

July 2003

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# ST DUNSTAN'S Review



**FOR BLIND EX-SERVICE MEN AND WOMEN**

ST DUNSTAN'S  
Review No 926  
July 2003

**Cover story:**  
**Off they went with a trumpity-trump!**

How does a blind man describe an elephant? Twenty-four St Dunstaners took that challenge in the Craft Workshop. St Dunstaner Albert Serdet is pictured as he feels the relief sculpture that he entered in the Brighton Festival. Flying over the masthead is an appliqué "Crying Dumbo" by St Dunstaner Alice Gimbere. She titled the work *Spare My Tears - Save My Brothers*.

**Full details on page 14.**

**Dance of the Iron Men!**

Exercise Iron Man 2003 ended with a fine musical note and St Dunstaners dancing in the lounge.

**Details on page 16.**



**Trafford target David for award**

St Dunstaner David Poyner has been feted for his sporting achievement in the face of adversity.

**Details on page 8.**

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

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**From the Chairman**



The Chairman congratulates St Dunstaner Stan Grimsey on completing the Hastings Half-Marathon.

WE ARE VERY grateful for the continued support we receive from the Royal Engineers and others via Exercise Iron Man, about which you will read in later pages. We particularly appreciate donations from serving members of HM Forces, which shows a raised awareness of St Dunstan's.

In this respect, I do urge you to play your part in telling people about the work of our organisation. Not only will this publicise our name to gain the support upon which we depend, but may help others who are eligible to become St Dunstaners but are not aware of our existence.

I know many of you wear your lapel badge with justifiable pride. A big 'thank you' to all those who play their part in so many different ways, in promoting the name of St Dunstan's.

Our Chief Executive, Robert Leader has introduced changes to the senior management structure, mainly at Headquarters, which you will read about. I would emphasise that you will still deal principally through your Welfare Officer.

As a result, Tim Osborne, Susan Harrison and Suzanne Cameron will be leaving the organisation. Tributes will appear in due course. But I do want to take this opportunity, on behalf of everyone, to thank them all for the years they have given to St Dunstan's.

Captain Michael Gordon-Lennox, RN

**ST DUNSTAN'S Calendar**

|                       |                      |
|-----------------------|----------------------|
| 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       |
| Computer Club         | October 8th-9th      |
| Amateur Radio         | October 10th-12th    |
| Widows' Week          | October 13th-20th    |
| Bowling Club          | Oct 24th- Nov 5th    |
| Remembrance Sunday    | Nov 9th              |
| Christmas Craft Week  | Dec 1st-8th          |

**DEADLINES FOR FUTURE ISSUES**

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

The final date for submitting items for publication in the September **Review** is August 5th 2003.

Dear St Dunstan's comrades

## Blind Solo World Land Speed Record

I cannot believe that there are only a few weeks left until my record attempt on 2nd August 2003. Soon I will be tearing down the runway at 150mph aiming to whizz into the Guinness World Records!

Having already reached 100mph and nearing my target of 150mph solo on the motorcycle, I am confident that I'll achieve my goal.

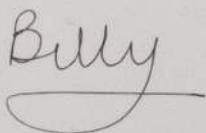
People often say that I must be mad - a blind man riding a motorcycle! - but I have to stay focussed and try not to think of the dangers. I'm lucky as I've got some great guys to help me train - the Royal Artillery's motorcycle display team. I put my life in their hands and there's no greater trust than that.

Approximately £40,000 has been raised so far for the **St Dunstan's Blind Ambition Campaign**, still short of the £100,000 target, so I'm writing to you to ask for your support.

Please share this sponsorship form and letter with relatives, friends, neighbours, and anyone you think could help give some financial support to help me achieve my goal.

It's tough having lost your sight, as even the simplest of tasks can initially seem impossible. That's why I want to break this record and give hope to other disabled and blind people, and to raise awareness of the Charity that quite literally saved my life.

Best wishes



Billy Baxter

PS To find out if I've achieved my target to break the Land Speed Record for the Blind, visit the website at [www.st-dunstans.org.uk](http://www.st-dunstans.org.uk)



# Help us to raise £100,000!

On 2nd August 2003 Billy Baxter will be attempting to break the Blind World Solo Land Speed Record on a motorcycle.

The attempt will take place at MoD Boscombe Down, Wiltshire, where Billy will be driving at speeds of 150mph - smashing the current record that stands at 78.4mph.

Billy's record attempt is part of the St Dunstan's Blind Ambition Campaign, which aims to raise **£100,000** to enable more blind ex-Service men and women achieve their own ambitions, whether ordinary or extraordinary.

**As you can see we're still short of the £60,000 needed to reach our target. Please pass this form on to your friends and relatives and help us to raise £100,000!**

Please send Billy your messages of support! We're making a special 'audio' card for Billy to wish him luck for his forthcoming challenge. Simply email us your messages to [webmaster@st-dunstans.org.uk](mailto:webmaster@st-dunstans.org.uk) or fill out the form below.



**Post your message to Billy in the box below:**

Please fill in your contact details below:

|          |          |
|----------|----------|
| Title    | Initials |
| <hr/>    |          |
| Surname  |          |
| <hr/>    |          |
| Address  |          |
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| <hr/>    |          |
| Postcode |          |
| <hr/>    |          |
| Tel      |          |
| <hr/>    |          |
| Email    |          |
| <hr/>    |          |

To receive an update by email to find out if Billy breaks the record in August, please tick this box

If you do not wish to receive further communications from St Dunstan's please tick this box

Here is my donation of £  (Please make cheques payable to St Dunstan's)

**OR**

Please debit my MasterCard / Visa / Amex / Switch / CAF (delete as required)

Cardno

Valid from  /  /  Expiry date  /  /

Switch card issue no. (if applicable)

Signed  Today's date

If you do **not** wish to receive an acknowledgement for your donation, please tick this box

*giftaid it*

If you are a UK Taxpayer and wish St Dunstan's to reclaim the tax on your donation, please sign and date below.

