

# St Dunstan's Review

September 2001



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Cover picture:

St Dunstaners, staff, friends  
and ramblers endure the  
warm weather while  
walking out on the Downs.

Full report on page 8.

## From the Chairman

Those of you who visit Ovingdean will be aware of how busy the house has become, especially during these summer months. This contrasts with the early 1990's, when, although there were no permanent nursing care facilities at Ovingdean, the house was only 50 per cent occupied on average throughout the year. Now, that figure has risen to around 80 per cent, which is much more desirable.

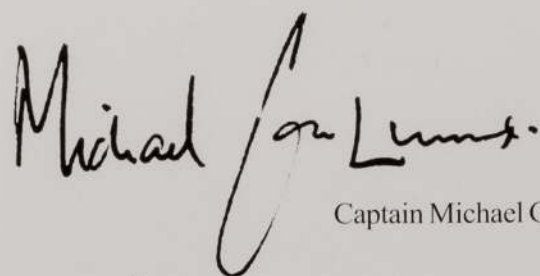
St Dunstan's commitment is to provide lifelong care to all its St Dunstaners. I would like to reassure our long standing St Dunstaners that the promises made to them many years ago remains solid and they will be given priority with regard to permanent residency at Ovingdean.

Secondly, whilst those dealing with bookings do everything in their power to satisfy all requests, I would ask you to be aware of some situations. We can allow for holidays, reunions, Clubs and activities in advance. However, there will always be those who require convalescent and respite care – these are not predictable, but are obviously priorities based on need. This may mean that holidaymakers and their escorts may have to be asked to change their dates.

I also hope that all St Dunstaners will understand that sighted escorts, helpers and guests may be asked to move to a local hotel. Each one of these sighted people staying at Ovingdean means one less St Dunstaner able to be accommodated. St Dunstaners must take priority and I trust your friends and helpers will understand that.

I visited the Summer Camp sports day at HMS *Sultan* and once again found a group of committed competitors and good team spirits. The helpers were fantastic as always. Dave Burrows was very much in charge. This year there were even more participants.

We are so grateful to the Commodore and his staff for running such an imaginative and exciting programme. Of course, once again, a huge thank-you to Elspeth Grant for her organisation and dedication.



Captain Michael Gordon-Lennox, RN



## NOTICE BOARD



### FLORA LONDON MARATHON – APRIL 14th 2002

April 22nd 2001 saw ten members of the St Dunstan's London Marathon Team line up on Blackheath for the start of this year's race.

Entries for next year have to be in by the middle of October. We would like to see the team grow and grow. We'll all be there again next year, every step of the way, all 26.2 miles of it. If you think you can do it, and would like to give it a try, give us a call to see what you will be letting yourself in for.

For more details phone Grant Cooper, Sports & Recreation Supervisor or Lynda Stringer, Training Co-ordinator at Ovingdean on 01273 307811.

### ST DUNSTAN'S SHIRTS FOR SALE

St Dunstan's T-shirts, polo shirts and sweatshirts are now available in medium, large and extra large sizes. The logo is of St Dunstan's badge, the torch emblem, with the wording "Caring for blind ex-Service men and women" underneath.

#### Prices as follows:

|   |       |
|---|-------|
| White T-shirt 100% cotton with blue left-hand chest logo                  | £4.30 |
| Navy T-shirt 100% cotton with yellow left-hand chest logo                 | £4.30 |
| Navy polo shirt 100% cotton with yellow left-hand chest logo              | £8.30 |
| White polo shirt 100% cotton with blue left-hand chest logo               | £8.30 |
| Navy sweatshirt 70% cotton/30% polyester with yellow left-hand chest logo | £9.00 |

Postage & packing will be added which will depend on the quantity ordered. You will be notified of this charge on your payment request. To order please telephone the Public Relations department on 020 7723 5021 or send in a written order to PR Dept (Shirts), 12-14 Harcourt Street, London W1H 4HD.

### NEVER MISS A CALL

British Telecom have just launched a new message minding service, BT Answer 1571. If you are away from the phone, already taking a call or surfing the internet then it will take a message in the same fashion as an answerphone. To retrieve messages the caller just dials 1571 and they are connected to their mailbox. Up to ten messages can be stored which will be held for 20 days before being automatically deleted. There is no extra charge for making use of the service. The only requirement is a touchtone telephone. It is possible to register by calling freephone 0800 917 1571 and following the automatic instructions.

### NEW FROM THE KEYBOARD TUTORIAL

John Wilson has written another tutorial on the subject of the use of the Nero Burning-ROM compact disk creation program, which is supplied with many modern CD writing drives.

The tutorial comprises over 90 sections, subsections and appendices. The manual also introduces readers to some general concepts and hardware pertinent to the use of compact disk rewriting drives in its initial few sections. The tutorial is available as a plain ASCII text file for £15. Within the UK only, it can also be purchased on floppy disk for £17.

Any interested persons can contact him by telephone on 0113 2575957 or E-mail: [jwjw@cwcom.net](mailto:jwjw@cwcom.net).

### SIGRID KNOWLES

We are sad to report the death of Sigrid Knowles, late wife of our Council Member David Knowles, on Tuesday, July 31st after a serious illness. Sigrid was known by many St Dunstaners when she accompanied her husband David on his visits to attend reunions. We extend our deepest sympathy to David and all members of the family.

