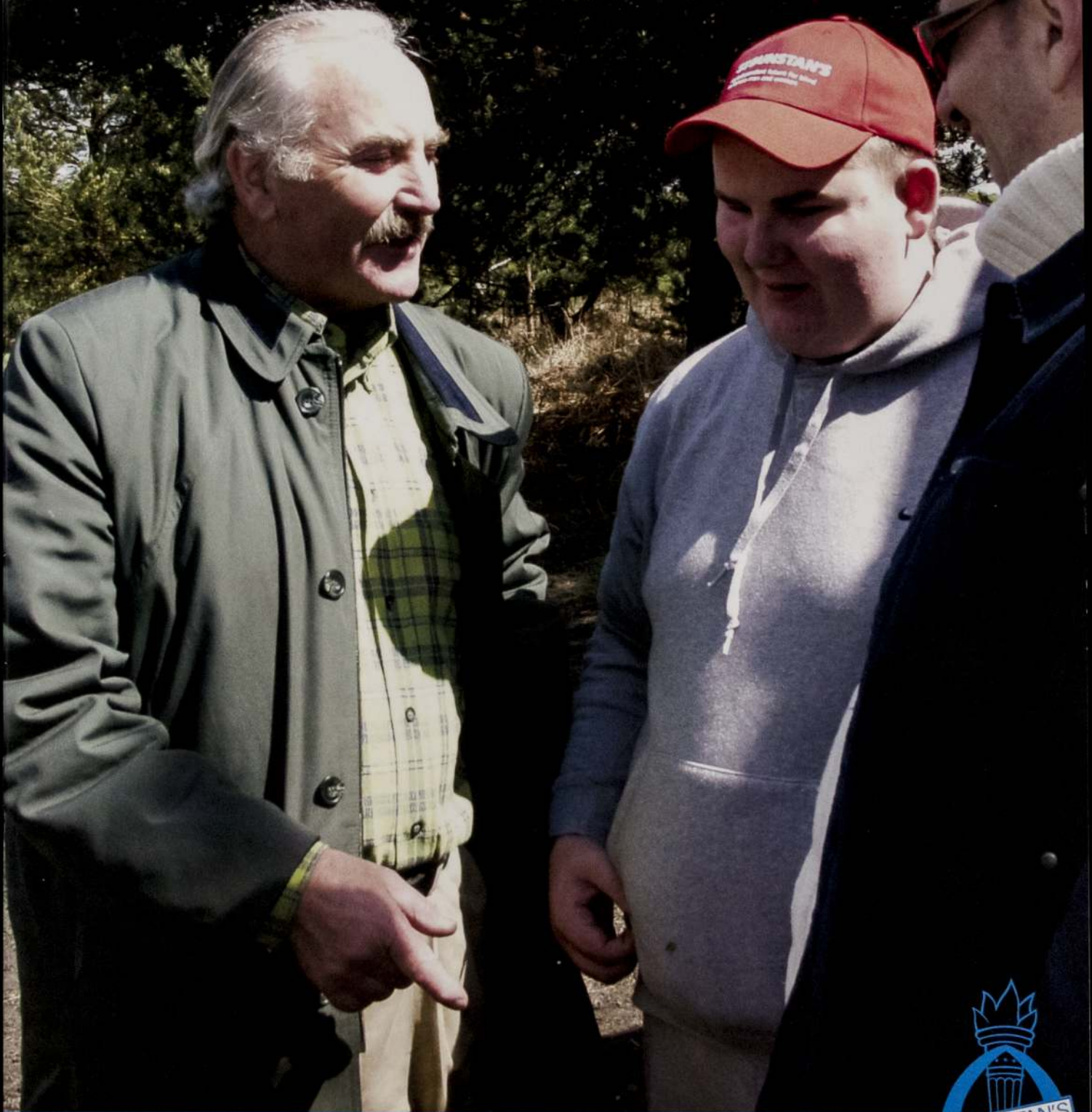


June 2003

www.st-dunstans.org.uk

ST DUNSTAN'S Review



FOR BLIND EX-SERVICE MEN AND WOMEN



Cover story:
Hot shots and loads of
smoking barrels!

St Dunstaner Stephen Menary recites lines from gangster movies with actor PH Morriarty. The duo were taking part in the Second Annual Shoot at Bisley .
Full details on page 14.

In Flanders Fields

St Dunstaner Michael Ryan visits the scene of WWI carnage.
Details on on page 10.

Prisoners no more!

The Ex-Prisoners of War Reunion goes well.
Details on page 12.

The Master Storyteller

Frederick Forsyth passes judgement on the entries in this year's St Dunstan's Review Story Competition.
The prize story starts on page 16.

Up, up and away!

Is there something in the works at Woolwich?
The back page provides a hint.

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

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From the Chairman



IN THE WORDS of the US Administration and the UK Government, major warlike operations in Iraq are over, and what a resounding success has been achieved once again. In this most difficult of missions to accomplish the removal of Saddam Hussein's corrupt and appalling government, while causing the minimum possible losses and damage to the Iraqi people and their infrastructure, the professionalism of our forces shone through. A small number of people tragically lost their lives fighting for the freedom of others. So far none have lost their sight, but in the weeks and even months ahead we must remain prepared for an increase in our numbers. The possible consequences of the dangers of terrorist reprisal, and unexploded ordnance, will never be far away, as the country progresses towards democracy.

At the end of April, and reported elsewhere in this **Review**, we took part in yet another event where the near impossibility of success was ridiculed by Colin Best, who with total blindness succeeded in shooting a number of clay pigeons at the superbly laid out shooting grounds at Bisley. This event, enjoyed by all who took part, was under the generous auspices of the Horners' Livery Company. Colin proved once again that determination could win in most situations. He is trying to design a clay that produces an audible note in flight to provide a datum aim point, a concept praised by many who were present. We wish him all success in this project, another first for St Dunstan's. His comment was that "Being allowed to compete against sighted shooters on nearly equal terms was a nice feeling, and gave me back a little of my pride."

I have to report that there were those fully sighted who were present who failed to shoot as many clays as Colin! No matter. The new leaves are on the trees. It is that wonderful time of the year again. To all, I wish a warm and enjoyable Summer.

Captain Michael Gordon-Lennox, RN

**ST DUNSTAN'S
Calendar**

Archery Club	June 6th-15th
Newcastle Reunion	June 10th
Leeds Reunion	June 11th
Golf Club	June 13th-15th
Widows' Week	June 16th-23rd
Cardiff Reunion	June 18th
Metro Games	June 21st
Brighton Reunion (III)	June 25th
Ladies Reunion	July 7th-14th
Golf Club	July 13th-14th
Royal Marines Band	July 23rd
HMS <i>Sultan</i>	July 25th-August 2nd
Billy the Whizz	August 2nd-3rd
Golf Club	August 16th-17th
Archery Club	August 22nd-30th
Activities Week	Sept 1st-5th
Aylesbury Reunion	Sept 3rd
Brighton Reunion (IV)	Sept 17th
Golf Club	Sept 20th-21st
IKK	Sept 20th-24th
Physio Weekend	Sept 26th-28th

**DEADLINES FOR
FUTURE ISSUES**

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

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

Noticeboard

Dates for your diary and useful information

DPS SURVEY THANK YOU

SURVEY: St Dunstan's Director of Professional Services Susan Harrison would like to thank all the St Dunstaners, wives, husbands, widows and widowers for their time and patience in participating in the recent Quality Assurance Questionnaire. The research company "Clariant" would also like to extend their thanks for your cooperation. The results will be available soon and we hope to publish a summary in the July **ST DUNSTAN'S Review**.

BLANKET ASSISTANCE

KNITTING: The Nursing Wing at Ovingdean needs help to replenish its supply of blankets for wheelchair users. The men find them very comforting and useful to cover knees when sitting in wheelchairs. Wear and tear means that stock has dwindled. If any wives, widows or friends of St Dunstan's can knit or crochet some blankets, their efforts would be greatly appreciated. Anyone who can help should contact Sue Rowland, St Dunstan's Ovingdean, Greenways, Ovingdean, Brighton BN2 7BS.

RNIB IS NOW A MEMBERSHIP ORGANISATION

MEMBERS WANTED: The Royal National Institute of The Blind is now a membership organisation. Membership is free and new members will receive a welcome pack and free subscription to *Vision* magazine for the first 12 months. For more details contact RNIB Customer Services on 0845 702 3153 (charged at local rates) or e-mail them on CServices@rnib.org.uk.

PUT IN A GOOD WORD WITH THE WRITING GROUP

WRITERS' CIRCLE: Several people have suggested the formation of a writing group, which might discuss how to write, what to write, where to get works published, etc. If anyone is interested in participating, has suggestions or would like to get involved in the organising, will they please get in contact with Donna Vaughan in the IT section of the Training and Rehabilitation department at Ovingdean.

NOT BAD IN MULTIPLE FORMATS FOR TRUE ACCESSIBILITY

LIFE STORY BREAKS NEW GROUND: The life story of a Canadian St Dunstaner represents a Canadian publishing first: in partnership with The Canadian National Institute for the Blind, it has been published in regular print, large print, audio cassette, and braille — all at the same time, making it truly accessible to everyone, sighted, blind, or visually impaired. *Not Bad for a Sergeant*, the life of Barney Danson offers insights into the character of Canadian Prime Minister Pierre Trudeau as Danson became his parliamentary secretary and, eventually, Minister of National Defence.

For details on obtaining alternative formats of *Not Bad for a Sergeant – The Memoirs of Barney Danson* by Barney Danson and Curtis Fahey contact CNIB, 1929 Bayview Avenue, Toronto, ON M4G 3E8, Canada or log on to their website at www.cnib.ca.

The print edition (Hardcover, 366 pages, Dundurn Group, ISBN 155002437X) is available from www.amazon.co.uk though price may fluctuate.

ZINGO LETS LONDONERS TALK TO THEIR TAXI

HAIL BLACK CABS BY PHONE: A new service promises an easy and reliable way to hail taxis in London - by mobile phone. Zingo, a division of MBH, manufacturer of the world famous London taxi, has launched a new service that puts passengers in direct contact with a nearby black cab – allowing Londoners to use their mobile to hail a taxi even when they can't see one!