Signed  Date

Return this completed form to: St Dunstan's, Fundraising, 12-14 Harcourt Street, London W1H 4HD

Charity Registration Number: 216227

# Noticeboard

Dates for your diary and useful information

## A MESSAGE FROM THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE

**RESTRUCTURING:** At the beginning of June, I introduced a restructuring of St Dunstan's Senior Management to provide a more co-ordinated provision of service to members of the St Dunstan's family. This is the core of St Dunstan's work.

The present six directorates will reduce to three:

The Directorate of Service Delivery, under Jeremy Hinton, will encompass all services to St Dunstaners, widows and widowers, including Ovingdean, admissions, grants, welfare, housing, etc.

The Directorate of Resources, under Charles Scott, in addition to all financial affairs will assume responsibility for investment properties and all Human Resource functions.

The Directorate of Fundraising and Communications, under Nick Ward, remains substantially unchanged, with responsibility for raising funds and public awareness, including the Blind Ambition projects and media relations.

Additionally, Ray Hazan will join Jeremy Hinton and assume responsibility for all communication and contacts with St Dunstaners and others including Clubs, Reunions etc, thus putting St Dunstaners right at the heart of Service Delivery.

A 'Contact list' of personalities and their job titles, both at Headquarters and Ovingdean will appear in the next issue of **ST DUNSTAN'S Review**.

**Robert Leader**  
Chief Executive  
St Dunstan's



Welfare Officer Amanda at St Dunstan's Ovingdean with St Dunstaner Nigel Whiteley

## AMANDA SCALES

**NEW VISITOR:** Amanda Scales is the newly appointed Welfare Officer for the South West. She has lived in Cornwall for the last 20 years. However, she originally comes from Sussex and was aware of St Dunstan's existence because of this connection. Married with three children, stepchildren and two granddaughters, her interests include walking, swimming and family history.

Amanda graduated from Swansea University with a degree in Social Policy and Geography in 1979 and qualified as a Social Worker in 1991. She has been a Local Government Officer for the last 22 years working in a variety of posts which have included being a Residential Social Worker, Home Care Manager, Hospital Social Worker, Practice Supervisor and, in her last post before joining St Dunstan's, she was a Domiciliary Care Services Manager. In addition to this Amanda was seconded to Ilford Park Polish Home near Newton Abbot, Devon as a Social Worker undertaking project work as part of a Social Services Team.

## AMAZING KRIS KIN WINS DERBY SWEEPSTAKE PRIZE

**THOROUGHBRED WINNER:** Kris Kin won the 2003 Epsom Derby by a length. As a result St Dunstan's widow Eva Benn of Preston, Lancashire claimed top prize in **ST DUNSTAN'S Review** Derby Sweepstake. She won £261.75p.

Second prize (£104.70p) was won by Sheffield St Dunstaner Ted Ellerton who had drawn The Great Gatsby. The third prize (£52.35p) was claimed by Brenda Tyzack of Harpenden, Hertfordshire who had drawn Alamshar.

The Starters' Prize was shared between Mr J. McDermott, Manchester; Mr J. Lynch, Horsham, West Sussex; Mr R. Oakley, Littlehampton, West Sussex; Mr J. McGoff, March, Cambridgeshire; Mrs M.J. Hamilton, Leeds; Mr D. Stevenson, Wimborne, Dorset; Mrs M. Quinn, Ripon, North Yorkshire; Mrs R. Lee, London; Mrs J. Groves, Halstead, Essex; Mr E. Peake, Preston, Lancs; Mr W.H. Holland, Wallingford, Oxfordshire; Mr W.G. Morris, Bournemouth, Dorset; Mrs I. Mendham, Ilford, Essex; Mr A.W. Brenchley, Hailsham, East Sussex; and Mr J. Lilley, Stockport, Cheshire.

## EVOLUTIONARY TIME FOR THE TEN POUND NOTE

**BANKNOTE WITHDRAWN:** The £10 note with an image of Charles Dickens will cease to have legal tender status on July 31st. Most banks, building societies and branches of the Post Office will continue to accept these notes after that date for a limited period only at their discretion.

After this time these notes do not lose their value but, like all old Bank of England notes, can be exchanged, at the Bank of England by bringing them in person or sending them to Exchanges, Custodial Services, Threadneedle Street, London EC2R 8AH. There is no time limit for exchange of notes.

Ten pound notes with the image of Charles Darwin on the back will continue to circulate in the normal way. The 'Darwin' note has a foil hologram feature on the left hand side of the note.

## ACTION STATIONS FOR ST DUNSTAN'S ACTIVITY WEEK

**SPIRIT OF ADVENTURE:** More rough 'n' tumble, get-up-and-go escapades are planned for the action-filled Activity Week, running September 1st-5th. The all fun-packed week promises a heady mix of abseiling, rock climbing, assault courses, canoeing, water skiing and theme evenings – everything the dynamic daredevil could want from an adventure!

Any St Dunstaner who feels they are up to the challenge should contact Gemma Kirkwood at St Dunstan's Ovingdean on 01273 302704.

## BLIND TELEPHONE USERS CARRY ON DIALLING 195 FOR ENQUIRIES

**EASY DIALLING FOR VIP CALLERS:** Calling Directory Enquiries remains a simple option for blind and visually impaired telephone users. British Telecom's free 195 Directory Enquiry service will continue to give visually impaired people free access to UK and International directory enquiry facilities. The service will also connect the call if requested.

