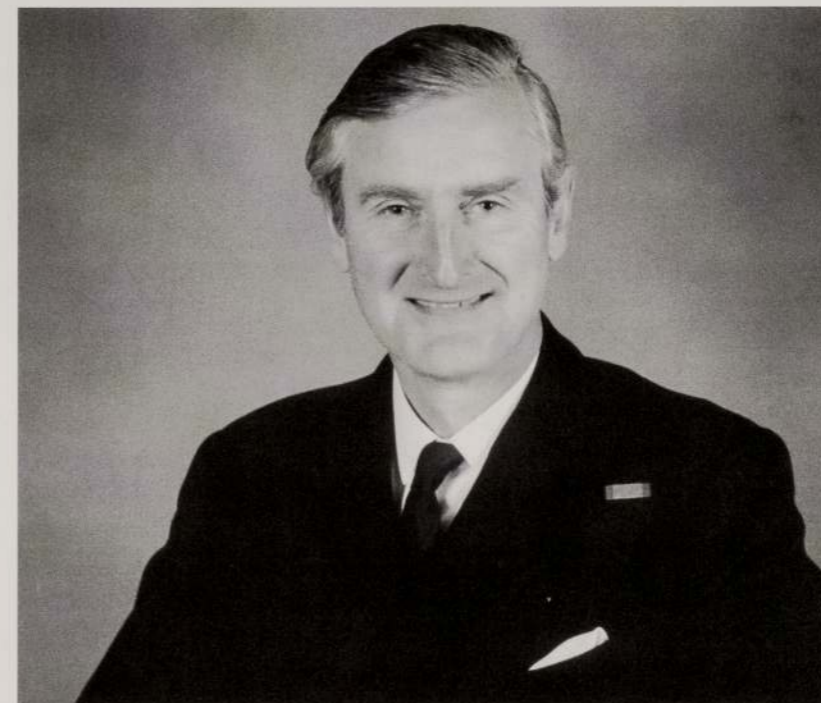
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From the Chairman



ONCE AGAIN, British Service men and women are involved in conflict in the Gulf. From all reports, they are performing with their customary skill, professionalism and disregard of personal needs.

Whatever our views and sympathies, and recognising with regret and sadness that some casualties on all sides are inevitable, as a charity for ex-Service men and women, St Dunstan's pays tribute to those involved. We wish them a safe return to their families and loved ones and a speedy resolution to the crisis.

Since the outbreak of the First World War, St Dunstan's has been providing rehabilitation, independence, hope and encouragement to the war blind, and in recent years, to those who have been blinded by any means. We remain ready to provide the care and support for which the Charity is renowned, to those who may be blinded in the service of their country.

Captain Michael Gordon-Lennox, RN

ST DUNSTAN'S Calendar

Exeter Reunion	May 7th
Handless Reunion	May 7th-13th
Blackpool Reunion	May 13th
Liverpool Reunion	May 14th
Exercise Ironman	May 15th
Golf Club	May 17th-18th
Gardening Week	May 19th-26th
Edinburgh Reunion	May 21st
Penzance Reunion	May 21st
Chichester Reunion	May 28th
Brighton Reunion II	June 4th
Archery Club	June 6th-15th
Newcastle Reunion	June 10th
Leeds Reunion	June 11th
Golf Club	June 13th-15th
Walking Holiday	June 15th-22nd
Widows' Week	June 16th-23rd
Cardiff Reunion	June 18th
Ladies Reunion	July 7th-14th
Golf Club	July 13th-14th
Royal Marines Band	July 23rd
HMS <i>Sultan</i>	July 25th-August 2nd

DEADLINES FOR FUTURE ISSUES

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

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

Noticeboard

Dates for your diary and useful information

CATERING MATTERS AT O Vingdean

I need your assistance, please, to help our caterers, PBK Catering Ltd, reduce waste in respect of the difficulty they have in estimating the meal requirements of new arrivals in the house. As you know, once you are here at Ovingdean we ask you what you want from the menu for the next day but we are having a problem satisfying folks who have just arrived. Accordingly, if you are coming into Ovingdean for a day-visit, or for short or long stay, and you do not require the main choice on arrival, you need to contact the Lounge Desk (01273 307811 extension 1659) by 1800 the preceding day to check the menu and place your order from the alternatives on offer. Those who haven't made that choice the day before will be provided with the lunch/supper of the day, dependent upon arrival time.

Dick Lake,
Ovingdean Manager

BAR PRICE INCREASE

Regretfully, it is annual bar review time again and there needs to be a modest rise in a few prices to keep pace with rising costs as our brewers, Coors, have raised their charges. In order to maintain our current level of cost recovery, we will need to increase draught beer by 10 pence a pint from May 1st but I am pleased to announce that all other bar prices will remain the same. This price increase will effect Carlsberg Lager, Worthington Bitter and Guinness and we will hold these prices at least until the end of this new financial year.

Dick Lake,
Ovingdean Manager

CRAFT WORKSHOP REQUEST

The Workshop regularly uses recycled materials in projects and designs and was hoping that readers of the Review would help to us to collect more. We are in need of margarine tubs and lids, wrapping paper, old squash and fizzy drinks bottles and lids, sweet wrappers, old cereal packets and newspapers. We can put them all to good use and would be very grateful for any saved contributions.

Please forward any materials to the Craft Workshop, St Dunstan's Ovingdean, Greenways, Ovingdean, Brighton BN2 7BS

TAKE A BREAK AT A RNIB HOTEL

The Royal National Institute of the Blind operate two seaside hotels offering a warm welcome to people with sight problems. One is in Eastbourne, the other in Blackpool, and both are fully accessible with talking lifts, colour contrasting floors and clear signs. There are also helpful extras such as talking alarm clocks, talking books and gadgets to help make a cup of tea.

In-house entertainment and trips out are supplemented by a variety of special interest and themed breaks. Tariffs start from £185 a week for a single room, though there are seasonal variations.

RNIB Palm Court Hotel, Burlington Place, Eastbourne, East Sussex BN21 4AR. Tel: 01323 725811. E-mail: palmcourt@rnib.org.uk.

RNIB Century Hotel, 406 North Promenade, Blackpool, Lancashire FY1 2LB. Tel: 01253 354598. E-mail: centuryh@rnib.org.uk.

BRILLE CHANGES

A new edition of British Braille has been prepared by the Braille Authority of the United Kingdom, incorporating ideas and suggestions of braille users and producers collected since the last update in 1992. The impact of the changes on ordinary reading will be minimal.

Fuller details can be found in the braille edition of the **Review**, though copies are also available on request from Ray Hazan at St Dunstan's, 12-14 Harcourt Street, London W1A 4HD.

Comments on these changes can be addressed to St Dunstan's representatives on the Braille Authority of the United Kingdom. Contact Iain Millard on 01273 303451 or e-mail him on iain71058@hotmail.com; alternately contact Harry Beevers on 01977 552485 or e-mail him on harryb@dolphinaccess.net. Iain and Harry are hoping to marshal comments for a meeting in June.

Feedback can also be directed to Stephen Phippen (Secretary, BAUK), c/o Divisional Training, RNIB Peterborough, PO Box 173, Peterborough, PE2 6WS.

DERBY SWEEPSTAKE 2003

The draw for the annual **ST DUNSTAN'S Review** Derby Sweepstake will be held on June 4th. The sweepstake is open to St Dunstaners, beneficiaries of the Diana Gubbay Trust, widows and widowers. The Epsom Derby takes place on June 7th.

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, the day of the draw.

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.

Details of prize distribution appeared in the last issue of the **Review**. No prize won in the sweepstake will be paid to any person other than the person to whom the winning ticket was sold.

LADIES' REUNION BOOKING POLICY

The following is intended to clarify any confusion over booking for this annual reunion taking place at Ovingdean from July 7th to 14th.

The Reunion has been going strong for many years and was originally a means by which those ladies who had trained together in the 1940s kept in touch, shared common experiences and offered each other support and friendship. Within the past few years the venue has been moved to Ovingdean and the weekend turned into a week of gentle activities. There are now many more lady St Dunstaners.

Bearing history in mind, the priority for accommodation on the Reunion will be given to the original lady St Dunstaners. Our other ladies are, of course, most welcome and we will allocate places to as many as room vacancies allow with priority being given to those who have been turned down previously or who have not attended before.

Bookings for holiday rooms should be made direct to Jackie Castle, Booking Coordinator. Those requiring residential or nursing rooms should apply via their Welfare Officer in the normal way. They should make clear they wish to participate in the Reunion programme. They should please note there is a greater limitation on these rooms which are also required for those needing respite or temporary care. We will run a reserve list and, things being what they are, you may get in at short notice due to a cancellation.

There is a real difficulty in providing escorts for everybody. Therefore, wherever possible, ladies should bring their own escort and be prepared to share a room with them, if able. Those ladies requiring an escort to be provided must request this via Lyn Mullins, Activities Coordinator as soon as their place on the Reunion has been confirmed. We will do our best to find someone. Confirmation of places will be made in mid-May.