By calling one easy-to-remember national rate number — 08700 700 700 — Londoners can hail a Zingo black cab from work, home or even from within a restaurant or club.

Zingo uses advanced technologies to put passengers in direct contact with available black cab drivers. When a passenger makes a call to Zingo from their mobile, location-based technology pinpoints their location, whilst global positioning satellites identify licensed Zingo taxis in the vicinity. Within seconds passengers are automatically connected to the cab driver on his hands-free mobile phone. The passenger then gives the driver their precise location, who in turn switches off the 'for hire' light and comes straight to collect them.

The charge for using Zingo is a £1.60 "telephone arrangement fee", which is added to the metered fare by the cab driver. The service is available to customers of mobile phone suppliers Vodafone, T-Mobile and O2.

INTRODUCTORY OFFER

Review readers may like to take advantage of a special introductory offer when using the Zingo service for the first time in London. Just cut out the voucher on the right and claim a £5 discount when calling a Zingo cab on 08700 700 700. The voucher is valid until June 30th.

Further information about Zingo can be found on their website at www.zingotaxi.com.

DANCE TO THE DESCRIPTION

GRAND OPERA: Music hits a high note amongst forthcoming audio described theatre shows which include dance, grand opera and popular musicals!

Fuenteovejuna at Sadlers Wells, London on June 21st is a dance production portraying the story of an evil commander's lust for a village girl. The production is mounted by the Spanish National Dance Company and the describers travelled to Bilbao to develop a method and language to describe it. There will be a workshop attached to this production and a touch tour is to be confirmed. Tel: 020 7863 8000.

Mozart's mystic vision *The Magic Flute* is audio described at Leeds Grand Theatre on June 14th. Bookings 0113 223 3524. Ticket price £10 (reduced from £36). Touch tour to be confirmed.

Andrew Lloyd-Webber's *Cats* is described at Alhambra Theatre, Bradford on July 19th, with a touch tour. Details on 01274 432000.

Miss Saigon will be audio described at Birmingham Hippodrome on July 11th, 12th and 16th with touch tours and discounted tickets. Bookings can be made on 0870 730 1234. Similar arrangements are scheduled for the Mayflower Theatre, Southampton on October 10th-11th. Call 023 8071 1811 for further details.



£5

voucher

Hand this voucher to your driver to enjoy £5 off your Zingo journey

Closing Date 30th June 2003

Passenger mobile phone number

Driver name

Journey date

www.zingotaxi.com



08700 700 700

talk to your nearest taxi!

Terms and Conditions:
 1. You must hail a taxi using Zingo in order to benefit from the £5 discount. 2. Each voucher can only be redeemed once, and must be used for a journey originating before 20th June 2003. 3. Only one voucher can be used per journey. 4. The voucher can be used as part payment for fares over £5, however the passenger must settle any outstanding fare owed. 5. If the fare is under £5, the voucher is fully redeemed and no change will be due. 6. No cash alternative is available. 7. No responsibility can be accepted for vouchers damaged, lost or mislaid before or after the closing date. 8. No correspondence will be entered into. 9. Zingo in the event of circumstances arising which, in its opinion, make this desirable, may cancel the offer at any stage. 10. The promotion is made by Manganese Bronze Services Ltd trading as Zingo whose office is Lincoln House, 1-3 Bilton Road, London SW9 6DE

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RETIREMENT OF DAVID ROWE

SURVEYOR RETIRES: David Rowe retired from his position as Northern Area Surveyor for St Dunstan's on the 30th April 2003. David was the longest serving member of the Estates Department having assumed responsibility for St Dunstan's property matters with a private firm of Surveyors in Manchester from 1973 onwards, and becoming a full-time member of St Dunstan's staff in 1978. Extremely conscientious and dedicated at all times, David has rendered distinguished service to the St Dunstaners and widows in his area for effectively the last 30 years and will be greatly missed by them and also by his former colleagues. If any St Dunstaner or widow would like to contribute to a collection, would they please contact Anne Ajewole in the Estate Department at Headquarters (St Dunstan's, 12-14 Harcourt Street, London W1H 4HD). In the meantime, we wish David many happy years of retirement.

TALKING BOOK PLAYER IMPROVED

SAFETY FIRST WITH NEW MACHINE: An updated model of the current digital Talking Book player came into use in April. This new VictorReader Classic will have an external power supply, rather than an internal one. This change will not affect any of the functions of the player, but just means that the player will now be what is known as a "Class 3 Standard" apparatus, with very low voltage in the player itself, thus eliminating any risk of an electric shock should the unit be dropped in water (or become internally saturated with fluid as the RNIB says). Portable Appliance Testing (PAT) will not be necessary - as is the case with current players.

Existing players will be retrospectively refitted, converting them to the same external power supply and raising them above current Health & Safety standards. No action is required from Talking Book readers with regards to this programme.

The Talking Book service is also making changes to books over two discs so that the discs can be read independently. Discs will also be audio labeled to inform the reader which disc they are reading.

SAILABILITY WANT YOU TO BE ALL AT SEA

AN OPPORTUNITY TO SET SAIL: On April 10th, HRH The Princess Royal launched the 'All at Sea' Sailability project. This scheme, sponsored by the Royal Yachting Association, aims to enable disabled people of all ages to go sailing in big and small boats, both in and offshore.

St Dunstan's has taken out block membership with Shoreham Sailing Club. If you are interested in having a go whilst you are at Ovingdean or live in the area, then please get in touch, preferably giving as much advance warning as possible. Available dates are printed below.

There are some 200 contact points around the country where you can indulge in the sport of sailing. Please contact Ray Hazan at Headquarters on 020 7723 5021 if you are interested. Sailing is a sport full of sensations and thrills and is highly recommended.

Sussex Sailability Schedule 2003

June 9th	19.00	Evening racing
June 20th	11.45	Sailability Open day
June 23rd	19.00	Evening Racing
June 28th	10.00	Sailing
July 16th	13.00	Midweek Sailing
August 2nd	13.30	Sailing (HMS <i>Sultan</i>)
August 13th	11.30	Midweek Sailing
August 30th	12.30	Sailing
September 3rd	15.00	Midweek Sailing
September 13th	12.30	Sailing
October 18th	12.30	Sailing

THE SMOOTH RIDE GUIDE 2003

HANDBOOK: The Smooth Ride Guide - United Kingdom is the definitive travel-planning handbook to a wide range of activities, attractions, hotels, leisure and sporting facilities and days out accessible to people with mobility difficulties and wheelchair users. It costs £12.50. One pound from the sale of each book will be donated to the MS Society, The Princess Royal Trust for Carers and the Stroke Association. Please call 0845 608 8020.



ST DUNSTAN'S Contacts

HEADQUARTERS

12-14 Harcourt Street, London W1H 4HD
Tel: 020 7723 5021 Fax: 020 7262 6199

Ajewole, Ann
Bailey, Paulette
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Belaire, Belinda
Belton, Mike
Brodie, Karen
Cameron, Suzanne
Dell, John
Gordon-Lennox, Michael
Harrison, Susan
Hazan, Ray
Hill, Tim
Hinton, Jeremy
Leader, Robert
Lurot, Marion
Malet, Greville
Maloney, Carol
Nichol, Lexie
Osborne, Tim
Porter, Barry
Reinhold, Michael
Robinson, Anna
Sauba, Sheila
Scott, Charles
Scullard, Eric
Watson, Mike
Ward, Nick
Woodgate, Carole

PA to Director of Property Services
Property Accountant (Rent Accounting)
Admissions Assistant
Housing Services and Benefits Administrator
Financial Controller
Marketing Officer
Director of Human Resources
Purchase Ledger Administrator (Grant Payments)
Chairman
Director of Professional Services
St Dunstaner Liaison & PR Manager, Editor
Transport and Services Assistant (Agency Staff)
Director of Admissions and Grant Making Services
Chief Executive
Welfare Administrator
Fundraising and Communications Operations Manager
PA to Chairman and Chief Executive
Admissions Assistant
Director of Property Services
Welfare Manager
Deputy Head of Estates
External Press Coordinator
Head of Pensions (Medical Appointments)
Director of Finance and IS
Insurance and Estate Records Coordinator
Admissions Manager
Director of Fundraising and Communications
Head of Grants

OVINGDEAN

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

Barley, Linda
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Castle, Ray
Castle, Jackie
Evans, David
Faithfull, Jim
Gillam, Ben
Gillam, Glynis
Golds, Velda
Green, Claire
Greer, Jacqueline
Hartley, Paul
Hebborn, Ian
Henrickson, Sue
Hordell, Michael
Janering, Steve
James, Paul
Jarron, Sarah
Lake, Dick
Lyth, Bill
Malpass, Nina
Mobsby, Eileen
Morgan, Neil
Mullins, Lyn
Richardson, Trevor
Rowlands, Sue
Sharp, Janis
Stevens, Sue
Styche, Lesley
Tarrant, John
Timms, Louise
Tinkl, Diane
Town, Sandra
Vinnall, David
Young, Vanessa

PA to Ovingdean Manager
Cashier/ War Pensions Coordinator
Care Clerical Assistant
Maintenance Supervisor
Bookings Coordinator
Deputy Residential Care Supervisor
Head of Maintenance
Deputy Residential Care Supervisor
Primary Nurse
Housekeeping Supervisor
Rehabilitation & Training Coordinator
Head of Care
Rehabilitation Officer
Rehabilitation Officer
Primary Nurse
Facilities Manager
Security Supervisor
PBK Catering
Craft Supervisor
Ovingdean Manager
Head of Security
Primary Nurse
Wills & Trusts Coordinator
Deputy Head of Transport
Activities Coordinator
PBK Catering
Primary Nurse
IT Supervisor
Rehabilitation Officer
Head of Rehabilitation & Training
Head of Housekeeping
Sports Supervisor
Residential Care Supervisor
Housekeeping Supervisor
Head of Transport
Rehabilitation Officer

It strikes me ...



with Gog and Magog

Gog hears that St Dunstan's new promotional t-shirt has attracted much acclaim at several public events of late. However, on closer analysis it would seem that the svelte young ladies wearing them with such distinction are the real centre of attraction. The t-shirts do not seem to wield the same influence when worn by male members of Fundraising & Communications staff.