New users can join the service by dialling 195 and ask for registration. It is also available to people who are not BT users and operates by issuing a personal identification number (PIN) so they can call at any time for telephone numbers.

The main 192 Directory Enquiries service will cease in August, having been succeeded by a plethora of rival and regional replacements.

## THE WORLD OF ELIZABETH I

**GLORIANA DAYS IN GREENWICH:** A unique study day on July 12th at the National Maritime Museum examines Greenwich as Elizabeth I knew it. There will be opportunities to handle exhibits in between lectures and a drama production. Tickets are £12.50 and can be booked by writing to Kirsten Warren, Foundation House, 2 Cutty Sark Gardens, Old Royal Naval College, Greenwich SE10 9LW. There is also a VIP tour of the Elizabeth Exhibition on August 31st. For details phone 020 8312 6608.

## MUSICAL NIGHTS AT WOOLWICH

**EXTRAVAGANZA:** Verdi or Tchaikovsky? Light opera? West End shows over Broadway? Whatever your musical tastes, *Musical Nights* at the Royal Arsenal, Woolwich from Monday to Saturday, July 14th-19th with a cast of 700 promises to be a musical extravaganza.

Accompanied by dazzling fireworks displays and loud salvos from the guns of the Royal Artillery the show, in its riverside setting is designed to appeal to all ages and musical tastes. If that isn't enough to tempt you along perhaps the fact that the Royal Artillery have chosen St Dunstan's, along with Macmillan Cancer Relief, to be the official charities may do so.

Although gates for the show open at 6pm (show starts at 8pm) there will be a whole day of fun for the family to enjoy. Firepower, the Royal Artillery's new interactive museum, will be open and HM *Bark Endeavour*, a sailing replica of Captain Cook's ship, will also be at the Arsenal. Rumour has it that some St Dunstaners will be on board!

A St Dunstan's team (hard to miss in bright red t-shirts) will also be there manning our stand and selling raffle tickets.

Tickets cost £20 for adults and £15 for children. They can be bought by phone from the **Ticket Office on 020 8317 8687**. Tickets for Tuesday, July 15th are available at £15.00 to OAP's if you mention you are from St Dunstan's.

Tickets can also be bought via the Ticketmaster Agency (booking fee applicable) using the 24-hour Telesales Number of *Musical Nights* season on 08760 160 2861 or online at [www.ticketmaster.co.uk](http://www.ticketmaster.co.uk)

## VICTORIAN ART AND DESIGN

**TOUCH TOUR:** Victorian art and design will be scrutinised at the Victoria & Albert Museum, London on August 5th. The talk by Imogen Stewart includes a touch tour. For details phone 020 7942 2197 or e-mail [bookings.office@vam.ac.uk](mailto:bookings.office@vam.ac.uk).

## HELP FOR VETERANS

**VETERANS' INITIATIVE:** The demands of Service life are unique says the Veterans Agency. The appointment of a Minister for Veterans and subsequent launch of the Veterans' Initiative (a Government initiative to address the needs of veterans) demonstrates Government recognition of the special status of the veterans' community.

The Minister for Veterans is responsible for ensuring that veterans' issues are properly understood, appropriately prioritised and effectively addressed across Government departments. The Ministry of Defence has been working with other Government departments and ex-Service organisations to give a structured approach to the assistance provided to veterans by those who deliver key services.

The term 'veteran' is used to mean all those who have served in the UK Armed Forces but the Initiative also covers their widows/widowers and dependants. This wide and varied group is estimated to include 13 million people in the UK.

The vast majority of service personnel make a smooth transition to civilian life and go on to lead successful lives. However, a small minority experience ill health or injury as a result of their Service - including their widows/widowers and dependants. Veterans share the same kind of problems as others - for example, those associated with finance, housing or ill health.

In addition to the help provided by the Government, there are many long-standing ex-Service charitable organisations that provide a safety net for the veterans' community. Some have a national network of voluntary welfare caseworkers, others specialise in areas such as employment, housing and mental or physical disabilities. The Veterans Agency can also provide help and advice on a wide range of subjects and can direct enquiries to the appropriate organisation.

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

## TALKING TINS TAKE THE MYSTERY OUT OF DINNER

**MAGNETIC AUDIO LABELS:** Dining on Whiskers on toast or hot peach slices should be a thing of the past! A handy way of remembering the contents of a tin has been recently introduced.

For just short of a tenner you can get three bright yellow plastic disks, about the size of the top of your average grocery can top and about an inch or so thick. Because they are magnetised on the base, they sit snugly on the top of a can and stay there reasonably firmly. On the top of each disk are three buttons, two small and yellow, one bigger and black. When you hold the two small yellow buttons down simultaneously you can record information of up to eight seconds in duration. The instructions recommend that you note the contents and expiry date of the can. Then you stick the disk onto the tin and whenever you hit the larger black button, the information, which you have recorded, is played back to you. Bingo, "Chopped tomatoes, August 2004." Each disk is powered by four button sized batteries (Ref: AG13 or L1154), available from Force Ten or other distributors.

Ian Hebborn, one of St Dunstan's Rehabilitation Officers for the Visually Impaired, says: "Mark Threadgold has brought the talking tin labels in, we've had a play and think they're great. Plus there's a Velcro strap for attaching them to wine

bottles or similar. You can also put them onto the fridge for reminders or shopping lists. There's some sort of sticky disk for attaching the label to non-magnetic cans, but it looks like they're single use. We have ordered a few too, so anyone visiting Ovingdean will be able to try them out."