### DEADLINES FOR FUTURE ISSUES

The final date for submitting items for publication in the November *Review* is October 1st.

The final date for submitting items for publication in the December *Review* is October 29th.

## CHRISTMAS CARDS FOR SALE

Set 1 (Code M1) £2.00 per pack of ten cards (five of each design). Card size 130 x 98mm/5 x 3¾ inches.



*Christmas Fanfare*, from an original painting by Kareen Taylerson has a trio of winged angels blowing a fanfare on tasselled trumpets against a gold background with stars. This is surrounded by a scarlet border and flanked by a blue column of holly and baubles.

The second card is an acrylic painting of *Bethlehem*. The travelling star rests over purple towers as doves fly through the sky. At the centre of the town is a nativity scene with the three wise men attending the new born Messiah in the stable.



Set 2 (Code T2) £2.50 per pack of ten cards (five of each design). Card size 125 x 125mm/4¾ x 4¾ inches.

*Robin and Mince Pie* shows a plump red breasted robin sitting on a mince pie with holly. *Christmas Rose* shows the white bloom with red berries. It has a green background framed by a red border.

The greeting reads "With every good wish for Christmas and the New Year". All the cards state that they are sold in aid of St Dunstan's. To place an order please state which set you require. P&P will be added which will depend on the quantity ordered. You will be notified of this charge on your invoice. To order please telephone the Public Relations dept on 020 7723 5021 or write to PR Dept (Cards), 12-14 Harcourt Street, London W1H 4HD. E-mail: roberta.hazan@st.dunstans.co.uk.

## THE ROADRUNNER

by Ray Hazan

Imagine your talking book machine could hold half a dozen books or more at a time, read them with a synthetic voice and was just a little bit larger than a cigarette packet. That is the Roadrunner.

I recently purchased this solid state device that has no moving parts and holds up to 3MB of text files – a book may be around 300k. Books are downloaded from the web onto your personal computer. These, or indeed any ASCII texts, are then downloaded into the Roadrunner. Many books, which are out of copyright are free and others may have to be paid for.

Roadrunner does not have a built-in speaker, just an output socket for headphones or amplified speakers. The built-in voice, which reads the text to you, is the Double-talk. It has several different voices, for which volume, speed and pitch can be controlled via the 12 keys on the face of the unit.

Further functions include skipping through text by word, sentence or paragraph, spelling out words,

placing bookmarks, a timer cut off in case you go to sleep and a status key which tells you what percentage of the book you have read. The whole unit is powered by 2 AA batteries which provide some 40 hours of listening.

The voice is reasonably distinctive though it would not be my personal preference. Many users read at high speed and find it intelligible.

Roadrunner costs £225 plus £10 carriage. The price includes the unit, a CD with the download software and some 1,200 books, the connecting cable, batteries and headphones.

There is also a Roadrunner Talking Bible – price £150 plus £10 carriage.

For details, or to order, please contact Computer Room Services, 77 Exeter Close, Stevenage, Hertfordshire SG1 4PW. Telephone: 01438 742286. E-mail: steve@comproom.co.uk

## CHANCE MEETINGS

**Two St Dunstaners were recently reunited with old comrades through strangely fortuitous coincidence. Ron Grimes of Letchworth tells how he encountered a fellow FEPOW.**

"I received an invitation from the "Not Forgotten Association" to attend a garden party at Buckingham Palace on Thursday July 26th, it was to be a day I shall always remember.

"On arrival I met a Far East Prisoner of War of the London Club Clifford Morris. Opening the conversation I asked him what unit he had served in, to which he replied 122 Field Regiment Royal Artillery. I added some of that unit had been with us FEPOWS in Korea in 1942. Imagine my surprise when I realised he and I had been in Jimsen POW camp together.

"Six months later he was sent off to Japan to work in the coal mines. I was posted off to Konam POW camp in North East Korea to work on electric furnaces making carbide. As these furnaces gave off ultraviolet light and we had no protective goggles most of us suffered loss of sight.

"This happened 59 years ago, and I didn't meet Cliff again until that day at Buckingham Palace.

"Later we were introduced to HRH Prince Michael of Kent and last, but not least, I met Rolf Harris without his didgeridoo.

"What a marvellous day in all."

### OLD FRIENDS

In July, Terry Walker travelled to the New Forest to give a talk to members of Probus. He was approached and asked if he knew a Bill Shea? To cut a long story short, the two were put in contact and Bill sent in this explanation:

"I got in touch on the phone early this week. Our last meeting was in 1948. Early in 1943 I had lost my Subaltern and was waiting for a replacement. The Colonel sent for me to introduce his replacement, George Jackson. When we met, we both burst out laughing. The Colonel wanted to know what the joke was. George and I both went to the same school, I was about two to three years ahead of him.

"When he got his second pip he went to 45 Commando and was involved in the D-Day operations and I was out in the Med. After the war he made contact with me but in getting our lives sorted out we lost contact."

## CARL AND LOUISE HAVE A WHITE WEBBING



Technology played a part in the marriage of St Dunstaner Carl Williams when he married Louise on May 26th at Droitwich Spa, Hereford & Worcester. Their special day is recorded online and photographs from their wedding album can be found on <http://louiseandcarl.co.uk>.

Carl, who served in the Royal Navy, works in the information technology industry and a friend decided that his marriage to Louise should be enshrined on the worldwide web.