Magog gets word from St James's Gate in Dublin, home of a well known and popular brand of dark refreshment. A wall on the upper levels of the Guinness Storehouse is now adorned by a postcard reading "Greetings from St Dunstan's! So this is where PBK gets the decent beer from!"

"Who are Gog and Magog?" a reader asks. Some may be familiar with their association with the clock that gave St Dunstan's its name, others may recall tales of giants or Nordic demons. Gog suggests a prize for the reader who sends in the correct answer. However, Magog feels it should be for the most inventive answer. Mayhaps we need a third party to intervene before this comes to blows, but suggestions, interpretations and misinterpretations should be sent to G&M, **ST DUNSTAN'S Review**, 12-14 Harcourt Street, London W1H 4HD.



Major General Keeling conveys St Dunstan's best wishes to Liz.

All the best, Liz

A GROUP OF St Dunstaners and widows from the South West wished Welfare Officer Liz Pearce and her husband Bill, a happy and healthy retirement. Liz retired from St Dunstan's at the end of May.

Liz and Bill were attending the Exeter Reunion (hardly surprising since Liz had organised the event) at Southgate Hotel, Southernhay East, Exeter, Devon on May 7th.

The gathering included 22 St Dunstaners and 17 widows. Major General Andrew Keeling was the Member of St Dunstan's Council presiding. He presented a leaving gift from fellow members of staff before handing over to St Dunstan's President Colin Beaumont-Edmonds. Colin took the opportunity to make a presentation on behalf of the St Dunstaners who have benefitted from her care.

There were 22 St Dunstaners and seven widows at the Norwich Reunion on April 16th. Tim Bacon was the Member of St Dunstan's Council presiding at the Swallow Nelson Hotel, Norwich.

The London Reunion was held at the RAF Club, Piccadilly, London

on April 30th. Appropriately, Air Marshal Sir John Gingell was the Member of St Dunstan's Council presiding. The event united 28 St Dunstaners and 15 widows with their guests.

The Reunion season continued with the Blackpool Reunion at the Imperial Hotel on May 13th. Ray Hazan was the Member of St Dunstan's Council presiding over a gathering of 18 St Dunstaners and ten widows.

There were 19 St Dunstaners and eight widows attending the Liverpool Reunion on May 14th. Ray Hazan was the Member of St Dunstan's Council presiding at The Gladstone Hotel.

Zia Houlton

Zia Houlton passed away on April 28th, aged 81. She was a Care Assistant at Ovingdean from January 1972 until October 1981. After her retirement, she continued to help St Dunstaners, particularly at the Ladies' Reunion and Remembrance Sunday.

TARGET: BELGIUM

ON SATURDAY, April 12th, five St Dunstan's Archers visited Belgium to demonstrate Visually Impaired Archery to a school for the Blind. The trip was arranged between our John Lilley and their Jan Beernaert.

Clive Jones reports from the continent

Colin Penfold, St Dunstan's driver, with out whom we could not have got there.

We were hosted by Jan and his wife Martine, and everything went well and all Archers were extremely well catered for. St Dunstan's Archers consisted of Cliff Ford, Clive Jones, Dave Poyner, John Lilley, Norman Perry and Terry Ottewell. The Archers voiced their thanks for help in spotting to Avril Ottewell, Colin Dickinson, Sue Lilley and Sue Habgood. Thanks must also go out to

The trip to Belgium was a complete success and all involved learnt from the experience, special thanks go to the Chairman of St Dunstan's Archery Club, John Lilley for the organisation and also to Terry Ottewell for making a Trophy which was presented to Jan and his Archers in thanks for a wonderful week end.

Tony takes the prize

BLACKPOOL ST DUNSTANER Tony Parkinson beat sighted archers in his local club during April. Tony is a member of the Blackpool Bowmen Club and won the Club Cup. "It's a handicapped shoot, so it's all on equal terms," said Tony. "It goes to the best improved archer in the year, so normally I wouldn't expect to win it because you get better as the years go on. So I'm quite pleased to have won this."

Rev David Williams

Rev David Williams passed away on May 5th. He was Chaplain to St Dunstan's from 1999 to 2001, but continued to support the activities of St Dunstan's Ex-Prisoners of War Reunion after he moved. It was not uncommon for Grace to be delivered in a rousing burst of song. Our sympathy goes to his widow Hazel.



Ten questions on...

"London"

Harry Beevers in Capital mood

- 1) Which London building was destroyed by fire in November 1936, with reports claiming that the flames could be seen in Brighton?
- 2) During World War II, which London Theatre claimed "We never close"?
- 3) Which famous London street is named after a game similar to croquet and in 1806 was the scene of the first public demonstration of gas street lighting by Frederick Winsor?
- 4) In which landmark and current tourist attraction was the London Mint situated from 1300 until 1810?
- 5) Which slang name for a prison is derived from that of a London gaol where prisoners of religious conscience were housed in the 16th and 17th centuries?
- 6) Which London theatre, situated on Argyll Street, shares its name with a silvery-white metal No 46 in the Periodic Table of Elements?
- 7) From which London mainline station did the "Flying Scotsman" set off on its run to Edinburgh?
- 8) At No 25 Brook Street, London, there is a blue plaque in memory of the composer George Frederick Handel. To the memory of which musician and UK chart-topper with *Voodoo Chile* in November 1970 is there a similar plaque at No 23?
- 9) Which famous London Street is named after the former soldier, diplomat and 17th century Member of Parliament for Morpeth?
- 10) Under which two bridges do the rowing crews pass during the annual varsity boat race?

Answers on page 22.

A deaf-blind St Dunstaner pays tribute to the men who fought in Flanders during the First World War

A TOUR OF THE FIELDS

THE IDEA OF this trip to Flanders came into my mind whilst visiting the battlefields of the Somme about five years ago, a private trip I took with Terry Gleadall and The War Research Society. It occurred to me that if I were serious about taking an interest in the Western front of the Great War, I would have to go to Flanders, where the majority of the British Expeditionary Force had fought. So Terry has spent some time setting up this second tour for me, again with the help of The War Research Society.

Unlike the Somme, about which I read a great deal before losing my sight, I did not know much about Flanders! This meant naming only a few places, whilst asking the guide, Gordon Hall, to show me

the rest. Those places I listed included the most obvious and famous. Amongst them it was my aim to be at the Menin Gate when the last post was sounded! I knew I would not see or hear anything



St Dunstaner Michael Ryan with Terry, Gordon and David.

by Michael Ryan

but it was to be more of a duty to pay my respects. (Terry did put my foot on the ground to see whether I could feel the vibrations!) Also Passchendaele Ridge, for the same reason. I did name some other battlefields, whilst the guide took us to other places which were a great surprise to me. One of these was the site of a barn and a memorial to a group of British Soldiers captured in 1914 who had been, as written on the memorial, "murdered by the Germans". This was an incident I knew had happened but had no idea until now that the site has a memorial and a replica barn of the original in which the men had died, stripped of all identity!! Secondly, another very moving visit was to the bunker where the Canadian surgeon, Colonel John McCrae, author of *The Poppies Grow in Flanders Field*, had operated on the wounded British soldiers.

We had visited many more cemeteries and memorials. The closest conglomeration of memorials was at a site which I really had to get to, Mons, where

the first battle between the British and Germans took place in August 1914. Regardless of what little sight I have left, that visit cleared up a lot of questions for me.

Whilst in the town square, I was pushed over the cobbled stones to a small statue of a monkey outside the town hall and my hand put on its head, as can be seen in an old photograph of a couple of British soldiers early in the War. They were supposed to rub the monkey's head for luck.

The whole trip seemed non-stop and it was movement around a large area which I thoroughly enjoyed. The information again helped me understand a great deal more about things I had once read. Although I knew there was a very large cross on Passchendaele Ridge, I now know the cross of sacrifice is mounted on an old concrete German bunker within Tyne Cot Cemetery on the ridge, the largest of the Commonwealth War Grave Commission's cemeteries.

We stayed in The Hotel Ariane at Ypres, where there were artifacts of the Great War kept in glass cabinets around the reception area. Before we left, the hotel owner took a lot of the items out of the cases and I was allowed to hold them. They included a German bugle, a German rifle, a spiked helmet (The Picklehaube), a British helmet, a British soldier's sandwich box, a Belgian soldier's helmet, a British soldier's pick handle. I was given the opportunity to touch and feel a couple of German uniforms from the First World War. I was using my own hands to feel these artifacts which was totally unexpected.

The last surprise came on a flying visit to the Loos Battlefield and Cemetery. On leaving the cemetery en route for Calais we had traveled

through the village of Loos, only to be told that this was where British soldiers who had been condemned to death were "shot at dawn" – hardly nice but it was part of that Great War's history.

Among other places I had wanted to see but thought I would not get to because of the wheelchair was the site of the unofficial 1914 truce. Surprise! Terry had asked Gordon if it would be possible as it would make an exciting finish to the tour and we were able to get very close to the field where the truce and football match had taken place! Although running out of time, we still managed to pay a quick visit to a lesser known battle area, that of Neuve Chappelle. There is not a lot there, even for those who can see, but here I was given a British .303 bullet and cartridge which had been found lying in the field after all those years! Still live but damaged. Terry had to make this safe before it went into my collection.

This trip did need a lot of setting up and a great deal of backup whilst it took place. Without that backup I would never have got there at all, and I freely admit that! So I have got to say a great deal of thanks to Terry (my facilitator) and Sandra, my Carer, both of whom assisted me in my daily living, movement, communication and looking after me. Now we come to the staff who ran the tour on behalf of The War Research Society. First of all Gordon Hall, who was very knowledgeable about the whole area and who made certain my every wish was fulfilled, and David, whom I understand was along as extra help and is considering becoming a guide in the future!

Thanks to all concerned for a great trip.

Review feedback

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

Name

Address

What was the most useful item in this issue?

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

- 1
- 2
- 3
- 4
- 5

What was your least favourite item in this issue?

Are there any subjects that you would like to be covered in future issues of **ST DUNSTAN'S Review**?