Talking Tins cost £9.99 (p&p included) for a set of three. The elastic straps cost 40p each, while the velcro stickers cost 30p each.

They can be ordered from The Force Ten Company Ltd, 183 Boundary Road, Woking, Surrey GU21 5BU. Tel: 01483 762711. Fax: 01483 756 303. E-mail: [sales@forcetenco.co.uk](mailto:sales@forcetenco.co.uk) Website: <http://www.forcetenco.co.uk>

## PENSION APPEALS

**ANOTHER CHANCE TO BE HEARD:** The Pensions Appeal Tribunals hear appeals from ex-Service men or women who have had their claims for a War Pension rejected by the Secretary of State (Minister for Veterans).

The address is The Pensions Appeal Tribunals, 48/49 Chancery Lane, London WC2A 1JF. Their telephone number is 020 7947 7372/6290/7285.

The Pensions Appeal Tribunals office is open from 9am to 5pm, Monday to Friday.

## EYPD Bus reaches UK shores



**MINISTER FOR DISABLED PEOPLE** Maria Eagle welcomed the "large accessible pantechicon lorry" that has been touring Europe to promote the European Year of Disabled People when it reached the UK last month. The bus has already visited Greece, Austria, Spain, Portugal and France and opens out into a 15 metre multimedia exhibition platform. Its UK tour started with a 'champagne and rights' reception and the Minister outlined improvements to the Disability Discrimination Act and other legislation that aims to provide additional rights for disabled people in the UK.

## It strikes me ...



with Gog and Magog

Gog finds he has a slight problem with his copy of the June tape **Review**. Try as he might, he cannot cut out the Zingo coupon. As St Dunstaner Sydney Scroggie once said "The tape **Review** is no good for lining shelves."

Magog is rather taken by proposals for Guide Horses. Shetland ponies offer a good alternative for blind people who are allergic to or scared of dogs. They also have a lifespan of up to 40 years compared with ten years for the average dog. The ponies do not suffer from separation anxiety but they do have to wear special boots indoors to stop them slipping on floors. Some people have dismissed the idea as a gimmick, but we wish Guide Horses UK the best of luck in setting up their Nottinghamshire training centre.

Gog, for once, concurs with Magog. However, he is reminded of the cured sausages that a member of the **Review**'s staff purchased in a Kentish market. Not content with salami or pepperoni, our scribe took advantage of the purveyors three-for-the-price-of-two offer by purchasing some donkey sausages. We are told in the circumstances, donkey seems to be an acquired taste, not up to the delights of ostrich, alligator or kangaroo that have graced the same table at dinner time.

# Trafford target David for award



St Dunstaner David Poyner is presented with his Sporting Achievement Award by the Mayor of Trafford.

A ST DUNSTANER has been feted for his sporting achievements in the face of adversity.

On May 23rd, Trafford Metropolitan Borough Council held their first ever Civic Awards Ceremony. One of the people honoured was St Dunstaner David Poyner of Sale, Manchester who received the Sports Achievement Award for his success in archery.

The award was presented to David by the Mayor of Trafford.

In August 2001, a critically ill David was in a coma for a month. He had previously been critically ill in August 1998, and not been expected to live - and the condition had reoccurred.

The disorder, MELAS syndrome, (Mitochondrial myopathy, encephalopathy, lactic acidosis

and stroke-like episodes) is a rare genetic condition which has left David blind and with intolerance to aerobic exercise.

He was introduced to archery by St Dunstan's, and has since become a member of his local team, the Bowmen of Bruntwood.

After his second coma, he had to give up a recurve bow, due to his condition, and was introduced to a Genesis bow. This is a lighter and easier bow to draw.

Despite this, in 2002, he came second in the British Blind Sport outdoor championships; and in 2003 won his category in the BBS indoor championships with a new national record.

There is more archery news on page 18 and a report on the Annual Tri-Service shoot on the back page.

# New voices at HQ reception

EARLIER THIS year, the voices at St Dunstan's Reception, Harcourt Street, changed. The security company, Reliance, has provided the staff who attend to access control, mailing duties, driving and facility coordination writes **Bill Lyth, Head of Security**.

Let us introduce the team:

In 1984, Steven McColm joined the Royal Engineers as a Searchlight Operator; his unit was disbanded when the night sight was introduced to the Army. In June 1986, he transferred to the Royal Air Force. Steven worked for 18 Group in Maritime Air Operations, first in the Tasking role and later as an Air Traffic Controller. Postings included Northwood Command Centre, St Mawgan (Cornwall), Gibraltar, Pitreavie Castle (Edinburgh) and finally Northolt. Steven left the Royal Air Force as a Corporal in July 1997.

Steven joined Reliance in late December 2002, after working for Pegasus Security at the Home Office. He worked for the BBC World Service and then at the BBC Television Centre, Wood Lane. Where he was promoted to an Inspector in charge of the daily running of thirty-five guards. He took up his post at St Dunstan's early in January this year.

Tim Hill started at Harcourt Street in April. Apart from supporting Steven on reception,



Steven and Tim at HQ.

he has been providing transport cover in London. Tim is an ex-Royal Navy signaller. He served on HMS *York* for the duration of the first Gulf conflict and with the Standing Naval Force Atlantic for the Bosnia tour. Tim served in the Royal Navy for seven years and achieved the rank of Acting Leading Operator Tactical. He left the Navy in 1984.

Tim has also worked with the Corps of Commissionaires, as a Senior Supervisor with Reliance, a Corporate Security Officer at Goldman & Sachs and as a Supervisor with Patrol Net, London City.

Since Steven and Tim have been working at St Dunstan's Headquarters they have been feted for their valuable contribution to the "Reliance Difference". As a result, the agency has presented the duo with bronze Continuous Improvement badges.