Dick Lake,
Ovingdean Manager

NOMINATIONS REQUIRED FOR ST DUNSTAN'S GOLF CLUB AGM

St Dunstan's Golf Club will hold their Annual General Meeting at Rusper Golf Club on June 15th, the same day as the Open Invitation Day. Nominations are sought for Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer. The AGM will be held at 10.15am prior to play for the Captain's Cup.

The Golf Club is also seeking additional members. For more details contact Mike Tumilson on 024 7646 0113 or John Stevens on 01223 360838.

ATHLETICS FOR THE VISUALLY IMPAIRED

The 2003 Metro Games will take place at Walthamstow Track & Pool, London E17 on Saturday June 21st (11.30am-5.30pm). There will be events for visually impaired athletes of all age groups, male and female. Those with additional disabilities are also welcome.

The Metro Games is organised jointly by the Metropolitan Sports & Social Club for the Visually Impaired and the London Sports Forum for the Disabled. Accommodation is available and there will be a Buffet and Disco on Saturday night.

There is a dedicated website on www.metroblindsport.org, but details and entry forms are also available from Derek Mileman (Metro) on 020 8203 1286 or e-mail delboy29@Tiscali.co.uk. Alternatively, contact Alan Whetherly, London Sports Forum on 020 7354 8666 or e-mail lsf@disabilitysport.freemove.co.uk.

DIAL 195 FOR VIP DIRECTORY ENQUIRY SERVICE

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

50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE QUEEN'S CORONATION

Do you have any memories of June 2nd 1953? Were you one of the seventy St Dunstaners and staff who were present on the route of the Coronation Procession? I would be delighted to hear from you if you have a story to tell.

Two special Coronation gifts were given to St Dunstaners and their wives at this time. Fortunately the archives have one of the Irish linen handkerchiefs with lace border, but we do not have one of the silver crown pieces. Please does anyone wish to donate one to St Dunstan's Archives?

If you can assist with any of the above please contact Robbie Hazan at St Dunstan's, 12-14 Harcourt Street, London W1H 4HD or e-mail on roberta.hazan@st-dunstans.org.uk.

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.

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 VETERANS AGENCY

The War Pensions Agency was renamed the Veterans Agency last year, reflecting the intention for the Veterans Agency to provide a single point of contact within the Ministry of Defence on all Veterans' issues.

The Veterans Agency assists all former members of the Armed Forces - irrespective of whether they served in war or during peacetime, or were volunteers, reservists or National Servicemen - and their dependants.

Callers to the Agency's free helpline - 0800 169 22 77 - can receive advice on a wide range of subjects such as service records, medals, military graves and welfare issues. The Agency has close links with ex-Service organisations, voluntary groups or statutory bodies such as Social Services departments. The free helpline is open Monday-Thursday, 8:15am-5:15pm and Friday, 8:15-4:30pm.

A wide range of information of interest to Veterans is available on the Agency's website - www.veteransagency.mod.uk - including useful links to other organisations and Government departments.

Members of the Armed Forces who become ill or disabled as a result of an injury suffered in service may be eligible for a War Pension from the Veterans Agency. Veterans who fall into this category should contact the Veterans Agency free helpline on the number as outlined above.

A War Widow(er) may be eligible for a War Widow(er)s' Pension where death has been caused or hastened by service in the United Kingdom Armed Forces or a war. War Widow(er)s who fall into this category should contact the Veterans Agency free helpline on the number as outlined above.

The War Pensioners' Welfare Service (WPWS)

In addition, the WPWS is part of the Veterans Agency and gives comprehensive advice and support to all War Pensioners and War Widow(er)s living in the UK and the Irish Republic, regardless of whether their query is about a War Disablement/ Widow(er)s' Pension. They also give help and advice to anybody who thinks they may be able to claim a pension.

The service is delivered via a network of welfare offices, each of which has responsibility for a particular geographical area. Visits can be arranged at a pensioner's home or at a mutually convenient location.

The WPWS works in close partnership with ex-Service organisations, War Pensions Committees and other voluntary groups or statutory bodies such as social services departments in delivering welfare support. They can provide a wide range of advice and outlined below are a few examples of the kind of help the WPWS can provide:-

- Help claiming a War Pension
- Help with financial and employment difficulties
- Disability needs
- Residential and nursing care
- Social contacts and everyday help

If you would like to contact your local WPWS, their phone number is listed in the UK telephone directory under 'War Pensions Agency' or 'Veterans Agency'.

Veterans' Initiative

The Veterans' Initiative gives clear recognition to the special status of those who have served in the armed forces and the unique contribution they have made to the country. It works towards better coordination and communications - not only with the veterans' community, but also across Government and with charities and the voluntary sector - to improve the level of services and support available for veterans and their families.

Contact details for the Veterans Agency are:

Free helpline:	0800 169 22 77 (UK only)
Overseas:	44 1 253 866043
Free Minicom:	0800 169 34 58
E-mail:	help@veteransagency.mod.uk
Website:	www.veteransagency.mod.uk
Address:	Veterans Agency, Norcross, Blackpool, Lancashire FY5 3WP.

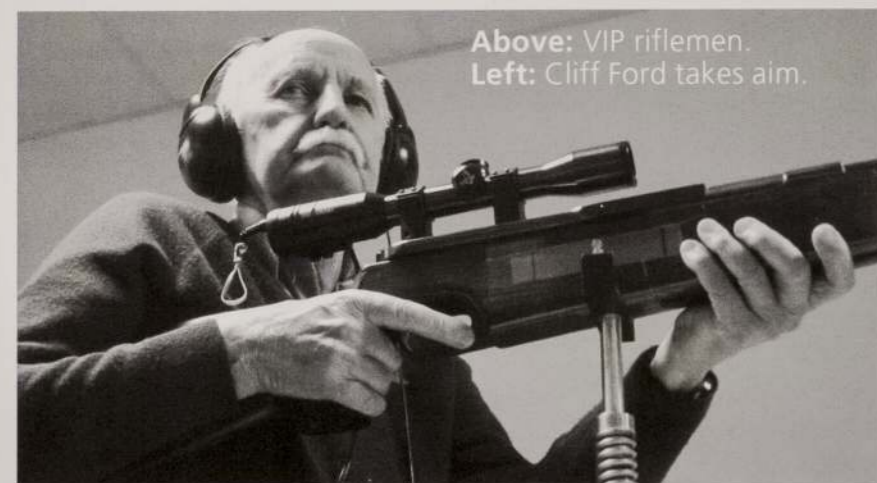


Savouring the joys of freedom, remembering fallen comrades! St Dunstaners David Taylor, Ron Grimes, Charles Coston and Len Barber with their wives and guests at the Ex-Prisoners of War Society Reunion at Ovingdean on April 5th. A full report will appear next issue.

Mark Brownlow reports on an acoustic rifle shooting away day

Shooting down to Chippenham

ON MARCH 21ST Cliff Ford, George Oliver and myself went to Chippenham in Wiltshire to meet up with some members of the visually impaired Target-Sports Club. Late last year they came to see us, which turned out to be a really enjoyable event. We decided that it would be a good idea to visit them for a rematch. This time, we had a competition which was won by the Chippenham group. Their players were very impressive, although for our boys it was more the taking part that counted. The following

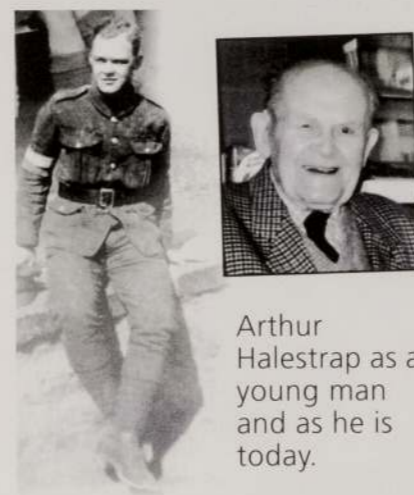


Above: VIP riflemen.
Left: Cliff Ford takes aim.

day was laid out more for tuition than competition. Cliff and George learned some good tips from the Target-Sports Club coach, Ian. This help has aided both of them in their respective games. That afternoon we returned to St Dunstan's having thoroughly enjoyed our trip.

The Chippenham group will hopefully be visiting us again this month, which will undoubtedly be another great day.

Experiencing life on the Front

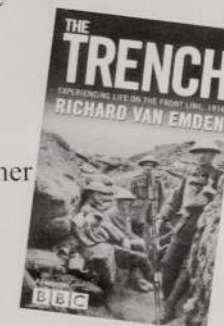


Arthur Halestrap as a young man and as he is today.

WHAT DID IT feel like to be a soldier on the Front Line during the First World War? What was it like to see the trenches for the first time? How did you stay alive?

An innovative BBC television series recreated the day-to-day experiences of WWI soldiers last year. It mixed the reminiscences of veterans such as St Dunstaner Arthur Halestrap with volunteers living as the 10th Battalion East Yorkshire Regiment had in 1916.

The experiences of Arthur and three other survivors of those dark days, along with the thoughts of their modern day counterparts have been collected in a book - *The Trench* by Richard Van Emden, priced £8.99 from Corgi.