Please send this slip to:
ST DUNSTAN'S Review

12-14 Harcourt Street
London W1H 4HD

or e-mail your comments to
simon.rogers@st-dunstans.org.uk

Alf Lockhart reports on St Dunstan's Ex-Prisoners of War Reunion

Having cast off the shackles of captivity ...



Tom Hart presents Brian Burnie with a St Dunstan's shield.

ON FRIDAY APRIL 4th, St Dunstan's Ex-POWs started arriving for their Annual Reunion at Ovingdean. Sadly, as with all reunions, the numbers attending are starting to decline.

Nevertheless, we had quite a good attendance and as we drifted in for the general get-together, there was quite a goodly crowd present and there was music and dancing. I was half tempted to try a quickstep, but sanity prevailed and I went to the Buffet instead.



Sue Leader helps Bill Griffiths with a drop of wine.

The Buffet, which was very well prepared, was soon demolished and as we got to drinking and reminiscing the time seemed to fly away and the Bar closed.

The Annual General Meeting was held on Saturday morning at 10.30, with Air Chief Marshal Sir John Gingell presiding. The business of the day went smoothly, with the present Committee being re-elected en bloc - Chairman: Bill Griffiths; Treasurer: Alf Lockhart; Hon. Secretary: Tom Hart;

Assistant Hon. Secretary Mrs Beryl Gardner.

It was then proposed that the date of next year's AGM should be Saturday April 24th 2004. Thus making next year's St Dunstan's Ex-POW, Weekend from Friday, April 23rd till Monday, April 26th.

The Meeting closed and we went our various ways before meeting in the Winter Garden for our Reunion Dinner that evening.

Our Guest Speaker was Mr Brian Burnie, a businessman from Northumberland, who does a good deal of work for charities including some POW Groups. He gave a very interesting talk on the various aspects of his work.

Other prominent guests included Mr Robert Leader, Ms Susan Harrison, Mr Richard Lake and Lt-Col Jeremy Hinton. St Dunstan's Chairman, sent his apologies, as an important family occasion clashed with the Reunion date. The Rev. Otterwell gave the Grace and we settled down to a magnificent dinner provided by PBK. The meals are always first-class, as one would expect from PBK, but the professionalism and expertise of the Table Service under the direction of Trevor Richardson, the Catering Manager, changes a "good meal" into a "great occasion". Such was our Reunion Dinner. After Dinner we drifted down to the Bar to finish the evening off.

On Sunday morning we held a Memorial Service for the St Dunstan's Ex-Prisoners of War. There was a sizeable crowd in the Chapel. The Service was conducted by the Rev. Otterwell. Alf Lockhart read the Lesson and Tom Hart gave the Exhortation. After the Service we had coffee in the Lounge.

On Sunday evening, we were entertained by a Welsh Male Voice Choir. They are very good and you don't need to strain your ears to listen to them. Their singing kept us well entertained for over an hour.

Occasions such as these, take a lot of organising, and we give our heartfelt thanks to our friends and helpers who give such strong support on these Reunions. Sir John Gingell, who acts as our President, can be a fountain of wisdom on these occasions. Beryl Gardner's suggestions and advice are invaluable to both Tom Hart and myself, while Mary Frith can always turn her hand to help any of the Committee. Their value is beyond rubies. When Tom and I come down in February, to more or less finalise the details of the Reunion, we get every possible help, especially from Linda Barley and Lyn Mullins. So thank you Lyn and Linda for all the help that you give, and you're so pleasant with it. Trevor Richardson of PBK is another tower of strength. He is the expert on catering and he gives of his best. Thank you all at Ovingdean for putting up with us on these occasions.

NOTICE TO EX-POWS
Do make sure that you book for the Reunion at the earliest opportunity, as accommodation is extremely limited.

Alf Lockhart



St Dunstaner Norman Wagstaff and Care Assistant Lesley Holmes.



Lady Gingell chats with Ray and Betty Sheriff.



FEPOW St Dunstaner Percy Walker with his wife Joan.

BANG ON TARGET

ST DUNSTAN'S SECOND Annual Shoot at Bisley Shooting Ground blasted off in fine form in Surrey on April 29th. Two teams of St Dunstaners competed against ten sighted teams across several courses.

St Dunstaners Colin Best, Cliff Ford, Derek Hagger, Stephen Menary, Eddie O'Brien, George Oliver, Dave Powell, Steve Sparkes and Mark Threadgold, each brought their own distinctive style to shooting the clays. The favoured method was to listen out for a distinctive click, then raise the gun through a pre-described elevation - and fire!

Actor P.H. Morriarty, who has appeared in films such as *Lock, Stock and Two Smoking Barrels* and *The Long Good Friday* was

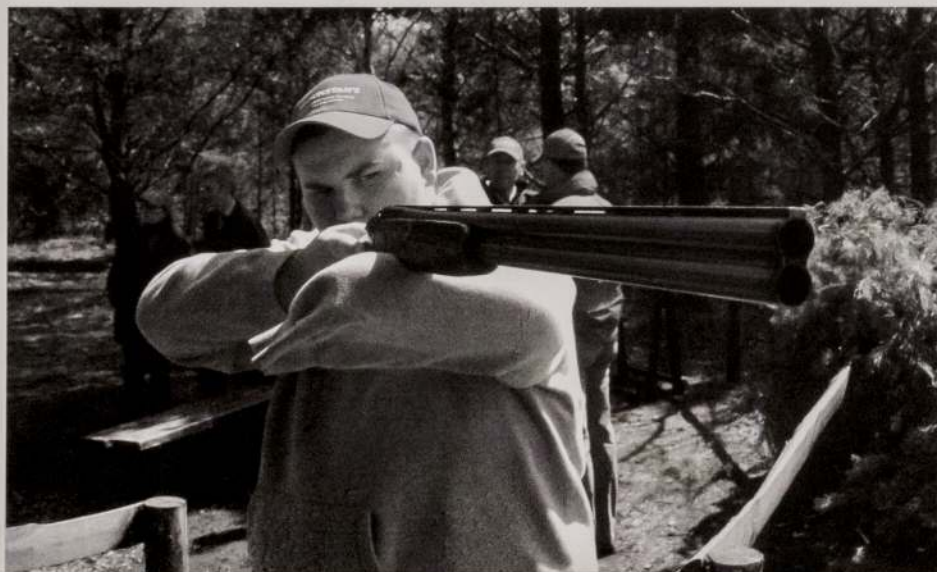
Robert Nelson reports

also shooting in the event. When he met up with a group of St Dunstaners it seemed as if Stephen Menary had memorised every line of dialogue.

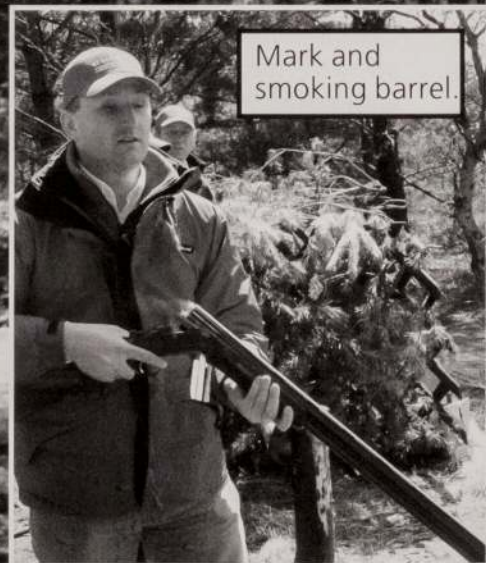
The top team emerged as Colin Simpson, Alfred Newman, Chris Dennis, with St Dunstan's Clare Furnival. Chris Dennis shot so well, he was declared Top Gun!

St Dunstan's thanks go to Bob Creed-Miles, all the staff at Bisley and The Worshipful Company of Horners for their efforts in arranging and hosting the event. Apart from the goodwill fostered during the shoot, over £2,000 was raised on the day.

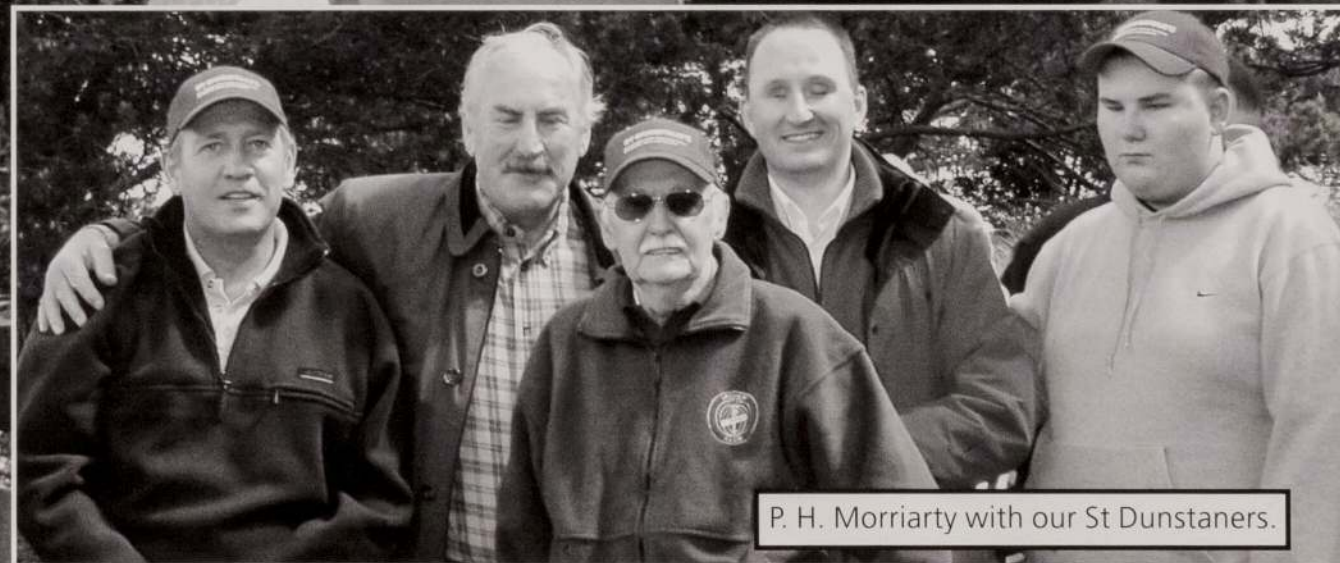
St Dunstaner Stephen Menary tests the feel of his shotgun.