## Ten questions on...

### "Money, Money, Money"

Can you get change from Harry Beevers' latest deposit?

- 1) Britain's new decimal currency was officially introduced on the February 15th of which year?
- 2) Which bird was featured on the English farthings from 1937?
- 3) Which new British coin was introduced on St George's Day 1983?
- 4) Used by some St Dunstaners, what appears on the newly designed 25-cent coin (or Quarter) of the US state of Alabama, the first ever American coin with such a feature?
- 5) Doubloons and Pieces-of-eight were coins which originated in which European country?
- 6) Which obsolete English coin got its name from the African country which provided the gold from which it was originally made?
- 7) What is the principal currency unit of Mexico, Chile, Cuba, Argentina, the Philippines, Uruguay, the Dominican Republic and Colombia?
- 8) In 1998 the Royal Mint asked the public to search piggy banks for some coins, two and a half million of which have gone missing?
- 9) An orange coloured diamond shape is featured on which denomination English currency note to help the partially-sighted distinguish it?
- 10) Which pop group had a No 3 UK chart hit in November 1976 with the song *Money, Money, Money*?

Answers on page 23.

# 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.

## Train card is well worth fee

I noticed that in the last **ST DUNSTAN'S Review**, there was an article about train travel. This says that if one has a card, confirming that one is registered blind, for example the one that St Dunstan's can issue, then that individual is entitled to 34 to 50 per cent off train fares when presented at the ticket counter. That is true.

However, if you purchase a disabled railcard, then one is entitled to about 33 per cent discount off fares when booked in advance.

The difference being that with a St Dunstan's identity card, one is entitled to a discount off standard fares. With a disabled railcard, one is entitled to discounts off cheap rail fares.

Therefore, if it is possible to book tickets in advance, it is a lot cheaper and well worth the annual fee of £14 for a disabled persons railcard. These prices can be sought when ringing for journey assistance.

**David Poyner,  
Sale, Manchester**

## Scanning through the past!

You were kind enough to print a letter in last month's **Review** from my St Dunstaner husband, Ron, about the contrasts in typeface. He was quite chuffed to read his name in print with the aid of his CCTV scanner!

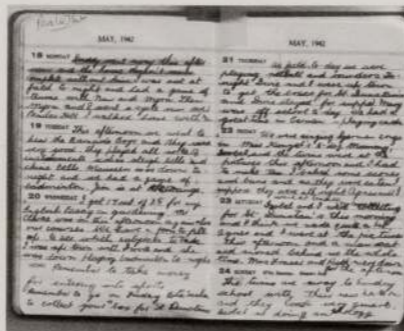
We have been to Ovingdean to learn the necessary skills to operate our newly acquired scanner and can't thank the IT tutors enough for their one-to-one tuition which is absolutely invaluable for a visually impaired person.

In fact, talking to our friends who go to classes with several students, they talk of their frustration of having to learn in groups, having to wait for the kind of individual attention that is given to St Dunstaners. Long may it continue.

As evidence that Ron has mastered the scanner, I asked him to scan the enclosed document which I thought might be of interest to you in a bizarre "What goes around comes around" sort of way. The two pages are taken from a diary I kept in 1942 as a somewhat unsophisticated 14-year-old (looking at it now) in Scotland, my father being a regular in the Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders.

Scanning the very pedestrian entries you will see "I got 17 out of 25 for my essay on gardening" and that on Saturday 23rd, my sister "Isobel and I were collecting for St Dunstan's this morning and I think we made quite a bit."

Strange indeed to think that, to the month, 61 years later, I should be



The pages from Margaret's diary that Ron scanned.

returning from St Dunstan's with my husband, now a St Dunstaner!

I will close as we do with all our St Dunstan's communications – thank you so very much – we are eternally grateful for the difference St Dunstan's has made to our lives.

**Margaret Wilson,  
Leeds**

# Gog and Magog unleashed!

At my age of 91 years, I don't know anyone in **ST DUNSTAN'S Review** now. However, I know everyone has a wonderful life, which they all deserve.

I did like to see the picture of the famous clock. I have two pictures of the whole of it. At the base was two stone statues of Gog and Magog. My father used to go up a wooden staircase at the back of the clock and wind two big wheels to keep it going. I was born at St Dunstan's in 1912. I spent a lot of time with blind people there and the nurses, especially Sir Arthur Pearson, as I lived with my family in a house in the grounds. My father was the head gardener.

**Ruby Crane  
Lancing, West Sussex**

Gog and Magog are the names of the mythical giants that stand above the gallery at the west end of Guildhall. They have their origin in a complex legend about giants being involved with a Roman invasion of this island. However, their images have been present in one form or another at Guildhall for over 500 years. The present pair replaced the 1708 version destroyed in the Blitz. In earlier times, these figures were paraded through the streets during the Lord Mayor's Show. Indeed, most recent shows have included a symbolic 'Gog and Magog'.

The two giants of Thomas Harris' clock at St Dunstan's were a sensation when they were first installed in 1671. They reminded some travellers of the giants on the clock of St Mark's, Venice. As far as I can gather, they have no



Gog and Magog stand guard over St Dunstan's Clock.

particular name. There have been popular references to them as 'Gog and Magog', 'two savages' or 'two Hercules'. They are mentioned in works by Goldsmith, Scott and Cowper. Dickens knew them well and it is thought that they formed the basis of his Christmas story *The Chimes*. They also appear in *David Copperfield* and apparently *Barnaby Rudge*.