Amongst the guests were fellow St Dunstaners Lionel Scott, Tony Haskey, Gary Lomas and Mark Brewin. Carl had, rather cheekily he admits, invited St Dunstan's Patron Her Majesty The Queen during the recent reception at Buckingham Palace. She declined due to a previous engagement.

# St Dunstaner Sydney Scroggie Honoured

## Doctorate presented to man of the mountains



*Duly honoured! Dr Sydney Scroggie, in academic robes and tam o'shanter, with his wife Margaret at the University of Dundee.*

On July 12th, Sydney Scroggie was awarded an Honorary Doctorate of Law at the University of Dundee in the City Chambers by University Chancellor Professor Sir James Black, Principal Sir Alan Langlands and the Lord Provost John Letford. The Scottish Highlands have dominated his life and his name was immortalised in stone, when a cairn was named after him last year. The following speech delivered on the occasion of his award says it all:

Chancellor, I have the honour to present for the Degree of Doctor of Laws, honoris causis (cowsis), Mr Sydney Scroggie.

Syd Scroggie is many things - we'd call him an author and a poet, he calls himself an 'inveterate scribbler' or versifier; he can be described too as a hillwalker and climber, but the term he'd use is hill

gangrel. The English meaning of this little used Scots word is tramp, vagrant or vagabond.

You may ask why the University of Dundee is conferring an honorary degree on somebody of this description. Syd Scroggie was born in 1919, although in Canada rather than Dundee, but we can overlook this minor blemish as for most of his life he has lived in and around the city, and worked in it too. He was educated at John Watson's Institution in Edinburgh, where he excelled in sports including running and rock climbing. When he left school he joined D.C. Thomson's, where he was the sub-editor of *The Hotspur*, a boy's paper which only those of us beyond a certain age will remember.

During the Second World War he saw five years' active service, first in the Cameronian Rifles and later the Lovat Scouts. However, within weeks of the war's end, at the age of 25 and on patrol in the Italian mountains, a land mine left him badly wounded. He lost much of his left leg, as well as the sight from both of his eyes. This however proved not to be an end but instead the beginning of a remarkable and inspirational period which has lasted the rest of his life.

Most of us imagine that if we were to be stripped of our sight and left with only one natural leg the last place we would want to go would be into the hills. Not Syd Scroggie. 'I can do without my eyes,' he reflected not long after his accident, 'but I can't do without my mountains.'

Within ten years he was back in the Sidlaws, stick in hand and with the appearance of what has been called a 'ragged covenanter', to begin what was to be the first of over 600 walking and climbing expeditions. Many of these were long treks, involving rough and ready overnight stops in bothy shelters. Evidently he never forgot the advice that was given to him when he was a boy by another lover of the Sidlaw Hills, John Ireland, who told him, gloriously politically incorrectly, that 'effete his mither, a man's best freend is the hills.'

This however is only partly true, for one of Syd Scroggie's passions is the companionship of his many

friends, and of his wife, who have accompanied him on many of his walks. So too have his three children. He is considered something of a legend by the mountaineering community not only in Tayside but also in Scotland. Fittingly, in June of last year a cairn and indicator was unveiled on the top of Balluderon Hill, as a tribute to his exploits in and love of the Sidlaw Hills.

Many tales are told of Syd Scroggie's expeditions and adventures. One of the best I have come across was an occasion when he and his companion were late returning from a walk over Lochnagar, something which was beginning to cause some concern. But it shouldn't have. The response of one walker who was told that someone was out late on the hill was, apparently, 'It's no yon blind bugger Scroggie is it?'

Unusually, perhaps uniquely, Syd Scroggie has described his blindness as 'a sort of adventure'. It is his refusal to accept blindness as a limiting factor in his life, as a physical prison, but instead his ability to challenge it, to consider it even as an opportunity, which has inspired his many admirers, young and old. Certainly his lack of normal sight has not blinded him to the practices of the much criticised Scottish tourist industry. The first few lines of one of his early verses, entitled *Parody* are as acutely perceptive today as when they were first written:

O there's bawbees in Lanark and siller in Skye  
And profit in Hielands and Lowlands forbye,  
But there's nae greater love that the heart could desire  
Than to fleece the fine tourists in bonny Strathyre.

For it's up in the morn and awa' to the hill  
Where the lang summer's days put a pound on the bill  
And the peak of Ben Vorlich is no muckle higher  
Than the price you can charge for high tea in Strathyre.

Some of his other poems have been described as earthy, but sadly I can't read these to you on a dignified occasion such as this. But there are poems, which are compelling in their insight, and understanding of the human experience, not only but mainly as it is lived in the hills. One of them, *Blizzard*, was published in 1981. Its subject is the death on a walk in Glen Doll of five Glasgow lads at New Year in the winter of 1959. No other poem I know conveys so acutely the feelings of exhaustion - and terror - which walkers and climbers can feel when they've been caught out unexpectedly on the mountains by a sudden storm, in white-out conditions when you can hardly open your eyes because of the force of the driving snow and can only hear the roar of the wind.

Falling and getting up and falling  
Sinking in snowdrifts, lurching, crawling  
The stinging blows, the booming sound of wind,  
The whiteness swirling round.

It is appropriate that Syd Scroggie should be honoured on this occasion. The graduates have learned a great deal about what medical science can do to ease the suffering, cure the sick and injured. But there were limits to what could be done in that Naples hospital for Syd Scroggie. The rest he has done himself.