St Dunstaner Eddie O'Brien follows his instructors description on the trajectory of the clay. Seconds later he hit the moving bio-degradable disc.



Mark and smoking barrel.



P. H. Morriarty with our St Dunstaners.

A TALE TO TELL!

The verdict is in! Jackal author judges **Review** Story Competition

FREDERICK FORSYTH, author of popular thrillers such as *Day of the Jackal* and *The Odessa File* was the judge for the latest **ST DUNSTAN'S Review** Story Competition. He agreed to read the submissions and pick the top three tales.

"What a widespread mixture of themes and subjects! And what a task to judge between them!" said Frederick Forsyth. "The seven that almost, but not quite, made the winning three included a frightened deer wrecking a bedroom, highlights of a cruise round the world, a Liverpool childhood, an explanation of the nickname Tommy Atkins, the death and funeral of an old miner, the brief biography of pirate Henry Morgan and the tale of a clever and mischievous little dog.

"But eventually I had to settle for three and then, hardest task of all, put them in order."

So who wrote the winning tales? "At number three, I put *The Late Dezzie Renshaw* by Ted Bunting, a mysterious tale of a visitor to a graveyard who meets a strange youth and talks to him before the boy vanishes. Then he learns the boy is well known but died in 1822. Then there is a real sting in the tail - but I'm not giving it away!

"Second place went to *Half As Old As Time* by Betty C. Parkin which was not a fiction, but the story of a visit to the Nabatean city of Petra, far away in the Jordanian desert. The author has also been there, so much was familiar and the writer well captured the mystery of a rock-hewn ancient city.

"After much thought I give the accolade to a moving little story of a friendship formed in hospital between a boy with bandages over his eyes (but temporarily) and an old man who turns out to be blind (permanently). The old man has one other friend in the world, his cat Sailor. Both cat and man pass on and the boy plants a two-penny cactus he had bought as a gift. Finally a small but lovely miracle occurs. The winning story was by Willoughby Dampier, who wins £50.

"I would like to thank all the ten writers because between them they gave me a wonderful Easter Sunday, the day I set aside for the judging.

"I hope next year there will be more entries and that I may be allowed to read them."

Charlie and His Old Cat

by Algernon Potts
(Willoughby Dampier)

IN THE BEGINNING the old man frightened Sam. The boy listened uneasily to the slow footsteps and laboured breathing as he approached the hospital bed. He stiffened when the old man's gnarled hand gently touched his arm.

"It's alright, boy," he wheezed. "It's me... Charlie. My bed is

over in the corner. I heard them bring you in last night. If you want anything... a drink... something from your locker... call me. The nurses get busy, y'see." Then the old man shuffled off to sit by the coal-fire at the end of the ward.

The year was 1936 and Sam was seven years old. At first his bandaged eyes hurt, and he was

scared because he was alone and sightless in the hospital. The old man had sensed the boy's fear and wanted to comfort him.

From then on Charlie spun away the monotonous hours beside the boy's bed talking softly, while Sam's hearing sharpened, and his new world filled with strange sounds and smells.

Nurse's shoes squeaked noisily on the ward's polished wooden floor, while aged coughs racked and mingled with sighs and cries of anguish. The clink of hypodermic syringes in metal dishes, and the smell of surgical spirit filled him with dread. But what pleased him most was the aroma of Charlie's pipe approaching his bed. Soon he began to recognise voices - plaintive, angry, resigned and gentle. In a few days Sam had a mind's-eye picture of the ward.

Charlie told him about his old tabby cat back at his lodgings. "He came in through the window one hot day," said the old man. "I gave him milk, and he slept in a patch of sunlight. He stayed and I called him Sailor. That was long ago. I worry about him now he is alone."

One day Charlie asked the boy: "Can you tie knots? Reef-knots, clove-hitches, sheep-shanks, bow-lines? Shall I teach you?"

So it began. The old man produced a piece of rope from a battered suitcase beneath his bed. Hour after hour, with his large hands enveloping the boy's, Charlie patiently guided the small fingers gripping the rope. Again and again he whispered encouragement. "No, over, not under. Good boy. Now, pull it through. The left end, not the right. Let it run. That's it. Good."

When Sam tired Charlie talked to him about Sailor, or his adventures as a lighterman on the barges and tugs plying the River Thames and the Port of London. When Sam's breathing became shallow and regular the old man knew he was asleep. Then he shuffled off to sit by the fire.

Sam was happy when his bandages were removed, but he

was sad when he saw Charlie's sightless eyes. "You didn't say you were blind, Charlie," he said. The old man replied without self-pity: "Makes no difference here."

He was soon able to get out of bed and sit beside Charlie at the fire. The old man smoked his pipe while they talked about Sam's life at home with his mother and three sisters. He passed Charlie's lodgings on his way to school, and promised he would visit Sailor every day to feed and comfort the old cat until Charlie returned.

The old man smiled. "Sailor's all I've got, boy," he said, Sam was sad. "There's me too, Charlie," he whispered, and awkwardly patted the old man's hand. "That's right, Sam. Now there's three of us," said Charlie. It made the boy happy. He wished the old cat was with them beside the fire.

When the time came for him to go home Sam was sorry to leave Charlie, but he wanted to see Sailor, and make friends with the old cat.

His mother's arrival to take him home changed things somehow. He couldn't speak easily to the old man. They said an awkward 'goodbye', and shook hands. Sam promised he would see Charlie again when he returned to the hospital to see the doctor.

Next day he got up early and hurried to Charlie's lodgings. The landlord, a fat man wearing braces and carpet slippers, opened the door. Sam told him he was Charlie's fiend, and that the old man was worried about his cat.

The landlord was a kind man. "I'm sorry," he said, "when the old man went away to hospital it broke the cat's heart. I found him curled up on Charlie's bed as if he was

asleep. He had just given up waiting for him to come back."

He pointed to a small mound of earth in the front-garden where he had buried Sailor. Then he slowly closed the door.

Sam stood looking at the tiny grave. The old cat died alone and sad, believing that Charlie had abandoned him. Tears welled-up in the boy's eyes. He bit his lip to fight them back. With a great ache he wanted Sailor to know that Charlie loved him. Sam made his way home slowly, thankful only that he didn't have to tell Charlie yet that Sailor was dead.

The next day was Saturday. His mother took Sam and his sisters to the jumble sale at Our Lady of the Assumption Church. She wanted to buy the boy a cheap pair of Wellington boots. Among the clutter of woollen jumpers, skirts, shoes, dresses, trousers and coats she found a yellow pair that were only a size too large. The boy would grow into them. While his mother and sisters rummaged among the heaps of clothing Sam wandered round the noise-filled hall until he found the 'white elephant' stall.

He surveyed the gaudy trinkets, bric-a-brac and knick-knacks, and fingered the three pennies in his pocket. He wanted to buy Charlie a gift to make up for Sailor's death. He saw a small dust-covered cactus in a red pot. The plant wouldn't take Sailor's place, but he could look after it. Sam gave two pennies to the woman behind the stall, and slipped the little cactus into his pocket.

Two weeks later his mother took him to the hospital to be examined by the eye-surgeon. Afterwards he ran to the ward to find Charlie.

But the old man was not beside the fire, and his bed was covered by the white day-quilt. His small suitcase was not under the bed, his locker was cleared out, and the door hung open.

He hurried to the office where his mother was talking to the ward sister - a dark, handsome woman. She was saying: "Charlie died quietly in his sleep a few days ago. The walls of his heart were paper-thin. He knew it wasn't going to be very long. No-one claimed the body, so the almoner had it cremated and his ashes scattered in the Garden of Remembrance."

When they reached home Sam ran off towards Charlie's lodgings. The landlord opened the door and told the boy the hospital had notified him of Charlie's death.

"You were his only friend, you might as well have his things." He turned, opened a door in the hallway and went in. It was Charlie room. Through the open door Sam saw a small table covered with pages of newspaper. There

was a coin-in-the-slot meter and a gap-toothed gas—fire with Sailor's chipped milk-saucer on one side and a ram-shackled deck-chair with torn canvas on the other.

The landlord returned with Charlie's battered suitcase and handed it to the boy. "You're the nearest Charlie came to having kin, I suppose. Now that Sailor's gone, anyway."

Sam took the cactus from his pocket. "I bought this for Charlie," he said. "It was to make up for Sailor's death, but I can't give it to him now, Can I it plant on the grave, please mister.?"

The landlord watched as the boy knelt beside the little mound and scraped at the ground with a stub of pencil from his pocket. The fat man slowly shook his head as Sam pushed the tiny cactus into the shallow hole. There were snow-flakes in the east wind that cut at the boy's cheek as he walked home.

Next day a light fall of snow covered the frozen earth. His

mother wound a woollen scarf round Sam's neck, criss-crossed it over his chest, pinned it behind his back and sent him off to school. As he neared Charlie's old lodgings he saw the landlord waving at the window. The fat man pointed to Sailor's grave in the front garden. Sam crossed the road and opened the gate.

The small grave unlocked a surge of joy in the boy. A brilliant orange flower had burst from the little cactus, and seemed to bathe the frozen earth in soft candle-light. The boy felt the sad ache lift from him like a great black bird taking wing... soaring up and up.

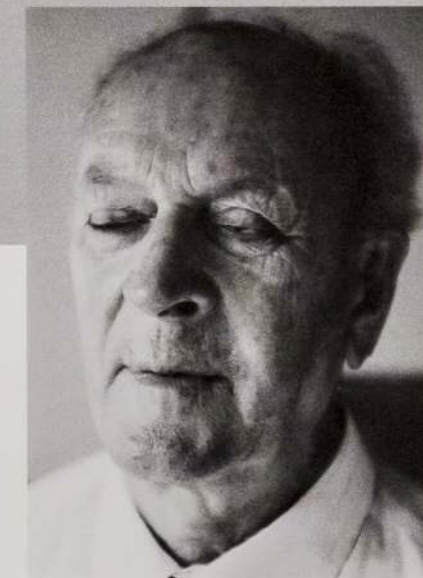
Sam took off his glove and touched the piece of rope in his pocket. It had been in Charlie's suitcase. At last the old man was free from loneliness and poverty. Charlie and his old cat were together and at peace now.