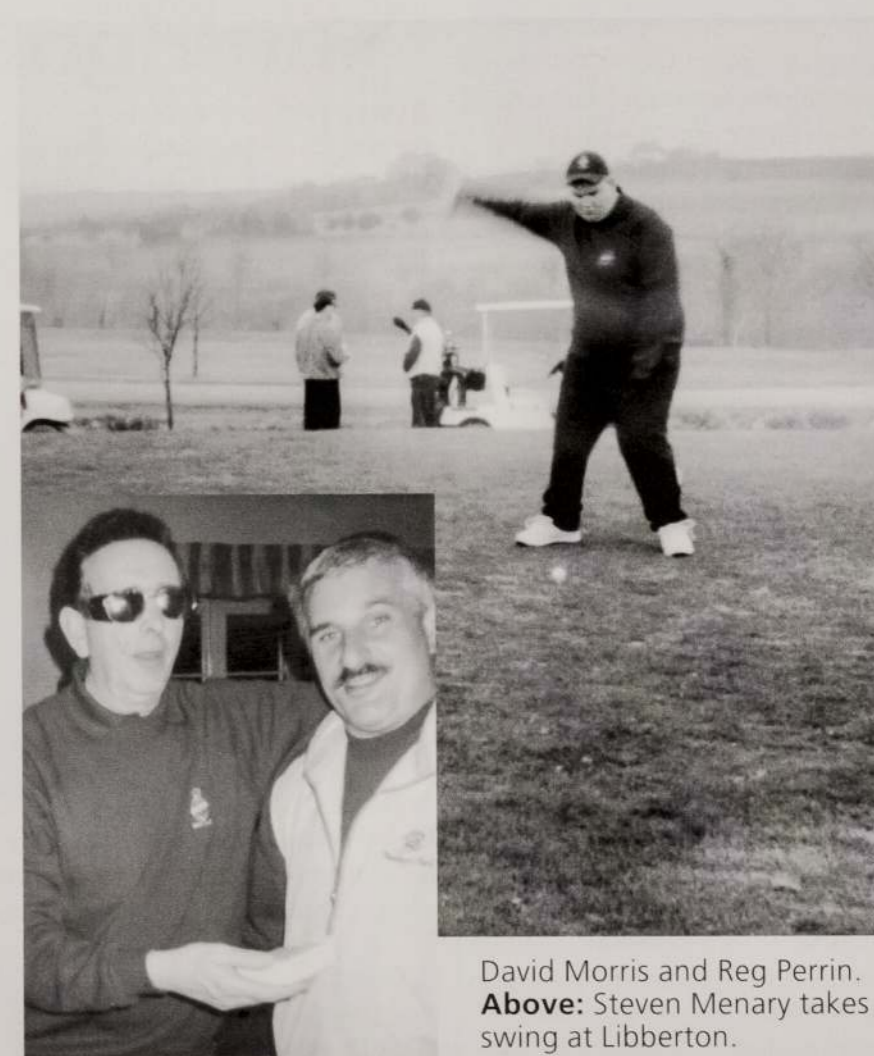


Libberton hold Alan Logan Trophy

THE HOME TEAM won the day during St Dunstan's Golf Club's most recent excursion to Barnstaple, Devon on March 22nd. Libberton Golf Club won back the Alan Logan Trophy (a mounted putter) in a closely contested competition.

As usual, St Dunstan's Golf Club were billeted at the Sergeants' Mess, Royal Marines Barracks Chivenor. "We had a really lovely time," said St Dunstaner John Stevens. "We met some really nice people and our thanks go to everyone who helped organise it. Of course we are looking forward to going back to try and win the Alan Logan Trophy again."

St Dunstan's Golf Club will be back at their usual haunt, Ruser Golf Club on May 17th-18th. Ruser will also be hosting the annual open challenge on June 14th. Full details can be obtained from Golf Club Secretary Mike Tumilson on 024 764 60113.



David Morris and Reg Perrin.
Above: Steven Menary takes a swing at Libberton.

It strikes me ...



with Gog and Magog



Gog catches up with svelte and speedy Steve Sparkes who is sticking to a strict training regime in preparation for the London Marathon. We find that his approach to tuning up for the event is an activity much favoured by St Dunstaners, hoisting a pint or two of amber liquid at the Ovingdean bar. "I find it is good for carbohydrate intake," he says. We know it's what your right arm is for, Steve, but we're not to sure about its effect on one's legs. In the words of Jerry Lewis: "It may have made Milwaukee famous, but look what it did me." You can find out what it did to Steve in our Marathon report on page 14.

Magog hears of a shooting St Dunstaner who had problems finding the target with the acoustic sight. There was no change in pitch. Was this a failure of technology? Apparently not - his escort had neglected to put a target in place.

Blind archers target sighted bowmen

Three St Dunstan's archers, Clive Jones, John Lilley and David Poyner attended the National GNAS (Grand National Archery Society) Indoor Championships at the National Sports Centre, Lilleshall, Shropshire.

They had been encouraged to attend by Graham Harris of Clickers Archery, Norwich, who was sponsoring the event on March 15th-16th. Over the weekend in excess of 600 archers attended. This was the first time that they had ever had visually impaired archers attend.

At the award ceremony they presented GNAS medals to our bowmen. The first went to David who won the compound category, John, who won the recurve category, and Clive, who was second. This means that we now have the first ever medals awarded for visually impaired archers at this national event.

Although we were the only visually impaired archers, more importantly we demonstrated to

the sighted world what we can do; and answered a lot of questions.

A very big thank you must go to Graham Harris. Also to Sue Lilley, Lindsay Poyner and Steve Ellison for spotting for us. Finally to Pam Tonkin, of GNAS, and her team for making us most welcome.

LADY ST DUNSTANER WINS TROPHY

Marjorie Scott became the first Lady St Dunstaner to win the Laurie Austin Trophy during February's Archery Week. The trophy was set up in memory of archery coach Laurie Austin who worked tirelessly to promote archery as a sport for the blind.

TARGET PRAGUE

St Dunstaners Derek Hagger and Nigel Whiteley will be participating in an International Archery Demonstration/Competition under the auspices of the IPC to be held in Prague in July 2003. They will be attending with other members of the British Blind Sports Archery Section.

Reunion Round-Up

St Dunstan's Reunion season continued with the Derby Reunion at the Best Western Midland Hotel, Derby on March 26th. Lieutenant General Sir Maurice Johnston was the Member of St Dunstan's Council presiding at a gathering of 33 St Dunstaners and 13 Widows.

St Dunstan's Chairman Captain Michael Gordon-Lennox presided at the first Brighton Reunion on April 2nd. Ovingdean hosted the occasion for 32 St Dunstaners and eight widows.



Joking in the gym. The Mayor of Brighton, David Watkins meets St Dunstaner Michael Lennon during a workout.

Mayor of Brighton visits Ovingdean



Above: Cecil Green chats with the visiting Mayor in Rehabilitation & Training.



Right: Jack Pryor explains how blindness is no barrier to being a successful bowler.

The Mayor of Brighton David Watkins and Mayoress Sheila Levenson chatted with St Dunstaners during a tour of facilities at Ovingdean on March 19th.

Ten questions on...

"The Olympic Games"

Quizmaster Harry Beevers poses some sporting teasers

- 1) Which Olympic sport, popular with many St Dunstaners, is competed over distances of 30, 50, 70 and 90 metres for men and 30, 50, 60 and 70 metres for women?
- 2) Which will be the last country to enter the arena at the opening ceremony in Athens in 2004?
- 3) Who is said to have fallen out of his chariot when he was the only competitor in the Olympic Games of 67 AD but was still declared the winner?
- 4) The future kings of both Norway and Greece have won Olympic gold medals, in which sport?
- 5) Tessa Sanderson competed in six Olympiads for Britain, in which athletics event did she win gold?
- 6) The current professional world heavyweight boxing champion Lennox Lewis won gold for Canada in Seoul 1988, at what weight?
- 7) Jack Kelly of the USA won gold medals in rowing events in 1920 and 1924, who was his famous daughter?
- 8) Adrian Moorhouse was the last British men's gold medal winner in which sport?
- 9) At 7 feet 5 inches, the tallest competitor in Sydney 2000 was a Chinese player at which sport?
- 10) In the 1908 London Olympics, both the gold and silver medals in the tug-of-war event went to men of which profession?

Answers on page 25.

BLIND COMPLAIN OVER ELECTRONIC PAYMENTS

A new system being introduced to make pension and benefit payments has been attacked for creating difficulties for blind and partially-sighted people collecting their money.

Blind Societies across the country have voiced dismay at plans to do away with payment books and bring in an electronic system which they say will make it almost impossible for people with sight difficulties to withdraw cash from the local Post Offices.

As announced in the April **Review**, people collecting benefits and pensions will be expected to use a swipe card and put a PIN number into an electronic keypad to access money which is currently paid over the counter on production of a payment book. The only other option is to have the money paid into a bank or building society account, which campaigners say will also cause difficulties for those who have to travel to their nearest branch.