He demonstrates how powerful the human spirit can be in the face of adversity. He has not only risen above his physical impediments in his own life, but through his example, friendship, lecturing, and writing he has shared with others his passion for living and love of the hills. He is a most extraordinary vagabond.

Chancellor, I have the honour to invite you to confer upon Mr Syd Scroggie, the Degree of Doctor of Laws.



*Back to nature! Syd and Margaret Scroggie out in the wilds that have inspired so much of his work.*

# AND MURPHY CAME TOO

## Ramblin' Ray Hazan heads down to Sussex for a lucky 13th St Dunstan's walking club holiday

Pictures: Robbie

**T**here was an inevitability about certain aspects of this year's walking holiday. It was, after all, the thirteenth year the event had taken place. We had chosen one of the hottest weeks of the year and we were clashing with camp causing some difficult decisions for some of our regulars. Mind you, in order to salve his conscience, Tom had a bottle of champagne and a bouquet of flowers awaiting our arrival at Ovingdean. This was a most generous and much appreciated gesture as we quaffed the cold bubbly in a hot dining-room!



**Main:** One of the walks took a cliff top route.  
**Top left:** An inquisitive horse runs towards our group.  
**Top right:** Evelyn Lucas with Brian the Driver on the bridge where author A. A. Milne devised the game of 'Poohsticks'.  
**Above:** Sue Lilley makes friends with Jasper.



*It's only tea, honest. Mike Tetley and Ray Hazan relax at the vineyard with some vintage Earl Grey.*

We were pleased this year to welcome a quartet of new faces to the group. Peggy West, with guide dog Ashley, and Evelyn Lucas added glamour, while Graham Johnson added confusion (there were already two namesakes in the party) and David Youngson with his pipe. This latter so clamoured for attention, that it set off the fire alarm one morning! The Johns' unbroken 90 per cent record was unblemished by the presence of Beryl, as Ted was attending camp at HMS *Sultan*. The remainder included Mike Tetley and guide dog Chad, John and Sue Lilley, Ralph Taylor, George and Catherine Johnston plus author accompanied by his proofreader. We were sorry to lose George Male early on through a knee injury.

We shall all have the memories of our high and low 'lights' of each day. The sun shone mercilessly down and when we occasionally passed a llama in a field, it gave a slightly surreal feeling of being far from English shores. Saturday saw us in the Ditchling area and the afternoon took us along the banks of the river Adur with a cooling, ruffling breeze in from the sea.

On Sunday we must have climbed over 121 styles, or was it nearer the two dozen? Our route took us through a free ranging chicken farm and we set up an amazing cacophony of clucking as we disturbed hundreds of birds sheltering in the shade of a hedgerow. Several came up to us as if to enquire what the devil were we doing?

This was followed by one of our longer pub stops as the landlord had failed to prepare our orders for lunch given in earlier that day.

Monday was dominated by Jack and Jill. These are two windmills, one in working order and the other inhabited. We had looked over the one in previous years. Our walk took us in a circle on the ridge around the mills. This meant a cooling breeze, open, flat paths and magnificent views over 20 miles across valleys. For much of the time, the only sounds were the chatter of the group. Otherwise the peaceful silence of the sunny Sussex countryside made you feel good to be alive!

Our last two days involved forests, which, we were told, did not necessarily involve trees. However, there were thankfully some around to provide shade as we walked through the Ashdown Forest on Tuesday. It is an area popular with horse riders and so the rutted sandy tracks took us through patches of solitude where neither a single man-made sound could be heard nor object could be seen. We crossed one non-existent river and another stream with water in it. Here, Chad decided to abandon his master for cooler climes. Fortunately, drivers do not just drive and Brian later located Chad staying firmly behind in his pool. It had been a worrying moment. Our walk concluded at a vineyard, where we eagerly imbibed the most glorious cups of tea. You will just have to believe me on that one!

Fortune looked down on us for our final day as we walked through Friston Forest. Wide, even paths in the shade of the trees, walking down a hill through freshly mown hay to a cooling pint and a ploughman's lunch, which would have served a family of four! The afternoon took us on a wonderful downland walk where we passed the Belle Tout lighthouse, which now provides B&B accommodation. This featured prominently on the world news and newspapers when it was moved 60 metres inland to avoid crashing into the sea. We ended up sucking ice-lollies at Burling Gap.

Our evenings were spent in the garden at Ovingdean, where we sat out quite comfortably until 10pm. We ventured occasionally into the bar or to win the bar quiz one evening – well done the Four Quartets!

These highlights consist of events, but far outweighing these and the heat was the warmth of the reception given us by those who volunteered to help and escort us. Jean Pool, the area organiser for the Ramblers Association had arranged for the Brighton & Hove, North Weald and Beachy Head groups to plan the routes and provide some additional escorts. The previously mentioned chatter was, at times,

overwhelming and was a pertinent indicator as to how well everyone was getting on together. Indeed, so much so, that a comment was heard 'if your legs worked as well as your mouth!', but this remark is unattributed! We really were so grateful to them all.