"Goodbye, Charlie... goodbye, Sailor," he whispered. The old man and his cat seemed very close to him now, and the boy was happy. He turned and walked away.



ST DUNSTAN'S Council

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



John Walbrugh

I WAS BORN and educated in Natal, South Africa, and on leaving school I immediately volunteered to join the South African Artillery. After basic training and a bit of gun drill we were sent out to Egypt and within six months I found myself posted to a 25-pounder battery in Italy. Early in 1945 an explosion cost me most of my sight and I ended up in the 64th British General Hospital in Genoa.

I was then re-patriated to South Africa on a hospital ship, and there I kicked my heels for a few months not knowing what to do as medicine, my chosen study, was not possible. I tried growing flowers on some land I had bought, until my sight deteriorated further and the local ophthalmic man suggested that I go to England and join an institution called St Dunstan's.

After my basic training at Ovingdean, St Dunstan's suggested that I did a diploma in Social Science at the London School of Economics with the object of going into personnel management in industry. During my time at the London School of Economics I went and sat in with numerous St Dunstaners who were already in industry, including Walter Thornton at Cadburys, Bill Robinson at ICI in Cheshire and John Perfect up in the north-east. Having got my diploma I then decided that industry was not for me and I would like to return to my old love of horticulture. At that time we were married, so Elizabeth and I started a glasshouse nursery in Chichester in West Sussex, where we were very happy for about 20 years until my sight was more or less all gone, and so we had to sell up the nursery.

On retiring, Miss Gilbert at St Dunstan's asked me and Elizabeth to start up a hobby club as so many St Dunstaners were giving up their own jobs and did not have much to do. So Tom Hart, Reg Newton and myself started the Gardening Club which became most popular. I now spend most of my time either making the odd basket, walking on the Downs with Elizabeth or reading. The RNIB Talking Book Library is the most marvellous thing that ever was!

I enjoy being on the Council and hope that I can contribute something of value as St Dunstan's has given so much to me.

Copping a nice sum from RAF Police

ON WEDNESDAY April 16th I was the guest of the RAF Police at Linton-on-Ouse in North Yorkshire **writes Harry Beevers**. I had my first (and hopefully my last) ride in a police vehicle I met the Station Commander Group Captain David Harrison, OC Police Flying Officer Jeff Brock and Corporal Craig Coxan and I collected a cheque for £2,200 raised by the Station personnel for St Dunstan's. Because of RAF duties one of the principal organisers of this wonderful effort, Corporal Peter Sharman was unable to be present

but I spoke to him later. Corporal Peter Sharman of the RAF Police took over as charity organiser in 1999. He has no direct connection with St Dunstan's he told me but his home town is Hove and his wife comes from Rottingdean and he has read a lot about the work of the organisation. He arranged a competition with fourteen teams, their task, to pull a Tucano training aircraft over a distance of 150 or so yards. The winners did so in approximately one minute and after their exertions an auction was held in the mess



Fine result from RAF Police, with prizes donated by many generous firms and even one from David Beckham. The result was 14 tired teams, a good night in the mess and the cheque for St Dunstan's. Many thanks for such a fine effort.

Air Chief Marshal Sir John Gingell, GBE, KCB, KCVO

JOHN GINGELL spent most of his working life in the Royal Air Force following training as a pilot in Texas in the mid Forties. Arriving back in England on VE Day he soon transferred to the Fleet Air Arm converting on to Firefly aircraft and various other naval types before demobilisation — and a pressing need to start work! A few years in industry prefaced a return to the RAF at the time of the Korean War

and a belated recognition that flying really was 'the name of the game'. He enjoyed some years in Photographic Reconnaissance before becoming a flying instructor in that specialist field. Much later he commanded a Vulcan V-Bomber Squadron and in due course a Flying Training Group. Eventually he became the Member of the Air Force Board responsible for

personnel and training. Along the way, staff appointments in Cyprus and a number within NATO broadened experience. A period in the Brussels Headquarters of NATO as Military Assistant to the Chairman of the Military Committee proved invaluable and was followed by an administrative appointment in Germany at the Joint Headquarters at Rheindahlen. He finished his RAF career at Brunssum in the

Netherlands as Deputy Commander in Chief Allied Forces Central Europe.

On retirement from the RAF in 1984 he was appointed Gentleman Usher of the Black Rod, an Officer of the Order of the Garter with administrative responsibilities in the House of Lords and certain ceremonial functions at the Palace of Westminster. He also enjoyed ceremonial duties at Windsor on the occasion of the annual

gathering of Knights of the Garter and their procession to the Chapel of St George.

Following his final retirement, he and his wife Prue delight in their house and garden in Wiltshire, travel a bit and find plenty to keep the circulation going by engaging in local activities. They both regard themselves as very fortunate in having so many St Dunstaner friends and always look forward to the conviviality of visits to St Dunstan's Ovingdean.



Sir John Gingell with St Dunstaner Reg Goding.

Brothers band together

St Dunstaner Masons restore old bonds at reunion

ST DUNSTAN'S MASONIC Group held their Annual Reunion at Ovingdean on April 26th-27th. The event is not a Lodge meeting in itself, because while many St Dunstaners are Freemasons, often having held (or holding) high office in the Fraternity, they are already members of their own local lodges. Some eight Provinces were represented by the assembled members.

As usual, the weekend allowed an informal gathering to meet up with friends old and new. The highlight of the reunion was a visit to Temple Lodge, Brighton with ceremonial matters followed by dinner.

The next day, the Masons Group enjoyed a semi-formal luncheon in the Winter Garden at St Dunstan's Ovingdean. They were joined by guests from the Province of Sussex and Temple Lodge.



St Dunstaner Bill Miller with DAGMS Jeremy Hinton.



St Dunstaner Ernest Firth presided at the luncheon.



The Assistant Grand Marshal of the Province of Sussex.



Glynis Gillam reads out a poem by Brother Freer.

Conquering Kilimanjaro

"You do not conquer the mountain, you conquer yourself": Sir Edmund Hilary

IT WAS WITH the words of the renowned mountaineer in the back of my mind that I struck out on the muddy path leading to the highest peak in Africa, Mount Kilimanjaro. With each of those slippery steps I felt much anxiety slip off my shoulders and remain behind with my muddy footprints.

Eight days and seven nights lay before us, should we have a successful summit. "Step down, step up", my guide kept on saying for every little ditch in the road. "Narrow rocks", "step up" and "rock on the right" or "step over, right foot first", I kept on hearing each of those eight days. The hot daytime walking, the sub-zero temperatures after sunset while you are trying to wash using a little bowl of lukewarm water, and even the dizziness I felt going over the rim of the crater - this was all to be negated by the pleasures, satisfaction and life-long memory of our experience. It was all more than worth it.

There were four blind climbers, two South Africans, a Canadian and an American, making up the third Sensory Odyssey expedition. This is an annual mountaineering expedition designed especially to give visually impaired people the chance to experience the sensory pleasures of the sport. It is organised by Pretoria based mountaineer Lance de Willers and my fellow St Dunstaner, Neville Clarence.

While negotiating the path, muddy on the first day but progressively

Blind and handless, South African St Dunstaner Don Wessels tells of the exhilarating experience of climbing the highest African peak

stony over the next few days, each of us blind hikers held on to a handle strapped to the backpack of his own Tanzanian guide. Three of us used the handles of our old guide-dog harnesses. This u-shaped metal rod handle gives amazingly good feedback of what to do when following in the footsteps of our personal guides. Very much like following a guide dog!

Being blind and handless due to an army landmine accident, I held on to my guide dog handle with my two special "fingers". These "fingers" were surgically shaped from the ulna and radius of my left forearm shortly after my accident.

Using the harness of my late guide-dog, Orpheus, I wondered how he would have coped with the path and the altitude!

The high point of the climb for me was the lonesome but spectacular tent camp at Miwenzi tarn hut - only our few tents pitched around a glacial pool in the middle of a stone desert and at an altitude that can make your head spin. There was of course also the tent camp in the crater next to a 10,000 year old glacier and where at dawn we woke up to a picture postcard of

everything covered in white snow. Was I in fairyland?

Standing on Uhuru peak at 5,895m together with my wife Maatje, in a cloud of fog crowned by a white ice rainbow was the ultimate glory of a week that I will always cherish.

The last word on my Kilimanjaro experience must go to my wife. Without Maatje's help, I, being blind and handless, would not have been able to climb Kilimanjaro. She was the one who helped me dress, pack and unpack my bag for about a hundred times and last but not least, tie and untie my boot laces.

Lastly I want to say a special thanks to fellow St Dunstaner Neville Clarence, who invited me.

Thanks also to Lance de Willers from Tribe Safari Adventure Travel, who, together with Neville, not only organised the Sensory Odyssey expedition, but through their kind generosity made it possible for my wife and I to be part of such a memorable event.

More information on our expedition can be found at on the websites www.sensory-odyssey.com and www.kilimanjaro.co.za.

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.

A matter of life and death

Firstly, I should like to congratulate you on producing such a consistently informative and entertaining magazine. As the presenter of the monthly *Westminster Talking Magazine*, I find the **Review** an invaluable source of ideas for features.

Secondly, I regret having to draw your attention to the most unfortunate wording of Marcus Graham's obituary in the May issue. This implies that Captain JC Leach and Marcus Graham were the sole survivors when the HMS *Prince of Wales* was sunk. The brother of a friend of mine was one of two midshipmen who in vain implored the Captain to leave his ship. (This man is now in his late seventies.) It seems improbable that the German ship, the *Bismark*, was in any way involved in the attack on HMS *Prince of Wales* in Far Eastern waters.

My father was a distant cousin of Captain JC Leach which may explain my concern over the ambiguity in the obituary. No doubt unintentionally on the part of the compiler, the text tarnishes the memory of a gallant naval officer who died heroically. I hope you will be able to correct the mistake in the next issue, particularly as his son, Sir Henry, was closely associated with St Dunstan's for many years.