The PIN Pad resembles a calculator, with a small display which has little contrast and small keys that are close together. The numbers are laid out like a telephone but there are additional keys. The number five has a small "pip", a nodule at the bottom of the key, in order to locate it, though many people are reported to be unable to feel this distinction.

These problems have been acknowledged by the Post Office. "We accept that the pin pads we

Simon Rogers reports

have installed in branches to enable people to withdraw their pensions, child benefit and other benefits in cash at Post Office branches from April 2003 are not suitable for all our customers and realise the concern this has caused them," said a spokesman.

"We are going to address these concerns and will be working with all interested parties to make improvements. In particular we are committed to three things to meet the needs of our customers."

They outline a three-point plan to improve current pin pads by fitting a guide over the buttons to help customers, developing the technology to provide a secure alternative to pin pads for people with disabilities, and a training scheme for Sub-Postmasters and Post Office staff to help them help customers.

"Every customer is important to us and we want to make this service as accessible as is reasonably possible so that we can successfully introduce a modern and secure way of banking and collecting benefits and pensions at Post Office branches. We will

work with other interested groups as appropriate to achieve this."

The Post Office added that it would be working with the Royal National Institute of the Blind to make improvements. However, prior to the introduction of the system, the RNIB had gone on record saying that their comments on the lack of accessibility had been ignored from the outset.

"RNIB's Sensory Design Services made recommendations about the PIN pad design in its early stages. These recommendations were ignored. Consignia's Disability Policy says that it should consult disabled people in development of this type of project. As far as we are aware only two visually impaired people were involved in this project. RNIB is also represented on Post Watch which has highlighted problems with the design," they say on their website.

The RNIB adds "If you do not think you can use the new PIN pad in order to collect your pension, the RNIB advises you not to change the way you collect your benefits." They say they have been assured that individuals are able to continue using their existing method of claiming benefits at least until the end of 2004. "Refusing to change to an account will send a clear message to the Post Office and the Department for Work and Pensions that the new system is not acceptable to many people."

Golden days in Brighton

MEMBERS OF ST DUNSTAN'S Brighton Club celebrated 50 years of fun and frolics on April 9th.

Back in 1953, the club's members decided to meet weekly in the Winter Garden to play bar games and socialise. Bowls were played by having a caller standing behind the jack and clapping! They also enjoyed outings such as trips to the Derby. The founder and first Chairman of the Brighton Club was First War St Dunstaner Frank Rhodes. Joe Walsh (Joan Osborne's father) was Vice Chairman and Bob Osborne, her husband, a founder member.

Other area groups, such as the London Club, have long since packed up their dominoes, but the Brighton Club marches on! There are currently around 40 members, some of whom gathered in the Winter Garden to mark the occasion with a duck dinner and special cake iced with St Dunstan's crest.



Bob and Joan Osborne do the honours cutting the celebratory cake which carries St Dunstan's familiar crest.

Below: Theo Giles recalls fun times with the Brighton Club.



A day to remember! Chief Executive Robert Leader with Joy Walters and St Dunstaner Peter Surrige.



IF YOU CAN DREAM IT, DO IT!

Ten runners fly the flag for St Dunstan's as they redefine themselves while tenaciously treading the streets of London in the annual marathon challenge. Simon Rogers tries to keep up the pace



St Dunstan's Marathon Team at the Red Start, just a few seconds off the Greenwich Meridian. Behind them is the lower half of Greenwich Park, the Queen's House, National Maritime Museum, Royal Naval College, and on the far right, Greenwich Power station and the Millennium Dome. Over the Thames, Canary Wharf and two new skyscrapers dominate the horizon. Left to right, our team consists of Andy Mullins, St Dunstaner Steve Sparkes, Lyn Mullins, Maria Bullingham, St Dunstaner Iain Millard, Amy Hardner and Louise Timms. **Inset Left:** Brenda Boyle proudly displays her medal after completing the full 26 mile course. **Inset right:** Ian Taylor catches the sun as he speeds along Westferry Road in London Docklands.

GOING THE DISTANCE - MILE BY MILE

I'VE STARTED, so I'll finish," said a wiseman. It was advice that two St Dunstaners and eight sighted runners took to heart when they competed in the 2003 London Marathon. St Dunstaner Iain Millard managed to achieve a personal best while Steve Sparkes did the Royal Marines proud on his

first run. A handful of staff and supporters also hit the London streets with their own blend of determination. Some 33,000 runners take part and there are three starts in South East London. Our St Dunstaners started from the Red Start in Greenwich Park, a few hundred yards from the Royal

Observatory and the copper strip that marks the Greenwich Meridian. There was a slight chill to the morning, with grey overcast sky, though this quickly burnt off under a pleasantly warm sun. The vast crowds mean that it takes St Dunstan's team 20 minutes to cross the starting line. Leaving Greenwich Park behind, our runners head out along the edge of Blackheath Common through Vanbrugh Park named after one of the architects who followed Sir Christopher Wren on the Royal Naval College. By Mile 3 they pass the Woolwich Royal Artillery Barracks which has the longest Georgian facade in Britain.

The next couple of miles take them by the Woolwich Ferry and the Thames Barrier, which is intended to protect the Capital against flood. To the left is Maryon Park, where cult Sixties movie *Blow Up!* was filmed, and The Valley, home of Charlton FC. The road back into Greenwich leads past The Queen's House, designed by Inigo Jones and on the opposite side of the road is the Royal Naval College.

Half a mile later, running like the clappers by the former HMS *Dreadnought* Hospital, the *Cutty Sark* dominates the landscape. This dry-docked tea clipper, built in 1869, held the record for the fastest loaded voyage from Australia to London. To the right is the Gypsy Moth in which Robin Knox-Johnson became the first man to sail round the world solo. This point forms a bit of a bottleneck and Sparky spends a moment running on the spot before the path ahead clears.

The next stretch Creek Road is where Sir Walter Raleigh is said to

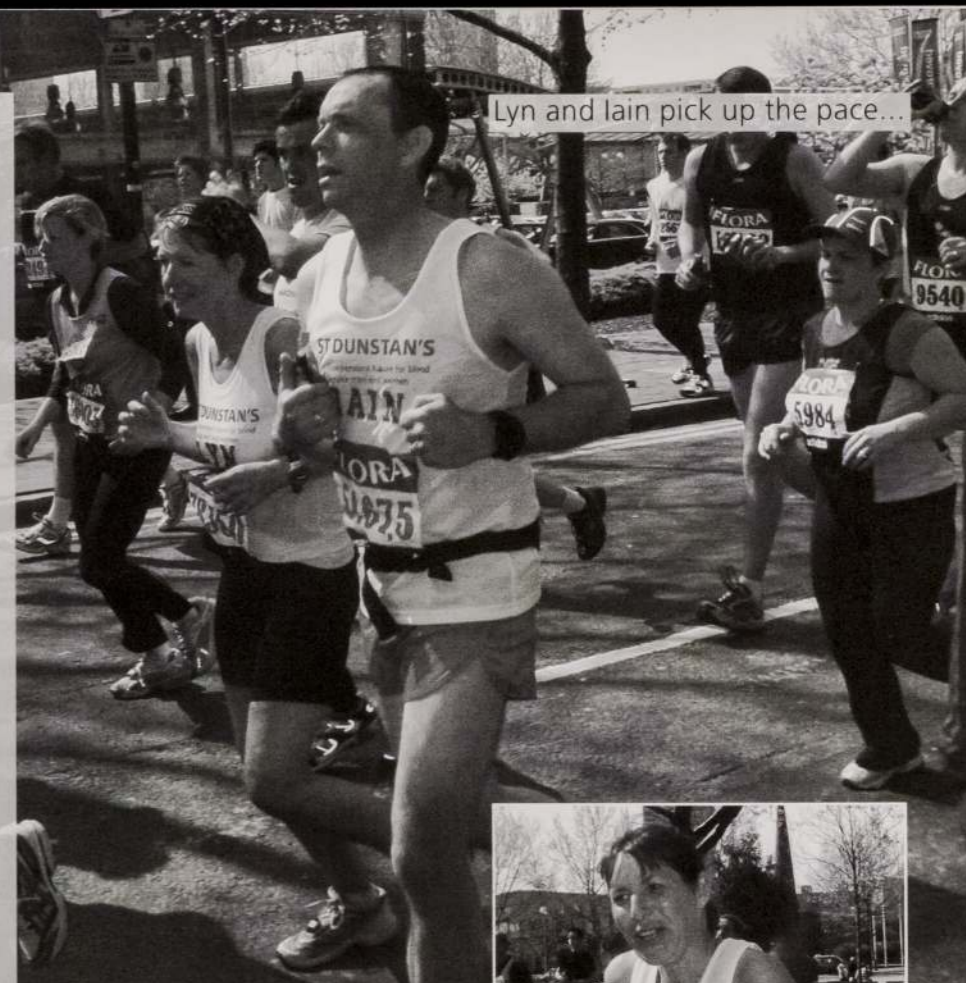
have gallantly lain his cloak down for Queen Elizabeth I and where Kit Marlowe was stabbed to death in a tavern brawl.