The week concluded with our customary dinner at which we were pleased to welcome some of the walk leaders. A couple of totally unrelated stories accompanied warm thanks to all those who had helped us. David Vinall and his transport team are always a welcome sight at the end of the walks. The attention to detail, such as checking for unscheduled

pick-up points, putting on water for the dogs and the walkers – in that order, of course! PBK are always helpful and we were pleased and relieved not to have left muddy trails for the housekeeping staff!

Finally, all the participants have to be congratulated on their achievement. It was a very hot one and I thank Jamie Cuthbertson's Sahara marathon for my personal inspiration. To try and imagine he experienced double the temperature and very many times the distance. I have heard talk about France next year, so polish up your Ecu's and brush up on your colloquial French, just in case.

## Life and Times of Ovingdean

by Kevin Elliot

It was a lovely hot summer day in Ovingdean as we sat back and relaxed to an afternoon of live music from the Band of The Royal Marines, led by commanding officer and conductor, Major Chris Davis.

The afternoon was filled with a pleasant mixture of marches, melodies and many all-time favourites. Nobody could escape the emotional atmosphere created by the Marines, as the band played, they captured everybody's attention.

Up to 120 St Dunstaners, friends, relatives and staff were being entertained with a grand variety of tunes with a finale of The Royal Marines own tune, *Life on the Ocean Waves*.



*March past. The drummers move briskly into place.*

The Marines mingled with St Dunstaners and chatted during the break. Major Davis was found engrossed in conversation with the last remaining 'Cockleshell Hero' Bill Sparks.

Bill undoubtedly caught the Major's attention with his great stories and adventures. In fact, so engrossed was Major Davis, two very polite band members gingerly enquired "When are we going to restart Sir?"

Louise Brooks seemed a bit disappointed when the band reassembled for she had lost the attention of a young Royal Marine Tom Crane who she had somehow gained exclusively!!

For the Band of The Royal Marines, St Dunstan's was the last venue before taking leave for a holiday. Maybe the precious thought of a break helped them keep their cool during the very hot afternoon.



*Last of the Cockleshell Heroes, Bill Sparks with Major Davis of the Royal Marines.*

# WELCOME TO ST DUNSTAN'S

## July 9th

**Michael Connell** of Caldbeck, Cumbria served in the Royal Navy as a Surgeon Lieutenant from 1943 to 1945. He served on the Destroyers HMS *Forester* and HMS *Manners*, which was torpedoed in the Irish Sea in 1945. He was Mentioned in Despatches in 1945. After the war Mr Connell specialised in radiology and was Director of Radiology at Northampton when he retired. A keen fisherman and shot, he also enjoyed gardening and carpentry. He has two daughters and four grandchildren.

## July 10th

**Franciszek Drzewicki** of Downend, Bristol served with the Polish Forces from 1939 to 1947. A policeman in Poland before the war, he joined the Polish Army. After the fall of Poland he continued the fight under French and then British Command. Once in the UK, he joined 2 Machine Gun and Technical Training Company, 1st Polish Rifle Brigade. He transferred to 1 Polish Division in 1943 and was deployed to France in 1944. He was blown up and wounded in both legs, losing his left leg. Mr Drzewicki was awarded the Polish Cross for valour. After a year with the Resettlement Corps he moved to Bristol and worked for Remploy for 30 years. He used to enjoy keeping pigeons, rabbits and budgies. He and his wife Jill have a son, four grandchildren and one great-grandson.

**Douglas Jones** of Smethwick, Warley served in the Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers from 1940 to 1946. After training he was posted to the Royal Army Service Corp as a driver mechanic. He was posted to Durban, Bombay and Pakistan before joining the 8th Army in the REME. He finished the war as a Staff Sergeant in Trieste. After leaving the service he returned to his work as a heavy goods vehicle driver. An enthusiast for motor cycle racing, he enjoyed maintaining bikes and cars. He has one son and a granddaughter.

**James Kinghorn** of South Shields, Tyne & Wear completed National Service with the Royal Army Ordnance Corps from 1946 to 1948, spending one year in Nairobi as a Sergeant. He rejoined six

months later and spent three more years in Nairobi before being posted to Austria. After leaving the service in 1954, he returned to the Post Office as a Driver/Postman. He was a Supervisor when he retired. Mr Kinghorn has been secretary of his Tenants Association Social Club and was secretary of his local ex-Service Fellowship Club for six years. He also enjoys bowling. He and his wife Muriel have two sons, a daughter and three grandchildren.

**George Prior** of Aborfield, Reading, Berkshire served in the Royal Engineers from 1939 to 1949. He joined as an apprentice, aged 14, and completed his trade training at Chatham with the Bengal Sappers and Miners. He was posted to India for the Burma Campaign. Returning to the UK he joined the Port Control Company at Hull and was later sent to Germany as Company Sergeant Major. In civilian life he worked as a School Caretaker. Mr Prior was awarded the BEM and became well known for developing environmental training. He and his wife Myrtle have six children, 11 grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

**Harold Sparrey** of Tenbury Wells, Worcestershire served in the Royal Engineers from 1942 to 1947. He was posted to North Africa and served as a dispatch rider through the desert campaign, ending up in Tripoli in preparation for the invasion of Italy. During the Italy campaign, his unit was twice sent to support the campaign in Yugoslavia. They were later sent to Greece. After the war he returned to the building trade, but then joined the local water authority. Over the years, he has enjoyed car mechanics, carpentry, playing and watching football and cricket. He and his wife Joan have five children, ten grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

## July 23rd

**Hildegard Spring** of Little Chalfont, Amersham, Buckinghamshire served in the Royal Air Force from 1941 to 1945. She served at Becham Newtown, Longham, Benson, Melksham and other bases throughout the UK. After the war she worked in the school uniform department of a gentleman's outfitters. She and her husband Sydney enjoy metal detecting and are members of RAFA.