**Reg Denny,  
Bromley, Kent**

**Reg wins a £10 Marks and Spencer voucher for his research into Gog and Magog's London roots.**

Following extensive research into Gog and Magog, I am now ready to reveal some facts hitherto unknown to the general public. I can confirm that they are monstrous beings, offspring of a demon. Although they were reported as having been destroyed by the Great Fire of 1666, they were actually captured and

imprisoned in a dungeon in the area of London which is now Harcourt Street. Over the centuries, as successive buildings were erected above this dungeon, the owners of those buildings inherited the duty of custodians of Gog and Magog who are doomed to be kept there in perpetuity. The current owners of the building are, of course, St Dunstan's. This can be verified by all those office workers who have ever wondered about the contents of the mysterious locked room in the basement.

Knowing that the devil finds work for idle hands it was decided to keep Gog and Magog busy by making them write a regular column in the monthly **Review**. Everything that happens in the building can be heard in the basement via old ventilation shafts, chimneys etc. and our monsters have nothing to do but listen to it all – so bear this in mind next time you telephone Headquarters! They spend hours selecting the best bits for us to relish each month. If it is really choice gossip they get jam on their crusts and tea instead of water – and if ever someone sends back the questionnaire nominating their column as the best bit they are promised a full meal from the canteen. So fill in your questionnaire and send it back today – this is European Year of the Monster.

**Joan Beevers, SDW  
(St Dunstaner's Wife),  
Castleford, West Yorkshire**

With reference to the article concerning Gog and Magog, here is a reference to them taken from: *The Reader's Encyclopedia* (2nd Edition) by William Rose Benet,



published by The Book Club Associates London.

"Gog. In *The Bible* (Ezek. 38:39), the king of Magog, a northern land whose fierce hordes were to invade Israel. Scholars sometimes identify Gog with Gyges, a ruler of Lydia in Asia Minor. In *Revelation* 20:7 Gog and Magog symbolise the enemies of the Kingdom of God, in this case Gog being associated with Magog, a son of Japheth (*Gen.* 10:2). Elsewhere (*I Chron.* 5:4), Gog is a descendant of Rueben, eldest son of the 12 sons of Jacob.

"In British legend, Gog and Magog are the sole survivors of a monstrous brood, the offspring of the 33 infamous daughters of the Emperor Dioclectian, who murdered their husbands and, being set adrift in a ship, reached Albion, where they fell in with a number of demons. Their descendants, a race of giants were extirpated by Brute and his companions, brought in chains to London and were made to do duty as porters at the Royal Palace, on the site of the London Guildhall, where their effigies have been since the reign of Henry V. The old giants were destroyed in the Great Fire of 1666, and the present ones, 14 feet high, were carved in 1708 by Richard Saunders."

John Perfect, Devon

## Any cooks?

We look forward to receiving the **Review** tapes with great pleasure. We very much enjoy the varied items and listen to everything with interest. We wonder if anyone tries their hand at cookery?

Joyce and James Graham,  
Hemel Hempstead, Herts

**Cookery contributions for the Review from St Dunstaners are always welcome. Though still in the kitchen ...**

I have a problem and wonder if I can get help through the **Review**. One cannot find mutton locally although I much prefer it to lamb. Some years ago I had some mutton chops, the rib bones were over an inch thick and the fat was yellow. They were casseroled for a long time and the flavour was lovely. However, none of the butchers left in this area will sell me mutton chops and I would like to know if it is possible to find the address of anyone who will supply please. I recall a restaurant in London where they sold saddle of mutton and caper sauce.

A.C. Pointon,  
Peacehaven, East Sussex

**Suggestions can be sent via the Review at Harcourt Street.**

## Microwave is great help

I recently had the privilege of being enrolled as a member of St Dunstan's of which I am extremely proud.

I also attended the reunion at Penzance which also marked the retirement of Liz Pearce, the Welfare Officer for the same area. I would just like to say thank you very much for the reception I was given there by the Chairman of St Dunstan's and other members. I was made to feel completely at home. I was rather embarrassed and worried about going, but I realised immediately on arriving there that my worries were unfounded.

I would also like to thank St Dunstan's for the long-term gift of a talking microwave. This will now eliminate the fact of having to go down to the corner shop and having sandwiches right, left and centre. There's only one disappointment with the microwave! I can't find the button that says it will do the washing up. Otherwise it's beautiful and thank you very much indeed.

Les Clarke  
Falmouth, Cornwall

## We have also heard from ..

We have also heard from Patrick Feeney of Southwick, Sussex, George and Rita Prest of Eston, Cleveland, Elsie Scullion of Horsham, West Sussex, Marjory Collins of Dumfries, Scotland and thank them for their comments on the tape edition of **ST DUNSTAN'S Review**.

## Deleting E-mails by Subject Heading

Have you returned from holiday to find hundreds of e-mails awaiting you, 99 per cent of which go straight into the 'deleted' box? Here is a hint for users of Outlook Express to cut down the time taken to erase these messages by subject heading.

- 1) Control V to get into view menu.
- 2) Enter on 'current view sub menu'.
- 3) Cursor up one and enter on 'group messages by conversation'
- 4) Home key to go to top of your e-mail list.
- 5) Cursor to the first message in the group and hit the delete key. Outlook will ask you if you want to delete this message and all others in the group.

A great time saver and thanks to the Access-UK mailing list for this.



### Stan's Trophy

St Dunstaner Stan Grimsey was recently presented with a shield commemorating his success as the oldest participant of the Hastings Half-Marathon.



## Legion Birthday

Members of South Blackpool Royal British Legion celebrated the branch's 30th anniversary recently. Their branch Chairman Jim Kent and branch President, St Dunstaner Bill Griffiths, MBE cut a special cake to mark the occasion.