By Mile 8.5, the runners reach Surrey Docks, the only dock complex built south of the Thames. The first dock was built in the 1700s, expanding between 1807 and 1926, though only two survived 1970s redevelopment. Another two miles and the route goes by the Mayflower Pub. It was here that the Pilgrim Fathers assembled to set sail for America. (They moved the ship to Plymouth to avoid mooring dues).

As the runners approach Tower Bridge, they pass by Butlers Wharf, a warehouse conversion that now sports apartments and business units. Tower Bridge itself was built in 1894 and the original machinery is still used to raise the drawbridge.

Over the Bridge, the route turns east by St George-in-the-East (built as a result of the 1711 Coal Tax and designed by Hawksmoor). The halfway point falls along this part of the course. Hawksmoor's influence can be found at Mile 14 as the route goes by St Anne's Church.

At Mile 16 the runners hit the Isle of Dogs, going past the base of Britain's tallest building, the 800ft tower One Canada Square which is now flanked by two new towers. The complex is home to much of Britain's press and numerous other businesses. Mudchute City Farm follows, though the route dips back into Canary Wharf. The Limehouse Link takes the runners back to the Highway and onto St Katharine's Dock. The cobblestoned paths of Tower of London mark 22.5 miles of running and entry into the City of London. They pass the old Billingsgate Market, no longer a fish market but still retaining three feet of permafrost created by several



Lyn and Iain pick up the pace...



Maria Bullingham pushes herself to the limit.

centuries of cold storage. The run up the Embankment draws large crowds as usual and Mile 24 is marked by Cleopatra's Needle, one of a pair from Egypt.

Parliament Square and Big Ben make a definite sign that the race is soon to end. There is less than a mile to go as the runners turn left and up towards Buckingham Palace. The final stretch brings them triumphantly down The Mall.

Sparky finishes in 4 hours and 51 minutes, while Iain has taken 13 minutes off last year's time at 4 hours and 56 minutes.

Official times

Andrew Mullins	03:56:29
Paul Holloway	04:35:44
Ian Taylor	04:48:59
Steve Sparkes	04:50:59
Lyn Mullins	04:56:58
Iain Millard	04:56:59
Amy Hardner	05:37:36
Maria Bullingham	05:37:36
Louise Timms	05:55:20
Brenda Boyle	06:04:13



Amy Hardner runs to a victorious finish in The Mall.



Main picture: A triumphant Steve Sparkes completes his first London marathon in 4 hours and 51 minutes.

Below: Sports Supervisor Louise Timms overcomes a knee-injury as she finishes.



THE BEST OF BOWLING



St Dunstaner John Perfect feels for the guide cord to confirm his position before rolling his wood up the green.

DESPITE SEVERAL MEMBERS having to cancel through illness, we still had 29 bowlers participating and we were pleased to greet three new members, namely Peter Hammond, Alan Jakeman and John Sullivan. We also welcomed the return of Colwyn Lloyd (otherwise known as the "chef") and his wife Mary.

The first week went smoothly, but unfortunately, the second week was marred by sadness and illness for four members. All the club send their warmest wishes for their speedy recovery.

I make no apology for once again thanking all the people who supported and helped us during the tournament. I must say thank you to Joan for the way she

conducted the organisation of the whole tournament. Needless to say the bowlers appreciated this very much.

Thanks also go to our old friends Reg and Vi Bradford, Lilly and Brian James, Jackie Pryor, Iain Millard and Frank Smith for their tireless work in helping on the green. Thanks lads! Jack Pryor and Frank Smith were on all day.

Thanks to the "Tea ladies" under the direction of Marjorie Mills and the staff of Ovingdean – another big thank you.

It just remains for me to say I am looking forward to meeting you all again in October.

Bob Osborne,
Chairman



Three is a lucky number! Alan Jakeman, Marjorie Scott and Jesse Mills celebrate winning the triples.



St Dunstaners Peter Hammond and Mansell Lewis accept their medals with some help from Marjorie Mills.



Peggy West steps up to the mat for her shot.



Away she rolls! St Dunstaner Jack Pryor gets a good green during the Bowling Tournament.

BOWLING RESULTS Triples

Winners: Alan Jakeman, Marjorie Scott and Jesse Mills
Runners-up: Reg Packman, Bert Brantingham and Peter Hammond

Pairs

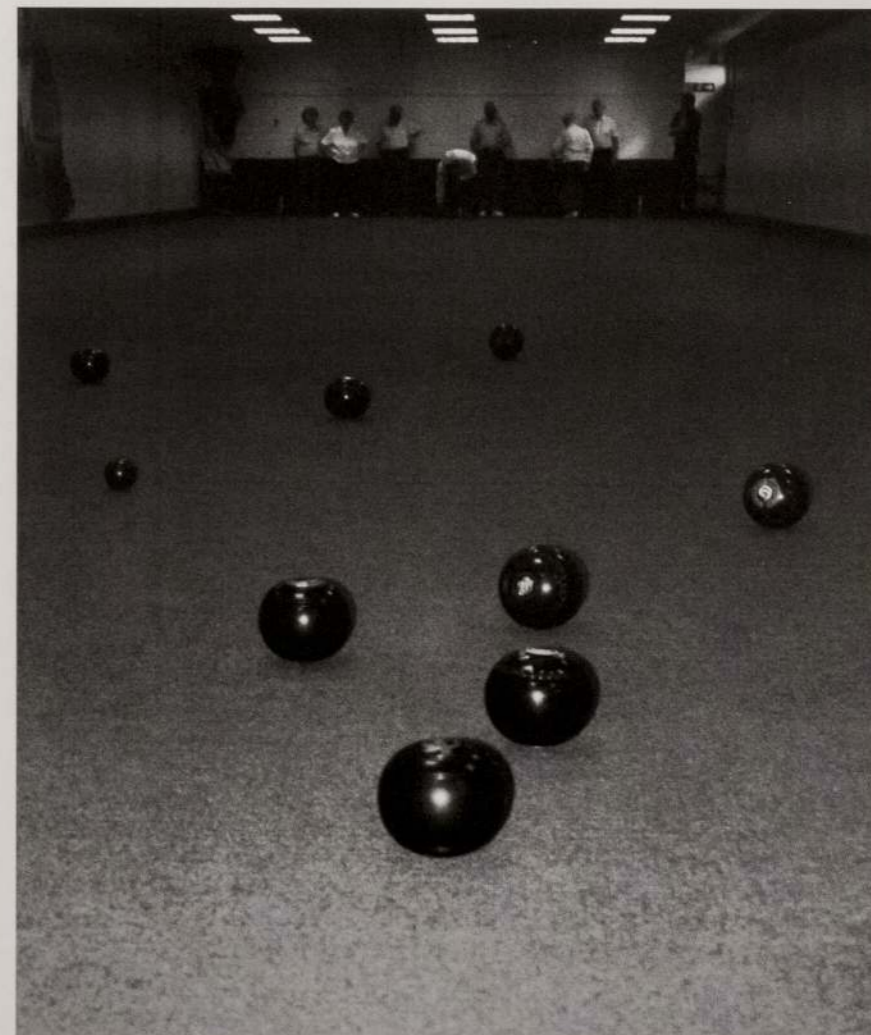
Winners: Jack Pryor and Phil Dobson,
Runners-up: Mansell Lewis and Peter Hammond

Singles

Totally Blind
Winner: Bob Osborne
Runner-up: Peggy West.

Partially Sighted
Winner: Iain Millard
Runner-up: Sid Wisdom

The tension mounts during the semi-finals of the Spring Bowling Tournament at St Dunstan's Ovingdean.



Mayor of Spennymoor takes steps in the dark

MR DAVID NEWELL, the Mayor of Spennymoor in County Durham is a plucky chap and a good friend of St Dunstan's. On two occasions he has put on a blindfold for a week in order to try and experience some of the problems of the blind and to bring to public awareness the difficulties they have to contend with.

This year he decided that St Dunstan's should be one of the two beneficiaries at this year's charity appeal at the Civic Ball. At his invitation two of our representatives attended the ball to speak to David about his "ordeals" and to thank him formally for his decision to help our organisation.

On April 4th, Joan and I set off to Spennymoor, a small town in the Sedgfield, constituency of Tony Blair. Our object was to meet the Mayor, David Newell who had nominated St Dunstan's as one of his designated charities.

I am a great believer in forward planning and having worked out the arrangements to the Nth degree, nothing could go wrong! We were up at the crack of dawn as it is my philosophy that when you are travelling by train and you have connections to make it is advisable to start off on the train before the one that would get you there on time, or preferably even earlier. Our drive to the station was cancelled at the last moment as our son had an important meeting at work which he couldn't miss, so it was Shanks'

Harry Beevers reports

pony for stage one. Fortunately the train from Castleford was on time and we had an hour to kill in Leeds but there could be no problem on train number two as we had booked in advance and our seats were reserved. However, when we entered our compartment it was very crowded and occupied by an extremely rowdy Rugby Union team and its supporters travelling to Newcastle for a match the following day. Our reserved seats were occupied by a bulky prop forward, fast asleep and the official reserved notice had been removed from its slot and tossed on the floor.