**Peter Toms** of Great Missenden, Buckinghamshire served in the Royal Air Force from 1946 to 1956. As a Ground Flight Mechanic he was posted to 110 Squadron in Changi and served in the Far East. He later joined 111 Squadron during which he supported the Aerobatic Squadron, the Black Arrows. In civilian life he worked at Heathrow Airport and as a chauffeur. His interests include gardening and most sports. He is married to Christine.

## July 24th

**Irving Nuttall** of Rawdon, Leeds served in the Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers from 1956 to 1958. He joined his unit in support of Centurion Tanks and was posted to North Africa. During the crisis in Lebanon he was sent to Cyprus to provide emergency support. Back in the UK, he worked as a barrow boy, as a driver, in sales and as a production controller. He used to enjoy playing tennis, badminton, swimming and making wine. He is interested in languages and enjoys gardening. Mr Nuttall has two sons.

**Arthur Redwood** of Porthcawl, Mid Glamorgan served in the Royal Engineers from 1942 to 1946. He trained as a Field Engineer and deployed with 934 Transportation Company during D-Day. He received the King's Badge for wounds received during the invasion. His unit initially constructed airfields and then supported operations including Arnhem and the Rhine crossing. In civilian life he worked in the building and tobacco trades. He and his wife Mary have spent a great deal of time supporting many local causes including a diabetic hospital and cancer hospital. They were each awarded an MBE for their contribution to the community.

**Reginald Reynolds** of Colchester, Essex served in the Royal Air Force from 1938 to 1946. He served in the UK, Norway and Libya. In civilian life, he worked in the return stores department of a local barracks before joining the railways. He and his wife Doris have two daughters, a son, seven grandchildren and six great-grandchildren.

## July 26th

**Leonard Walker** of Guildford, Surrey served in the Royal Engineers from 1939 to 1946. A substantive Sergeant/Acting Warrant Officer, he served in the

Anti-Aircraft Division throughout the UK. After the war he joined West Midlands Gas as Supervisor of the Nechells and Saltley works. Later, he joined ICI in their titanium plant. He used to enjoy diving, crosswords and bridge. He has three daughters, ten grandchildren and ten great-grandchildren.

**Lawrence Wilcox-Howell** of Brighton served in the Royal Navy from 1940 to 1946. While escorting two battleships they were attacked by U-boats. In the follow up action they rammed and sank one U-boat near Trinidad taking 40 prisoners as a result. He continued with convoy duties between Liverpool and Newfoundland. His destroyer was deployed during D-Day and the Normandy invasions. In civilian life, he worked as a roofer, eventually forming his own asphalt roofing company. He used to enjoy weight lifting and keep-fit but now enjoys gardening. He and his wife Gillian have a son, five grandchildren and five great-grandchildren.

## August 3rd

**Edward Arnold** of Potters Bar, Hertfordshire served in the Royal Air Force from 1946 to 1948. He trained at Wilmslow and moved on to general duties at Bletchley. He then moved to Dunstable and was responsible for maintaining airdials used to broadcast meteorological reports. After leaving the service he opened a wool shop, extending the business until he had 22 shops in the London area. He then formed a buying group with similar traders and became buyer for the group. He overcame his deteriorating vision with the help of his son who accompanied him on buying trips. His interests include gardening and bowls. He and his wife Joan have a son.

**William Buck** of Abingdon, Oxfordshire served in the Royal Northumberland Fusiliers from 1940 to 1941, the Maritime Royal Artillery from 1941 to 1944 and the Royal Army Ordnance Corps from 1944 to 1946. He was deployed as an ack-ack gunner on merchant vessels in the Far East. He also served in India. After leaving the service he joined Esso Petroleum as a technician. He and his wife Florence have two daughters, a son, two grandsons and a granddaughter.

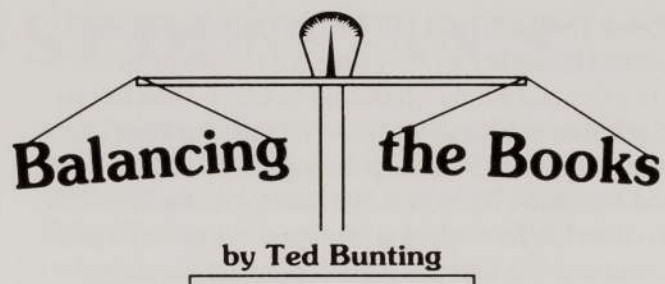
**Nancy Chadwick** of Royton, Oldham served in the Auxiliary Territorial Services from 1942 to 1945. Prior to being called up she worked as an accountant,

so after training she was posted to the Royal Army Pay Corps attached to the Royal Engineers. She was soon promoted to Sergeant. After the war she became a music teacher. Her interests include history. She and her husband Frank have a son, daughter, three granddaughters and one grandson.