## Reunion Round-Up

St Dunstaners, Widows and guests met up with staff members around the UK

St Dunstaners held reunions on both points of the compass on May 21st. Going south, the Cornwall Reunion united ten St Dunstaners and three widows. St Dunstan's President Colin Beaumont-Edmonds presided on this occasion which was enlivened by two guide dogs, Amos and Pickles. The dogs were greatly honoured by the chef appearing, in full regalia, carrying a dish of filet of beef! Amos decided to forgo his usual vegetarian tendencies. The reunion was Welfare Officer Liz Pearce's last official duty for St Dunstan's.

Going north, four St Dunstaners and two widows gathered at the Marriott Hotel, Mayberry for the

Edinburgh reunion. Dinner was graced by the presence of a piper. Andrew Lyburn was the member of St Dunstan's Council presiding.

The Chichester Reunion on May 28th saw 25 St Dunstaners, five widows and one widower gathering at the Marriott Goodwood Park Hotel, Goodwood, Chichester. St Dunstaner John Walbrugh was the member of St Dunstan's Council presiding.

St Dunstan's Chairman Captain Michael Gordon-Lennox presided at the Brighton Reunion on June 4th. There were 32 St Dunstaners and eight widows gathered in the Winter Garden at Ovingdean.

The Newcastle Reunion at The Royal Station Hotel, Newcastle Upon Tyne united 22 St Dunstaners and 11 widows on June 10th. Ray Hazan was the member of St Dunstan's Council presiding.

There were 12 St Dunstaners, four widows and a widower at the Leeds Reunion on June 11th. Ray Hazan was the member of St Dunstan's Council presiding at the Holiday Inn, Leeds.

The Cardiff Reunion at St Mellons Hotel and Country Club, Castleton, Cardiff united 13 St Dunstaners and seven widows on June 18th. Tim Bacon was the member of St Dunstan's Council presiding.

## Keeping fellow seamen afloat

May I make a further correction to the obituary of my husband, Marcus Graham. Marcus did not join HMS *Prince of Wales* until after the action with the *Bismark*. After the ship was sunk on December 10th 1941, Marcus found some of the crew in the water with no life jackets, and gave them his Kapok jacket to keep them afloat. It was because of this that he became exhausted when trying to bring Captain Leach's body to the destroyer.

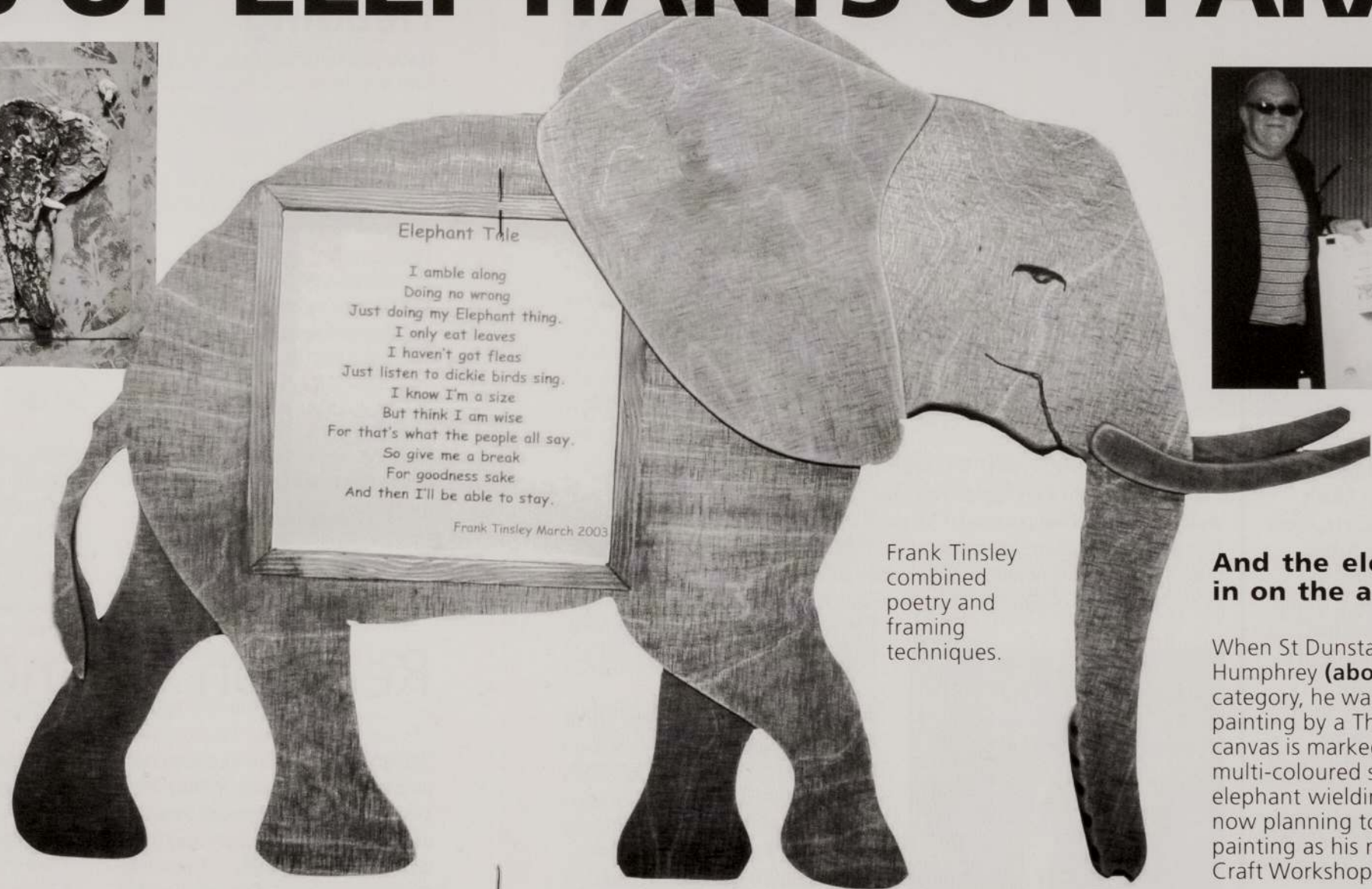
Katherine Graham,  
Esher, Surrey

Sarah Jarron reports on a jumbo success for St Dunstaners in this year's Brighton Festival