Some swift action was called for, and whilst I was thinking about it, Joan went in low with a hard tackle. A quick poke in the ribs brought the usurper back into the land of the living and a flash of a metaphorical yellow card sent him trudging away back to his own reserved seat.

He went grudgingly amid cheers from his companions and I pondered as to whether I should intervene at this point. After due consideration I decided against it for three reasons. (a) Joan said he was much bigger than me, (b) Once he had walked away I would have had trouble locating him and (c) my military training had taught me that when your opponent has superior reinforcements, then discretion is often the better part of valour. So I let him off.

The rest of our Durham adventure did go without a hitch. After the slight altercation I slept soundly for the remainder of the journey. After being whisked away to our HQ to change into our party gear, we finally arrived at Spennymoor Leisure Centre to meet David Newell, the Mayoress and the other 300-plus guests, the vast majority of whom appeared to be wearing chains of office. David did, in fact, refer to them as his "Chain Gang" in his "State of the Union" address in which he welcomed our presence there and said a little about the work of St Dunstan's. There followed an excellent meal and we found ourselves at table with Charlie and Doreen (the Chairman of Durham County Council and his wife), The Mayor and Mayoress of Newton Aycliffe and the Vicar of Ferryhill and his wife. I noticed that I had been strategically placed next to the vicar's wife and I wondered later whether this was significant in some way and was intended to keep me in order but when I discovered she had been brought up only seven miles from Castleford and was an ardent cricket fan we had plenty to talk about.

After the meal, David and I got together to talk about his blindfold experiences although this was not easy with a 200-decibel band playing at the time. He is a young, quietly spoken man and though he told me that he had no family contacts with St Dunstan's, his grandfather had served in the army in World War II and many of his friends were or had been in the

forces. He said that he had visited Ovingdean and what he had seen there had inspired him to do what he did. In his words, he found his two blindfold experiences terrifying! He lived mainly on sandwiches as he had difficulty locating his food on the plate with knife and fork. When the blindfold was finally removed, by someone named Tony Blair, it was a great relief to him.

I thanked him on behalf of all St Dunstaners for his bravery and his generosity to our cause.

Our visit was not quite over, on the Saturday morning we were

taken for a tour of the beautiful city of Durham by Mr Michael Henderson, the Mayoral Secretary. All the preliminary arrangements for our outing had been made by Michael and his staff and the final icing on the cake was that he turned out to be a fan of Castleford Tigers, our local RL club which I have been supporting for over 60 years. It was homeward bound by early afternoon, (we decided to leave before the RU team made their return journey although I'm sure Joan would have dealt with any further trouble, she may have used her yellow card but she still had her red one!

Keep the box open to all

The RNIB is still seeking support for its 'Get the Picture' Campaign to ensure the inclusion of audio description and other accessibility features in digital television and radio systems. They are encouraging MPs to sign amendments to the Communications Bill which is currently moving through Parliament and was passed to the House of Lords in March. At time of publication, it was due to be discussed in a Lords' committee on April 29th.

The Communications Bill will give effect to the Government's proposals for the reform of the regulatory framework for the communications sector. The introduction of digital technologies holds the potential for increased audio-description facilities, but few manufacturers have taken the initiative to include appropriate features into set-top boxes, television sets or digital radios. It is hoped that the House of Lords will make amendments to the Bill to make this a requirement.

The RNIB is encouraging people to continue lobbying their MPs and contact their local press. They are concerned that when the Communications Bill returns to the Commons there will be an attempt to overturn any amendments the Lords make. They suggest writing to your MP to sign Early Day Motion 727 "Disabled People and the Communications Bill".

For more information telephone 020 7391 2123 or e-mail campaign@rnib.org.uk. There's also more information on their website <http://www.rnib.org.uk/campaign/welcome.htm>

The RNIB is also working with Sky to encourage the BBC and ITV to audio describe the programmes that are broadcast on their service. Sky users who would like to watch audio described BBC and ITV programmes are encouraged to contact the RNIB

BALANCING THE BOOKS

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

A Careless Widow and other stories

Author: V.S. Pritchett
Readers: Robin Browne & Frances Jester
Duration: 4 Hours, 40 minutes.
Catalogue Number: 8263

THIS LITTLE BOOK is "proof", says the blurb in the catalogue, "that one of the great masters of the short story is still at the height of his powers". Well everyone is entitled to his or her opinion I suppose!

However, all it proved to me is that life is frequently punctuated by irritating disappointments. It's not that each story doesn't begin well enough because they do, there's no denying that; and it's also obvious that the author has a certain way with words. But sadly, in most cases, just at the point when you are really intrigued and want to find out what comes next, the tale merely peters out and leaves you in an unsatisfied limbo.

It's like discovering the last page of a detective novel is missing, or, after listening to a complicated or long-winded "joke" you find the teller has forgotten the punchline. If you know how that feels you will understand the effect this book has had on me.

Not only are such things very annoying, but when you expect a kind of fulfilment but end up with nothing at all, it's also natural that such frustration should leave you wishing you had never started.

European Year of People with Disabilities initiatives from Government

Westminster welcomes EYPD2003

The Government have announced several initiatives under the auspices of the European Year of People with Disabilities (EYPD 2003).

CIVIL RIGHTS IMPROVEMENT FOR BLIND AND PARTIALLY SIGHTED

Blind and partially sighted people will find it easier to gain protection against discrimination as a result of secondary legislation laid before parliament in March according to the Department of Work and Pensions.

The Regulations - which came into force on April 14th - will make clear that people who are certified as blind or partially sighted will be deemed as disabled for the purposes of the Disability Discrimination Act (DDA).

Minister for Disabled People, Maria Eagle said: "In the past blind or partially sighted people have had difficulty proving that they meet the DDA's definition of disability in a tribunal or County Court. Clarifying the existing legislation will strengthen the ability of blind and partially sighted people to tackle discrimination.

"The Regulations will help make it clear that discriminating against people with a visual impairment is not acceptable."

The Regulations have been warmly welcomed by the Disability Rights Commission, RNIB, and the Royal College of Ophthalmologists.

"CREATE ENVIRONMENTS ACCESSIBLE FOR ALL"

The built environment should be accessible to all, according to a new good practice guide launched by Planning Minister Tony McNulty. The guide shows how the planning system can help bring about accessible environments in which nobody is disadvantaged. These not only benefit disabled people, they also help elderly people, parents with young children in pushchairs and people with heavy shopping.

Creating such environments is not only a socially responsible thing to do - it also makes financial sense

for developers, by enabling better access for more people, says the guide.

"Everyone has the right to easy access to buildings, whether at home or at work, doing the weekly shop or going to the cinema," said Tony McNulty. "I want to see the planning system breaking down unnecessary physical barriers and exclusions imposed on people by poor design of buildings and places.

"Too often the needs of disabled people are considered late in the day and separately from the needs of others. We want to change that. We want the needs of disabled people properly considered as an integral part of the development process."

Planning and Access for Disabled People: A Good Practice Guide is a practical example of support for The European Year of The Disabled says the Government.

DRAFT BILL ANNOUNCEMENT GIVES EYPD A FLYING START

Work and Pensions Secretary Andrew Smith has announced the Government's intention to publish a draft disability Bill later this year.

Speaking on the day of the launch of European Year of Disabled People 2003, he said: "Building on the real progress we have already made, and in line with our Manifesto commitment, this draft Bill will significantly advance the rights and opportunities of disabled people up and down the country. Publishing a draft Bill will enable full examination of its provisions before its Parliamentary passage begins.

"Among new measures we intend to include in the draft Bill are changes to the Disability Discrimination Act affecting the public sector, transport and premises and some widening of the definition of disability. We will also seek to cover membership of larger private clubs. Together with the establishment of the Disability Rights Commission and the implementation of the Disability Discrimination Act, this represents the biggest extension of rights for disabled people ever seen in this country."



ST DUNSTAN'S Council

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



Lieutenant General Sir Maurice Johnston, KCB, OBE

I WAS BORN in India, where my father was soldiering. My prep school in Sussex was flattened in the Blitz, so in late 1940 I went to India via the Cape (on my own, but presumably with a label round my neck), and attended Princes' College in Lahore, before returning in the spring of 1943 to go to Wellington College.

Always destined to become a soldier, I became Private Johnston in the Wiltshire Regiment, joining at Le Marchant Barracks, Devizes (by sheer coincidence not four miles from where I have lived for the past 26 years). I then went to Sandhurst in 1947 where I won the King's Medal as top cadet. Initially a Gunner, I transferred to The Queen's Bays in 1954, serving in BAOR, Jordan, Libya, Ulster and

Borneo. I commanded my Regiment in 1971, by then amalgamated with The King's Dragoon Guards and called 1st The Queen's Dragoon Guards, followed by command of an Armoured Brigade in BAOR.