**Gladys Mark-Herbert** of Kentish Town, London served in the Queen Alexandra's Army Nursing Corps from 1962 to 1966. A Nursing Sister, she joined the TA and was commissioned as Captain. She then volunteered for the regulars and served in Aldershot and Hong Kong. After leaving the service she moved to the Bahamas to help set up a new health clinic. She returned to the UK for further qualifications and then moved to New York, working as a midwife, on theatre duty and training junior nurses to set up a trauma clinic. Her interests have included tennis, athletics and skating.

**Frederick Nunn** of Luton, Bedfordshire served in the Royal Air Force from 1941 to 1945. He was employed as a carpenter/joiner and repaired wooden propellers on Spitfire and Wellington aircraft. He served in Oldham, Manchester and Belgium. He left the service to repair war-damaged buildings but then joined Vauxhall Motors. A craftsman, he has always enjoyed making things and was a keen sportsman, enjoying snooker, bowls and golf. His interests include music and gardening. Mr Nunn has a daughter.

**Albert White** of Petersfield, Hampshire served in the Royal Hampshire Regiment from 1931 to 1938 and 1939 to 1945. Initially serving on the Isle of Wight, he was posted to India as a Corporal Signaller. He returned to the UK for discharge but was recalled in 1939. While serving in North Africa he was taken prisoner and transported to Italy and then Stalag 4B in Germany. As a result of his captivity and resulting ill health, he did not see his son until he was six years old. After leaving the service he joined the Admiralty in Hazlemere testing valves. When they closed he worked in the building trade. A long-standing member of his local bowling club he used to enjoy snooker, darts and other games. He has a son, grandson and granddaughter.



## Balancing the Books

by Ted Bunting

### A Killing Kindness

Author: Reginald Hill  
Reader: Joan Walker  
Catalogue Number 8409  
Duration: 8 Hours.

Television addicts, especially those hooked on police dramas, will already be acquainted with Dazeil and Pasco, the senior officers here engaged in a search for a mysterious serial killer. But the real mystery to me, is how anyone could possibly derive pleasure from such trivia as this, the narrative leads into so many blind alleys that I really regretted starting to follow it.

Inspector Pasco's wife is pregnant, by the way; the intelligence has about as much connection with the case as George Stephenson had to the invention of the vacuum cleaner but it pads out the story I suppose. Like the tittle-tattle of the sergeant's love life does, and the many other irrelevancies which make the book such a drag. Red herrings abound too, but one expects to encounter these in tales of this kind. It was when I was subjected to a boring mini lecture on linguistics that I finally decided to give this one an emphatic thumbs down, though I did listen right to the end. So who was the killer? Was it one of "those blasted gypsies camped near the airfield"? Or did he or she come from another quarter? My lips are sealed; after all, I can only be sure I didn't enjoy the book, not that you won't.

## REUNION ROUND-UP

There was a fine brand of reunion when 15 St Dunstaners and ten widows gathered for the Newcastle Reunion on June 19th. Drew Lyburn was the Member of St Dunstan's Council presiding at the Royal Station Hotel, Newcastle upon Tyne.

Mr Lyburn reprised that role on June 20th at the Leeds Reunion. There were seven St Dunstaners, eight widows and one widower at the Forte Posthouse Hotel, Bramhope, Leeds.

In Edinburgh on June 27th three St Dunstaners and five widows were reunited at the Royal Scot Hotel. Raymond Hazan was the Member of St Dunstan's Council presiding.

## LETTER TO THE EDITOR

**From: Philip Roche, Aylesbury**

(Following the article on Michael Ryan's trip to Lourdes by Jackie Greer in the July *Review*). As a 'cradle' Catholic, I must admit I had hardly heard of Lourdes and certainly hadn't any knowledge of Fatima until my accident. But while I was recovering after I had got out of hospital, people were beginning to fetch me from home to go to church. The local Bishop of Northampton was one day talking business to my priest, who was one of the Canons for the Diocese. The Bishop mentioned the national pilgrimage to Lourdes because he had always been one of the leading members. He told him that the travel authorities were giving him two free places on the next pilgrimage. My parish priest said he knew just the man who could do with one of those tickets! I was duly given one.

We travelled from Newhaven to Dieppe and then by special train. A married couple I knew agreed to go and act as my escorts. I found it very encouraging to be amongst so many disabled yet obviously so sincere and devout Catholics. I was given a pass, which got me in the bath every day. We did all the usual things; the Stations of the Cross, the candle procession every evening and attending Mass. The underground Basilica wasn't there in those days. I remember that being built. I have been to Lourdes several times since then.

I have been learning Catholic liturgy since I was seven and have served Sunday Mass wherever I have been. My faith has been of great help to me, especially since I lost my sight.

## FAMILY NEWS

### BIRTHS

**Congratulations on the birth of:**

Oliver Griffiths on April 22nd. He is the first great-grandchild of Lilian Bradley of Rosliston, Derbyshire, widow of *Alfred Bradley*.

Jack on August 4th. He is the grandson of *Bryan and Valmai Alexander* of Hounslow, Middlesex.

### RUBY ANNIVERSARIES

**Congratulations to:**

*Philip and Janet Heyes* of Northfield, Birmingham on July 22nd.

*Francis and Ann Elgood* of Saltburn-by-the-Sea, Cleveland on August 12th.

### GOLDEN ANNIVERSARIES

**Congratulations to:**

*John and Sheila Wellings* of Neston, South Wirrell, Cheshire on July 28th.