**Alison Leach,
London**

Simon Rogers replies:

We would like to apologise for any confusion arising from the *In Memory* entry on Marcus Graham. However, the item refers to two separate incidents. The role that the HMS *Prince of Wales* played in bringing the *Bismark* to book is the stuff of legend within the St Dunstan's Family. During

this action, the ship's command area suffered a direct hit and Captain Leach and Lt Graham were the only survivors on the Bridge. It is testimony to the courage of both men that they continued to serve on the *Prince of Wales* after such a harrowing and narrow escape.

Moving on some six months, to December 10th 1941, Captain Leach was drowned with 600 others when the battleship was sunk by Japanese aircraft. Lt Graham made an attempt to tow his Captain's body to a destroyer that was picking up survivors, but was overcome by exhaustion.

Almost 56 years later, Captain Leach's son, Sir Henry Leach, then Chairman of St Dunstan's, escorted Marcus Graham at the head of St Dunstan's contingent marching by the Cenotaph at the Remembrance Sunday parade.

A little dignity restored

A little word of thanks to you and your excellent team for the hard work that went into the shoot at Bisley on April 29th. They made it all so easy and slick. I enjoyed the day and the feeling of being treated as normal was very nice. A little dignity restored thank you. Please thank your staff for me.

**Colin Best,
Saintfield, County Down**

Thank you for the flowers

Thank you for the flowers and greetings on our Diamond Wedding Anniversary.

**Thomas and Edith McLoughlin,
Spital, Wirral**

Thank you for your thoughtfulness in sending flowers on our Diamond Wedding Anniversary. The bouquet was really great.

**Charles and Gladys Pay,
Maidstone, Kent**

Ten Answers

Quiz answers from page 9.

- 1) The Crystal Palace.
- 2) The Windmill.
- 3) Pall Mall.
- 4) The Tower of London.
- 5) Clink.
- 6) Palladium.
- 7) King's Cross.
- 8) Jimi Hendrix.
- 9) Downing Street, after George Downing.
- 10) Hammersmith and Barnes.

Not quite read all over

As a relatively new St Dunstaner, may I first express my appreciation of your publication which I peruse with the aid of a CCTV. This forces me to make suggestions to those responsible for your generally excellent cover design. The date of issue because of its variation of positioning is difficult to access when checking through back numbers. I am sure many readers would welcome a white-out panel, say 2"x1" with month and year in bold face, situated in the top right hand corner. Also, the use of red detail against a black background is impossible to read with a black and white CCTV. If you refer to the May issue, I feel you will see my points.

Ron Wilson, Leeds

Handless group are reunited



St Dunstan's Handless Group held their annual reunion at Ovingdean on May 7th-13th. St Dunstaners Wally Lethbridge, Bill Griffiths and Ted Miller were joined by Audrey Gaygan and other guests. More details next issue.

Morton bowls well in Scotland

A ST DUNSTANER WON the Bronze medal at The UK Indoor Bowling Singles Championships in Glasgow, Scotland on April 26th-27th. The event, which was sponsored by British Blind Sport, was held at The West of Scotland Indoor Bowling Stadium, Rutherglen, Glasgow.

The competitors were two men and two ladies from each of the Home Countries, in four sight categories: B1, B2, B3 and B4. St Dunstaner Morton Williams of Llanelli, Dyfed won the Bronze Medal in the B2 Sight Classification.

"I won three of my five games in a round robin, and lost two by only a couple of shots," said Morton. "I won a Bronze Medal after just losing the Silver by shots for and against, as we both had six points."

BALANCING THE BOOKS

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

A World Apart

Author: Marie Joseph

Reader: Maggie Jones

Duration: 12 Hours 58 minutes.

Catalogue Number 8372

Around Christmas would be a very good time to read *A World Apart* because not only is it a predictable fairy story but it also has the makings of a first rate pantomime. Certainly all the ingredients are at hand; there is comic humour and farce, there is romance, sadness, and pathos by the bucketful and as many nosy nasty ugly sister sort of characters as you could ever wish to encounter. Quite what we should call the final production I'm not really sure. "The two Cinderellas" is a strong possibility because both the starring females are reduced to drudgery for much of the time. Or maybe, "Daisy and the Beanstalk" would do instead, since Daisy in this tale, like Jack with his mother's cow, are both cheated over their families' greatest asset.

Beginning in the big freeze of 1947 it seems at times that nature itself is against the heroines. Danger, dry rot, accident and deadly disease each wait their turn to pounce without warning and I would be describing a real tragedy if the fairy story quality did not constantly shine through the gloom. But magically it does; like the happy child at the pantomime you know instinctively that everything will come right at the end. Which makes the story such a delight to listen to for we are all children at heart you know. Oh yes we are!

Welcome to **ST DUNSTAN'S**

April 14th

Norman Adams of Blackpool, Lancashire served with the Royal Navy from 1941 to 1956 as an Electrician Petty Officer. He joined the Navy as a cadet, training at St George's, Isle of Man. His navy career was always sea-going on ships such as HMS *Renown*, *Raider*, *Victorious*, *Vigo*, *Chieftain*, *Defiance*, and *Eskimo*. In civilian life he worked in the dental manufacturing industry. He used to enjoy DIY and electrical repair work, but now uses his computer and receives talking books. He is married and has a son and daughter.

Douglas Banchini of Cawston, Norwich, Norfolk served in the Army from 1940 to 1946. He started with the Royal Norfolks, later joining the Life Guards. He left the Army as a Corporal. Before the war, he worked in East London for a manufacturing company. After the war, he joined a family run fruit and vegetable outlet before moving into the Civil Service. He was with the Foreign and Commonwealth Office when he retired. He used to enjoy oil painting reading and playing the keyboard. He used to play the organ in the local church. He is currently learning Braille. He is a member of the RNIB and is involved with the Aylsham Blind Club (ABC) and Deaf Blind UK. He and his wife have a son and a daughter, two grandchildren and one great-grandchild.

Ronald Grigg of West Bromwich served as a Private with the Royal Army Medical Corps from 1950 to 1951. Before he joined the army, he was an apprentice toolmaker, a profession he returned to after his discharge. After 25 years, he changed trade and worked in a newsagents. His hobbies used to include gardening for which he has won prizes. He has four sons and 12 grandchildren.

Robert Perkins of Torquay, Devon served with the 3rd Royal Tank Regiment from 1947 to 1952. He served as a Trooper in BAOR, UK, and the New Territories in Hong Kong. He started his working life as an apprentice boot and shoe repairer. After leaving the army, he did a variety of jobs before settling as a removal man and driver. He used to enjoy gardening and handicrafts. He and his wife have two sons and a daughter, four grandchildren and one great-grandchild.

April 17th

Charles Plumley of Brighton served with the Leicester Regiment and the Buffs in the Western Desert, Alamein, Tunisia, Egypt, Italy and France from 1940 to 1946 as a Captain. Before the war he was a journalist with theatrical trade paper, *The Stage*. He returned to the publication at the end of the war. He has a son and three grandchildren.

April 24th

Wilfred Barrett of Blackpool, Lancashire served with the Royal Marines as a Corporal from 1940 to 1946. He took part in the Dieppe raid, Sicily, Italy and Yugoslavia with Marshal Tito's men. Before the war he was in the building trade which he returned to after the war and remained in until he retired at 80 years of age. He has completed an Italian course and is now studying Mathematics with the Open University. He and his wife have two sons, two daughters, and one grandchild.

Alan Dent of Northampton, Northamptonshire served with the Royal Air Force in the UK from 1951 to 1953 as a Leading Aircraftman. Before he joined the RAF he completed his apprenticeship as a painter and decorator, an occupation he returned to after leaving the service. He used to enjoy reading, maps and railways. His interests now revolve around Audio books, the local history society and gardeners club. He has two sons.

Patrick Feeney of Southwick, West Sussex joined the Army in the Black Watch, and later transferred to the Marines and later the Parachute Regiment. He served in the UK, France, Belgium, Holland, Germany and Palestine from 1943 to 1947. During the 1920's, he was raised in Canada until his father's health began to fail. His family returned to the UK in 1937. He joined the Dunfermline Royals, a junior Ice hockey team which won the junior championship with a record score of 43 points. Thereafter he joined the Dunfermline Vikings, a senior team. After the war he worked for a Radio/TV company as an engineer later setting up his own business. He is a keen golfer and still manages with assistance from his friends. He and his wife have three sons and seven grandchildren.

Bernard Hancock of Wisbech, Cambridgeshire served with the Army Catering Corps in Aldershot and Catterick from 1957 to 1959. In civilian life, he was a baker, a truck driver and a farm labourer. His hobbies included gardening and walking.

Donald Oates of London served with the Royal Air Force in the UK and Crete from 1958 to 1960 as a SAC. In civilian life he worked in banking. He used to enjoy football matches and went regularly to watch Arsenal. He enjoys classical music and he and his wife go to concerts in the Royal Festival Hall.

Raymond Thomas of King's Lynn, Norfolk served with the Royal Corps of Signals in Colchester and Catterick from 1954 to 1957 as a Signalman. Before he joined the army he had a variety of jobs the main one being in the optical trade in Kent. In civilian life, he worked in a lens polishing and grinding company in Rochester, Kent. He later turned to the motor industry, before setting up a Bed and Breakfast business in Norfolk. His hobbies used to be ornithology, reading and bowls. He and his wife have two daughters and four grandchildren.

Ernest Turner of Salisbury, Wiltshire served in the UK, North Africa, Italy, Austria, and Germany with the Corps of Royal Military Police from 1939 to 1946 as a Company Quartermaster Sergeant. He was an apprentice joiner and joined the TA in anticipation of the war. Returning to the carpentry profession, he ran a building firm. His interests included wood and brickwork. He was a keen small-bore shot and competed at county level. Mr Turner is married.

April 28th

James Clarke of Falmouth, Cornwall served with the Durham Light Infantry from 1935 to 1943. He forged his foster parent's signature to join up "under age" and went with the British Expeditionary Force to France. He also served in the Royal Air Force from 1945 to 1947. In civilian life, he worked as a professional chauffeur in Sheffield until he retired. He enjoyed modelling, walking, sequence and ballroom dancing. He has two sons and a grandson.