I was trained at the Army Staff College, where I was also a member of the Directing Staff for three years, and at the Royal College of Defence Studies. My staff jobs included Military Assistant to the Chief of the General Staff, Assistant Chief of the General Staff dealing with operational requirements, and finally as Deputy Chief of the Defence Staff. It was in this last job that I came into frequent contact with the then First Sea Lord (and on occasions crossed swords with him) and hence being asked by Sir

Henry Leach to join St Dunstan's Council in 1984.

I had several subsequent careers, in merchant banking, manned security, private prisons and waste recycling, and involvement in charity work. It was the latter, no doubt, that led me to being appointed first High Sheriff of Wiltshire and then Lord-Lieutenant. This is a full time role, and I have reached the stage that I am quite looking forward to my 75th birthday when Her Majesty says that I am too geriatric to continue to represent her in my County!

As a young man I ran (fast), jumped, played rugby and hockey, rode all manner of horseflesh, and I still fish and shoot. Best of all I married a lovely girl over 40 years ago, and we have two happily married children and five grandchildren.



William van Straubenzee

WILLIAM'S ANCESTOR Philip William Casimir van Straubenzee came across from Holland in 1745 as acting Captain in the Foot Guards of the Nederland Regiment, and married a Yorkshire girl in March of that year. Between that date and 1978 a member of the van Straubenzee family has been represented in the British Army almost continuously culminating in William's brother, Alexander who won the Sword of Honour at the Royal Military Academy of Sandhurst before

joining the First Battalion of the Royal Greenjackets. William's father, Lieutenant Colonel H.H. van Straubenzee, DSO, OBE, who died in April of this year, commanded five regiments in an illustrious military career that lasted from 1934-1956. William was born in July 1952 and after his education at Aysgarth and Harrow Schools and Oxford University, he joined a firm of Shipbrokers (Davies & Newman)

where he remained until 1979. Joining Morgan Grenfell, the merchant bank and Accepting House, he spent several years as an analyst, private client fund manager and international equity specialist. Latterly he moved to the UK Pension Fund department, managing a range of portfolios for UK companies and charities, and became a director of Morgan Grenfell Investment Management.

In early 1990, at the age of 38, he decided that he needed a career

change. Sensing that a niche existed in the management of private client portfolios, he joined a fledgling private asset management group called J O Hambro Investment Management, which had been set up some years before by an old school friend with the backing of part of the Hambro family.

With the help of a healthy market, hard work and an element of luck the group grew from eight individuals (when he joined) to 55

by 2001 and some £1.5 billion of assets under management. In 2001 the company was sold to Credit Suisse Private Bank, but remains a separate unit within the larger group, with William continuing to look after a broad range of predominately UK based clients.

William is single and lives in London. He enjoys a large variety of essentially outdoor activities (many energetic!) and spends as much time in the countryside as possible where he rents a house.

Welcome to **ST DUNSTAN'S**

March 14th

Thomas Adams of Hampton, Middlesex served in the Royal Artillery from 1939 to 1946. He served in the UK, Italy and Greece and ended the war as a Lieutenant. Before the war he trained as a chartered surveyor and continued with this after the war before turning to property management. His interests include bridge and masonics. He and his wife have a son.

Margaret Cole of Bishops Lydeard, Somerset served in the Womens Royal Naval Service as a Leading Wren from 1941 to 1946. She was stationed in the UK, North Africa and Italy. In civilian life, she was a general clerk for a confectionery firm in Bromsgrove.

Harold Hale of Brighton served as an Able Seaman in the Royal Navy from 1940 to 1945 in the UK, Middle East and Europe. He was involved with landing craft in Sicily and Italy, before being drafted back to the UK and taught mine disposal. At the end of the war he worked at Brighton General Hospital and at the Sussex County Hospital as a Ward Orderly. He also worked as a painter and in an Army Surplus store. He has one daughter, four granddaughters and eight great-granddaughters.

James Hothersall of Preston, Lancashire served with the Royal Marines from 1947 to 1949. He was invalided out of the marines as a result of a training exercise accident in Palestine when a stray mortar bomb damaged his ears, nose and eyes. In civilian life he worked in the printing trade.

Marcia McGillivray of Midhurst, West Sussex served with the Royal Air Force as a Radar Operator from 1942 to 1946. She had applied to join the VAD, but became frustrated with the waiting and joined the Royal Air Force instead. After the war she completed her nursing training at Middlesex and did midwifery training in Edinburgh before joining the Colonial Nursing Service. She went out to Northern Rhodesia and worked in a hospital and a leprosy facility in Barotseland. She met and married her husband and then moved back to Ireland for some years before returning to Southern Rhodesia where she continued her nursing before moving to South Africa. She has a daughter and two sons.

Wilfred Peerless of St Leonards-on-Sea, East Sussex served in the Royal Army Service Corps from 1940 to 1946. He took part in the liberation of Europe before spending 18 months in the Middle East. Before the war he worked in a bakery firm as a delivery driver. After leaving the service, he worked at Fords Dagenham and then in Walthamstow. He later became a technician at Walthamstow College. He has a daughter.

March 28th

Denis Carey of Bristol served with the Royal Artillery from 1939 to 1946. He served in the UK and then in Norway where he was wounded in the legs, thereafter he served in Egypt, Greece and Crete and was demobilised as a Corporal. Before the war

he was a painter and decorator, an occupation he resumed with the Bristol Corporation. He then worked briefly with his daughter in a car accessory business before retirement. His hobbies in the past were repairing wood clock cases and coarse river fishing. He has a son and daughter.

Evelyn Duggan of Grayshott, Hindhead, Surrey served with the Women's Royal Naval Service from 1941 to 1946 and was demobilised as a Petty Officer. Originally a St Christopher's trained Nursery Nurse, she was involved with Royal Naval families in the south of England. Later, she returned to being a Nursery Nurse, and ran her own Nursery School and Kindergarten. She used to enjoy embroidery, but now finds that knitting, TV, radio and the local talking newspaper help her to pass the time.

Douglas Heath of Chellaston, Derby served with the Royal Air Force Coastal Command from 1940 to 1946. He was stationed in Canada, USA, UK, Africa, Egypt and the Mediterranean area and demobilised as a Warrant Officer. Before the war he was an apprentice engineer in the Nottinghamshire area, and resumed this career on return to civilian life. He used to enjoy football, cricket and messing around with and repairing motor car engines.

Leonard Hubbard of Hastings, East Sussex served in the Royal Air Force from 1940 to 1943 and was demobilised as a Sergeant.

David Hutchinson of Ifield, Crawley, Sussex served with the Royal Air Force from 1952 to 1972. He served as a Corporal in Gibraltar, Borneo, Singapore and North Africa. Before joining the RAF, he worked as a projectionist at the Bedwas Miners Trust Cinema. On leaving the forces he worked in the motor trade. He and his wife have two children and three grandchildren.

Major Harry Rawkins of Renhold, Bedfordshire served with the Bedfordshire & Hertfordshire Regiment from 1941 to 1968. He served in the Shetland and the Orkney Islands, before joining 3rd Infantry Division with the East Yorkshire Regiment. After the war, he served in BAOR, Singapore and Kenya. He joined the Army Physical Training Corps until he retired in 1968. His interests include rugby and cricket. He has two daughters.

Robert Taylor of Loughborough, Leicestershire served with the Royal Air Force as a Leading Aircraftman from 1940 to 1946. His task was

airframe maintenance and he worked on Halifax and Lancaster bombers. At one posting in Linton-on-Ouse he was responsible for Pilot Officer Leonard Cheshire's plane. Before the war, he was an apprentice joiner, at the end of the war he joined Loughborough University as a Building Superintendent. He and his wife have a daughter, two grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

Leslie Wood of Tuffley, Gloucester joined the Royal Navy as an Engineering Artificer in 1939. He served on board HMS *Orion* at the evacuation of Greece and Crete and later the battle of Matapan. He also served on board HMS *Richmond* and HMS *Meteor* looking after the Russian convoys. He was a Chief Petty Officer when demobbed in 1947. In civilian life he worked in engineering. He and his wife Kathleen have three daughters, six grandchildren, and two great-grandchildren.

50 YEARS AGO

St Dunstan's Chairman Sir Ian Fraser mused on the impact that a reader had on Talking Books. "The reader should not impress his or her personality too strongly upon the listener, because what was wanted was the author's work and the personality of the character rather than the individuality of the reader," he wrote. "The reader must not come between us and the book."

Ten answers on...

Answers from page 11.

- 1) Archery; 2) Greece; 3) Emperor Nero;
- 4) Yachting or Sailing; 5) Javelin;
- 6) Super Heavyweight; 7) Princess Grace of Monaco, (Grace Kelly); 8) Swimming;
- 9) Basketball; 10) Policemen.

FAMILY NEWS

BIRTHS

Congratulations on the birth of:

Harry on March 18th. He is the great-grandson of *Seth Bennett* of Wyke, Bradford.

George William Brewin on April 8th. He is the son of *Mark and Suzanne Brewin* of Flintshire, Clwydd.