*Richard and Lillian Hooper* of Heamoor, Penzance, Cornwall on August 8th.

### DIAMOND ANNIVERSARY

**Congratulations to:**

*Donald and Betty Lorenz* of Blofield, Norwich, Norfolk on July 27th.

### ACHIEVEMENTS

**Congratulations to:**

*Islwyn Hughes* of Anglesey, Gwynedd on obtaining his amateur radio licence and the callsign M1FBK.

Hannah Conroy, aged 13, on being declared Athlete of the Match during a recent athletics contest. She came first in discus, javelin and shotput and her team Mandale Harriers' Young Athletes have swept to the top of the North-east division. Hannah is the granddaughter of Gloria Conroy of Middlesbrough, Cleveland and the late *James Conroy*.

Hannah Foxley who has earned a BA(Hons) in Finance at the University of Central England, Birmingham. She is the daughter of *William Foxley* of Crawley, West Sussex.

### DEATHS

**We regret to announce the death of:**

**Ethel Whiting** on July 16th. She was the wife of *Sid Whiting* of Ovingdean.

**Mary Hopkins** on July 20th. She was the wife of *Norman Hopkins* of Heath, Cardiff.

**Diane Bullock** on July 28th. She was the wife of *John Bullock* of Lowestoft, Suffolk.

**Ann Wallage** of Burgess Hill, West Sussex on July 17th. She was the widow of *Albert Wallage*.

**Audrey Relf** of Tunbridge Wells, Kent on July 23rd. She was the widow of *Arthur Relf*.



**Jacqueline Elwood** on June 24th. She was the daughter of *Kenneth and Betty Brooke* of Sheffield.

**Our sympathy goes to their families and friends.**

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## IN MEMORY

**It is with deep regret that we have to record the deaths of the following St Dunstaners and we offer our deepest sympathy to their widows, family and friends.**

### **Thomas Baldwin**

*Royal Engineers*

Thomas Baldwin of Luton, Bedfordshire died on July 12th, aged 81. He served in the Royal Engineers from 1938 to 1946. Deployed to France with 6 Field Park Company he was evacuated from Dunkirk on a holiday boat. He then trained on mines and general engineer disciplines. His company returned to Europe on D-Day, landing on Gold Beach with a platoon of Royal Ulster Rifles. By the end of the day they linked up with the Parachute Regiment at Pegasus Bridge. The unit then fought through to Germany. Mr Baldwin was then posted to Palestine for the remainder of his service. In civilian life he joined an engineering firm in Luton, eventually becoming director. A keen golfer, he had been President and Master of his Masonic Lodge. Our sympathy goes to his widow Hilda, sons, daughter and all members of the family.

### **William Crombie**

*Civil Defence*

"Russ" William Russell Crombie of Horsham, West Sussex died on July 12th, aged 83. He had been a St Dunstaner since 1964. Having become a Civil Defence worker in 1937 he was wounded three years later when an ARP Post received a direct hit. In civilian life he worked as a telephonist for the Civil Service Association. His interests over the years included gardening and toy making. Our sympathy goes to his widow Mary, daughters Dawn and Alison and all other members of the family.

### **Gilbert Stanley**

*Leicester Regiment*

Gilbert Arnold Stanley of Ovingdean died on July 25th, aged 84. He had been a St Dunstaner since 1940. Originally a carpenter, he enlisted with the 1/5

Battalion Leicester Regiment. He was serving with them as a Corporal when he was blinded by gunshot at Narvic, Norway in 1940. After training at St Dunstan's he worked as a telephonist. Mr Stanley was a guide dog owner and had a keen interest in woodwork. Our sympathy goes to his daughters Julia and Susan, son Godfrey and all of the family.

### **Henry Foster**

*Royal Air Force*

Henry Frank Foster of Brighton died on July 26th, aged 86. He served in the Royal Air Force from 1940 to 1946. As a member of a salvage and recovery team, he deployed to France, where he had a roving commission to repair and recover aircraft and vehicles. After leaving the service he worked as a motor mechanic. He officially retired at 65 but continued to work, processing motor warranty claims until he was 82. Our sympathy goes to his son Kenneth, daughter Joan and all of the family.

### **John Whysall**

*Sherwood Foresters*

John Whysall of Ovingdean died on July 29th, aged 92. He had been a St Dunstaner since 1997. Mr Whysall worked in the textile industry before enlisting with the Sherwood Foresters in early 1939. After the declaration of war he joined the British Expeditionary Force in France. After the fall of France his regiment was posted to Singapore. Captured by the Japanese he spent the rest of the war as a prisoner in Changi Gaol. The malnutrition he experienced would eventually cause his blindness. He returned to the UK after VJ Day and was discharged in 1946. In civilian life he worked for British Rail. Our sympathy goes to all members of his family.

### **Dennis Williams**

*South Wales Borderers*

"Jack" Dennis John Williams of Rumney, Cardiff died on July 31st, aged 87. He served in the South Wales Borderers from 1940 to 1946. He served in India, Iraq and Egypt before being taken prisoner in Italy in 1942. Having been moved to Germany, he was made to work in the mines where he received injuries to the head, ribs and chest. After the war he worked as a telephonist and stocktaker at Cardiff Railway Station until his retirement. He played forward for his local rugby club and also used to box. Our sympathy goes to his widow Lilian, daughter Christine, son Stephen and all other members of the family.