Henry Hall of Sevenoaks, Kent served in the Royal Navy from 1947 to 1961 as a Leading Seaman. His duties took him to the Far East, Persian

Gulf, Arctic and the Mediterranean. On leaving the Navy, he became a forester in Sussex and Kent. He then became a carpenter/joiner. Mr Hall used to enjoy modelling in wood, balsa wood and plastic. He and his wife have a daughter and two granddaughters.

Joseph Hardy of Sunderland, Tyne & Wear served with the 1st Battalion Durham Light Infantry and 11th/3rd Battalion Parachute Regiment from 1940 to 1946. He was posted to Palestine, the Middle East and also served in Europe at Arnhem with the day two parachute drop. He was a Corporal on demobilisation. He remains an active member of the Parachute Regiment Association. Before the war, he was a French polisher, and after leaving the service joined the steel industry. He and his wife Iris have five sons, two daughters and eight grandchildren and a great-grandchild.

Ronald Martin of Bexhill-on-Sea, East Sussex served with the Royal Navy and Fleet Air Arm from 1944 to 1947. He was posted to HMS Vari in Coimbatore, India and HMS Serwa in Columbo, Sri Lanka. He was responsible for parachute packing, dinghy repairs and also worked on Motor Torpedo Boats. In civilian life, he worked with British Oxygen, a job he briefly returned to after the war before joining the GPO. Shortly after this he became an electrical engineer, later joining London Transport. Mr Martin used to enjoy fishing, photography gardening and reading. He is married.

George Prest of Eston, Cleveland served with the General Service Corps and later the Royal Army Service Corps in Aldershot, Cirencester and Norton Fitzwarren in Taunton from 1947 to 1949. In civilian life, he worked in the steel industry before joining ICI. He was Chairman of his snooker club and enjoyed being at the centre of events. He and his wife have two sons and two daughters.

May 6th

Norman Jones of Luton, Bedfordshire served with the Royal Air Force from 1942 to 1946. He served in the UK, India in the Calcutta area and Burma in the Rangoon and Imphal area (SEAC) and was demobilised as a Leading Aircraftman. In civilian life he worked for the Co-operative Society. His hobbies used to be golf, gardening, scrabble and crosswords. He and his wife Joan have two sons.

50 YEARS AGO

The BBC broadcast of the Coronation of Queen Elizabeth II was the subject of much enjoyment and excitement. "We felt we were there," was a common comment. A deaf St Dunstaner described how relays of Sisters at Ovingdean translated the broadcast for him by manual alphabet throughout the day. Many also appreciated the issue of a silver crown as a memento of the event.

A group of St Dunstaners attended the procession, some having travelled from Australia for the occasion. Their day was completed by a late dinner.

St Dunstaners fared well in a Coronation Honours list with Coronation medals being awarded to C.H. Ellis, G.H. Heeley, Wally Lethbridge, P. Martin, W. Muir and Alan Nicols. J. Macfarlane was given a BEM and S.C. Tarry the MBE. St Dunstan's Chairman Sir Ian Fraser was made a member of the Order of the Companion of Honour (which is limited to 65 members at any one time).

FAMILY NEWS

BIRTHS

Congratulations on the birth of:
Cordeillia Lily in March. She is the great-granddaughter of Maureen McNamara of Dublin, Eire and the late *Sean McNamara*.

Bethany Lee Ostle on March 11th. She is the great-granddaughter of Sheila Ostle of Cockermouth, Cumbria, and the late *Isaac Ostle*.

Bella Jane on April 10th. She is the great-greatniece of Myrtle Simonds of Southampton, Hampshire and the late *Frank Simonds*.

Pryce Beatty on April 10th. He is the grandson of Josephine Beatty of Ballinamallard, County Fermanagh and the late *William Beatty*.

Jamie Marshall on April 12th. He is the grandson of *David and Anne Marshall* of Enniskillen, County Fermanagh, Northern Ireland.

Alice Joyce on April 12th. She is the great-granddaughter of Muriel Newton of Oldham, Lancashire and the late *Roy Newton*.

Curtis James on April 13th. He is the great-grandson for *Alan and Margaret Naylor* of Mansfield, Nottinghamshire.

GOLDEN ANNIVERSARIES

Congratulations to:
Rita and Philip Culmer of Horsham, West Sussex on May 16th.

DIAMOND ANNIVERSARIES

Congratulations to:
Thomas and Edith McLoughlin, Spital, Wirral on April 10th.

SPECIAL ANNIVERSARIES

Congratulations to:
George and Marjorie Allan of Grundisburgh, Suffolk who celebrated 61 years of marriage on May 16th.

Dick and Bett Hall of Hassocks, West Sussex who celebrated 61 years of marriage on May 16th.

ACHIEVEMENTS

Congratulations to:
Don Wessels of South Africa who recently obtained his MA degree through UNISA.

DEATHS

We regret to announce the death of:
Marie Habberfield on April 15th. She was the wife of *Herbert Habberfield* of Neath, West Glamorgan.

Marjorie Gimber on May 11th. She was the wife of *Stanley Gimber* of Whitton, Middlesex.

Rita Sladen of Preston Lancashire on April 23rd. She was the widow of *Arnold Sladen*.

Ian Bradshaw on April 15th. He was the son of *William and Peggy Bradshaw* of Porthcawl, Mid Glamorgan.

Our sympathy goes to their families and friends.

IN MEMORY

We regret to announce the deaths of the following St Dunstaners and our sympathy goes to their families and friends.

William Robertshaw Royal Scots

William Robertshaw of Turton, Bolton died on April 13th, aged 90. He served in the Royal Scots from 1940 to 1946. Posted to North Africa and then Italy, he was deafened, lost his left eye and suffered damage to his right eye in an explosion at Cassino. In civilian life he became a dairy farmer. Our sympathy goes to his widow June, son Roger and all other members of the family.

David Henry Royal Engineers

David Tudor Henry of Gosport, Hampshire died on April 18th, aged 80. He served in the Royal Engineers from 1942 to 1947. He deployed to the Western Desert with 51st Highland Field Company. He fought with the 8th Army through North Africa, Sicily, Italy and Austria and was blown up twice by mines. He took part in numerous close actions such as Cassino. After the war he became a works engineer refurbishing collieries before switching to Portsmouth Power Station. He later worked on ship-to-ship missiles. After retiring he was night duty emergency services officer for his local council. Our sympathy goes to his widow Twynera and all other members of the family.

Colin Bewley Royal Air Force

Colin Bewley of Paignton, Devon died on April 25th, aged 91. He served in the Royal Air Force from 1941 to 1946. Having worked in the boat trade, he was commissioned into Air-Sea Rescue where his first boat was the last he had delivered as a civilian. He served in various locations including Cornwall, Devon and finally Shetland. At the end of the war he returned to buying and selling boats and organising sailing trips. Our sympathy goes to his son Roger and all other members of the family.

Seth Bennett West Yorkshire Regiment

Seth Bennett of Bradford, West Yorkshire died on May 1st, aged 87. He had been a St Dunstaner since 1966. He served in the West Yorkshire Regiment from 1940 to 1942. He lost his left eye after suffering

a gun shot wound in 1941 and the sight in his right eye went in 1967. In civilian life, he worked in a carpet mill. His interests included gardening. Although totally blind, he lovingly cared for his wife, Alberta at home in very difficult circumstances until her death from Alzheimer's disease and related problems. Our sympathy goes to his daughters Janice and Valerie and all members of the family.

Joseph Condon Royal Air Force

Joseph Raphael Condon of London died on May 5th, aged 93. He served in the Royal Air Force from 1941 to 1946. He trained as a coxswain on an Air Sea Rescue Boat, serving in the UK and South Africa. After the war he worked as a dispensing chemist. An avid opera fan, he also used to row in regattas and enjoyed walking. Our sympathy goes to his sons, daughter and all of the family.

Bertie Williamson Suffolk Regiment

Bertie Norman Williamson of Colchester, Essex died on May 12th, aged 82. He had been a St Dunstaner since 1950. He worked as a Labourer before joining the Suffolk Regiment in 1940. He was posted to the Far East and taken prisoner in Singapore in 1942. He was held at Changi and other camps, during which time he contracted beri-beri. The privations he suffered would eventually rob him of his sight. After his discharge in 1946, he joined a Ministry of Defence Ordnance Support Unit. His interests included handicrafts. Our sympathy goes to his widow Eva, daughter Jacqueline and all members of the family.

Patrick Hennessy Royal Artillery

Patrick David Hennessy, RSA, RTA of Bedminster, Bristol, Avon died on May 6th, aged 51. Originally a toolmaker, he joined the Royal Artillery in 1971. After completing his training at Woolwich, he was posted to the Missile Regiment in BAOR. He played rugby and also boxed for the regiment. He was a Lance Bombadier when discharged in 1978. In civilian life, he became a marketing manager for a Bristol Transport firm. However, he was struck down by a severe stroke which led to a lengthy period of intensive care. An intensive exercise programme restored the use of the left-hand side of his body, but he was left totally blind. His interests included fishing, computers, local politics and music. He used to transfer old records onto CD for his fellow St Dunstaners. Our sympathy goes to his brother, sister and all members of the family.

Now that's a flying Gunner!

THE DARING DAREDEVIL motorcyclists who are helping St Dunstaner Billy "the Whizz" Baxter train for his forthcoming land speed record attempt are known as the Flying Gunners. However, some members of the Royal Artillery take the "flying" more literally.

Some Gunners are rather adept at parachuting, while others make up the regiment's balloon team. These skills were on display at the Royal Artillery barracks, Woolwich on April 26th.

In an example of cross-Service cooperation, Royal Air Force St Dunstaner Eric Colman of Harrogate had the chance to feel his way round the basket from the Regiment's hot-air balloon. Could he be on the verge of taking to the air once more?



Above: The Royal Artillery balloon team gave Eric a guided tour of the balloon basket. Could something be about to take off?

Right: St Dunstaner Eric chats with Mayor of Greenwich Don Austin at Woolwich Barracks.