RUBY ANNIVERSARIES

Congratulations to:

Harold and Maureen Lane of Birmingham, West Midlands on April 15th.

GOLDEN ANNIVERSARIES

Congratulations to:

Noel and Ingeborg Fitzgerald of Sutton on Hull, East Yorkshire on April 16th.

DIAMOND ANNIVERSARIES

Congratulations to:

Trevor and Joan Phillips of Paignton, Devon on March 20th.

Leslie and Doreen Thompson of Puerto de la Cruz, Tenerife on March 22nd.

John and Irene McDermott of Urmston, Greater Manchester on April 3rd.

Charles and Gladys Pay of Maidstone, Kent on April 17th.

SPECIAL ANNIVERSARIES

Congratulations to:

Spike and Vera Mays of Steeple Bumpstead, Suffolk who celebrated 67 years of marriage on March 30th.

Arthur and Mabel Porter of Bognor Regis, West Sussex who celebrated 61 years of marriage on April 4th.

Ted and Iris Miller of Leamington Spa, Warwickshire who celebrated 63 years of marriage on April 7th.

Howard and Joyce Edgar of Carlisle, Cumbria who celebrated 64 years of marriage on April 8th.

Clarence and Viola Payne of Northfield, Birmingham, West Midlands who celebrated 70 years of marriage on April 15th.

Hildegard and Sydney Spring of Amersham, Buckinghamshire who celebrated 63 years of marriage on April 16th.

Roy and Myra Edgar of Winchester, Hampshire who celebrated 62 years of marriage on April 19th.

DEATHS

We regret to announce the death of:

Jean Packman on March 23rd. She was the wife of *Reg Packman* of Hailsham, East Sussex.

Betty Fricker of Staple Hill, Bristol on March 13th. She was the widow of *Kenneth Fricker*.

Florence Kirkham of Birkenhead on March 20th. She was the widow of *Sydney Kirkham*.

Mary Tasker of Easingwold, North Yorkshire on March 23rd. She was the widow of *Thomas Tasker*.

Joan Wood of Hove, East Sussex on April 8th. For many years she cared for late St Dunstaner *Charles Campkin*.

Our sympathy goes to their friends and family.

IN MEMORY

James Scholes

8th Field Company,
Royal New Zealand Engineers

James Mooreshead Scholes of Christchurch, New Zealand died on December 18th 2002, aged 88 years. He had been a St Dunstaner since 1943. He had joined the New Zealand Army prior to the outbreak of World War II and was subsequently sent to North Africa with 8th Field Company, Royal New Zealand Engineers. Deployed on a mine clearing operation, he received extensive shrapnel wounds when a colleague stepped on a mine. After retraining at St Dunstan's in Auckland, New Zealand, he became a piano tuner and repairer and cultivated a reputation for fixing reed organs and harpsichords. For many years he was President and Vice-President of St Dunstan's New Zealand as well as their South Island representative. Our sympathy goes to his son Geoffrey, daughter Brenda and all of the family.

Wilfred Robins

Fleet Air Arm

Wilfred Robins of Fairford, Gloucestershire died on March 5th, aged 68. He served in the Fleet Air Arm from 1952 to 1959. Having trained as an aircraft technician, he was deployed in Northern Ireland, Wales and Scotland, maintaining Scimitar and Vampire aircraft. In civilian life he worked in engineering. He enjoyed carpentry, gardening and clock making.

Josephine Symonds

Women's Auxiliary Air Force

Josephine Cherry Symonds of East Grinstead, West Sussex died on March 19th, aged 82. Known as Cherry Pring, she served in the Women's Auxiliary Air Force between 1942 and 1946, driving everything from a car to three-ton lorries. She joined the 605 Intruder Squadron, moving from airfield to airfield every two months. Much of her driving was done at night. After the war she sold radios and light fittings, then trained as a telephonist and joined the GPO. She enjoyed artistic interests including painting, dressmaking, flower club and classical music.

Stanley Bird

Royal Army Service Corps

Stanley Quinton Bird of Great Yarmouth, Norfolk died on March 25th, aged 85. He served in the Royal Army Service Corps as a Private from 1940 to 1946. Captured at Tobruk in 1942, he was held as a Prisoner of War in Italy and Austria. In civilian life, he was a basket maker, specialising in industrial baskets, often for the fishing trade. Our sympathy goes to his sons and all other members of the family.

Marcus Graham

Royal Naval Volunteer Reserve

William Marcus Graham of Esher, Surrey died on March 20th, aged 85. He had been a St Dunstaner since 1994. As a 19-year-old, he joined the Royal Naval Volunteer Reserve, Mersey Division and was embodied into the Royal Navy in 1939. His initial posting was on the Black Swan class sloop HMS *Stork*. He survived the sinking of his next ship during the evacuation from Narvik. After being re-kitted, he was posted to HMS *Prince of Wales* as a Watchkeeping Officer. He was on the bridge when it received a direct hit from the *Bismark*. Apart from the Captain, J.C. Leach, he was the only survivor. He remained on the ship until it was sunk in Malayan waters in December 1941. On return to the UK, he completed a Gunnery Course at HMS *Excellent* before being posted to HMS *Isis* which was sunk off the Normandy coast during Atlantic Convoy duties. His final posting was to HMS *Cumberland*. In civilian life, he worked for a shipping company in the UK, Trinidad and Southern Africa. As a young man he was a keen rugby player. Our sympathy goes to his widow Katharine, their sons and all of the family.

George Davey

Royal Air Force

Squadron Leader George William Davey of Ilfracombe, Devon died on March 30th, aged 81. He

served in the Royal Engineers from 1942, carrying out bomb disposal duties in London. In 1945, he moved to the Channel Islands to clear mines and booby traps set during the German occupation. Demobed in 1947, he returned to work on the railways. He joined the Royal Air Force as a radar fitter in 1950 and served in the UK, Germany, Bahrain, Cyprus and Aden. He was commissioned in 1959 and retired in 1977. His interests included amateur radio and golf. Our sympathy goes to his widow Yvonne, sons and daughters, and all members of the family.

Philip Johnson

Royal Engineers

Philip Johnson of Calne, Wiltshire died on March 30th, aged 83. He served as a Sapper in the Royal Engineers from 1939 to 1946. He was captured by the Japanese in 1942 and spent the remainder of the war as a Far East Prisoner of War. In civilian life he was a Civil Servant. Our sympathy goes to his widow Doris and all other members of the family.

Gerald Cockell

Intelligence Corps

Gerald Allan Phillip Cockell of Hove, East Sussex died on March 31st, aged 86. He served in the Royal Corps of Military Police and Intelligence Corps in Field Security from 1938 to 1946, completing duties in the UK, France, Egypt, Palestine and Italy. He was raised in China until the age of 13 when he returned to the UK on the Trans Siberian Express. After the war, he joined the Foreign Office, working in Argentina. His great interests were antiques and stamp collecting. Our sympathy goes to his widow Madeleine and all other members of the family.

Walter Sparksman

Royal Navy

Walter Sparksman of Rottingdean, Brighton died on April 3rd, aged 78. He had been a St Dunstaner since 2000. He served in the Royal Navy from 1943 to 1946. As an electrical artificer he was posted to Dover, Roedean, Australia and Hong Kong. After the war he worked as an electrical engineer and then joined Pye Records, becoming their sales manager. He worked in a similar capacity for CBS and RCA before joining Hambros as an investment advisor. Our sympathy goes to his widow Doreen, their daughters and all other members of the family.



Phil's dolphin has impressed many visitors to the Workshop at Ovingdean.

Below right: A trout in relief.

Below left: Phil uses clay to prepare for his next carving project.

Carving a place in the art world

ST DUNSTANER PHIL DUFFEE is carving out a new niche in handicrafts and is literally suffering for his art. He has set an example of how visual impairment can be overcome with three fish-motif wood carvings and has adopted a feline-theme for his fourth project. Each project has taken Phil, who served in the North Staffordshire Regiment, between 20 and 24 hours, but not without some sacrifice. "I've got partial vision, but I've got no centre vision," he explains. "I've only got peripheral vision and to concentrate what vision I have got for any length of time is painful. It hurts my eyes, so every half-hour, three-quarters-of-an-hour



or so I have to stop. That's the price as far as I'm concerned. I've been like this since I was 20, I'm now 74. That's a long time, so by now I've learned that there is a price. You ask yourself to start with 'Am I prepared to pay that price?' and the answer is yes I am."

Phil was encouraged to realise his ambition by Craft Instructor Adrian Tilford. "He said if it doesn't work

all you have done is ruin a bit of wood," added Phil. So far Phil has been pleased with the results.

"One carving I did, that was a relief, mounted, took me about 20 hours. That was a carving of a trout.

"The thing about relief carving is that you have got to suggest 3-D when in fact you haven't got it. The whole carving really is just over half an inch deep, you are trying to give the impression of a rounded body."

Having carved the rough shape in Ash or Lime, Phil smooths the carving with a selection of sand papers before adding a coat of Danish Oil to finish.

He has now embarked on another project, a sculpture of a cat, working out the dimensions in clay before tackling it in wood.