# ALL KINDS OF ELEPH HANTS ON PARADE



**Above:** Craft Supervisor Sarah Jarron with St Dunstaner Phil Taylor who is displaying his painting of a captive elephant. **Top right:** St Dunstaner Joyce Charlton used clay and mixed media to produce this elephant in relief.



Frank Tinsley combined poetry and framing techniques.



**And the elephants got in on the act as well!**

When St Dunstaner Dave Humphrey (**above**) won his category, he was presented with a painting by a Thai elephant. The canvas is marked by several multi-coloured strikes made by an elephant wielding a brush. Dave is now planning to frame the painting as his next project in the Craft Workshop.

**I**N FEBRUARY 2003, the craft workshop was approached to enter an exhibition to promote and raise money for the Thai Elephant Conservation Centre in Lampang, Northern Thailand. This exhibition was to be run as part of the Brighton Fringe Festival and displayed at Brighton Station and Hove Town Hall.

The theme of the exhibition called on entrants to depict what an

elephant meant to them, and the only stipulation was that the work was two-dimensional or relief. This idea really caught the imagination of all the St Dunstaners who regularly attend the craft workshop. The whole area was a hive of elephant inspired creativity for two months and all in all there were 24 entries submitted. Each project created was very individual encompassing different people's ideas as well as

abilities. Some of the work focused on the feel of an elephant, for example, using foil to create the texture of elephant skin, others created pictures depicting elephants in their natural environment and Frank Tinsley used poetry to describe his feelings about the issues surrounding elephant conservation. By the time all the work was finished it made up a third of the whole exhibition!

Wildlife artist David Shepherd was brought in to judge the exhibition and was extremely impressed by the quality of the work entered by St Dunstan's. He felt all of the work was of a very high standard and six St Dunstaners were awarded prizes. Dave Humphrey came first in the open category, Norman Perry second and Phil Taylor third, with both Norman Wagstaff and Phil Duffee

receiving a highly commended certificate for their work. Frank Tinsley also won third prize in the poetry class.

In order to mark the occasion the craft workshop organised a trip to see the exhibition on June 2nd. It was a great day out for all and gave an opportunity for St Dunstaners and their families to see the exhibition in situ. All of the elephant work produced

in the craft workshop is now on display at St Dunstan's Ovingdean in the corridor outside the workshop.

Overall this exhibition was a great success, both in prizes as well as in inspiring such diverse creativity from all who entered. Everybody enjoyed working towards a community exhibition and there has been much talk about the next major project for the workshop St Dunstaners. Watch this space for details.

## BALANCING THE BOOKS

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

### Mansfield Revisited

Author: Joan Aiken  
Reader: Elizabeth de Silva  
Catalogue Number: 5601  
Duration: 7 Hours 50 minutes.

STEALING the ideas of a dead writer doesn't really seem like fair play to me. Jane Austen was a well mannered lady of charm, culture and refinement, or so I've been told, so I don't suppose her ghost was yelling, "Oy! Mush, invent your own characters, don't pinch mine" when Joan Aiken embarked on her "sequel" to *Mansfield Park*, though it would have been more than justified had it done so. However, the deed is done now, and *Mansfield Revisited* is on the library shelf; inviting comparison with the classic original and coming a very poor second in my opinion. In common with *Mansfield Park*, the theme of social status and fortune are never far from the surface in *Mansfield Revisited* and the inconsequential daily round of the leisured classes is a continued feature too. But oh, where is the subtle humour, which makes Jane Austen's work such a joy? And where is that sparks of genius that transforms the commonplace into absorbing entertainment? Not in *Mansfield Revisited*, I fear. An account here of a boring day, remains as uninteresting as the events described, and search as you might you'll find nothing to induce a smile in this book.



Air Commodore Steve Lilley presents St Dunstaner Maurice Bowley with "a down payment" from the Benson Iron Men.

## Heavy mettle

Exercise Iron Man returns to St Dunstan's

**T**HE IRON MEN AND WOMEN of RAF Brize Norton came back to St Dunstan's Ovingdean on May 15th in their usual inimitable style. The united Sappers and RAF crew, taking part in the sixth Exercise Iron Man, made their dawn start at RAF Benson with a 150 mile cycle ride. As ever in this unique triathlon, they followed this with a 32 mile run to St Dunstan's Ovingdean. They were met in Worthing by St Dunstan's Lyn Mullins and Amy Hardner who joined them for the final 17 miles.



Dorothy Wright and Cliff Ford trip the light fantastic.

The Exercise Iron Man event was devised by Sappers from Royal Engineers (Airfields). They met up with a further St Dunstan's delegation at the King Alfred Sports and Leisure Centre, Hove. This mix of St Dunstaners and staff pedalled and ran along the Brighton sea front.

The triathlon was capped by a cooling-if-energetic dip in the St Dunstan's swimming pool. Air Commodore Steve Lilley presented a £2,000 "down payment" on money raised by the Iron Men. The evening ended with a barbecue and an exceptional musical turn which had some St Dunstaners strutting their stuff on the dance floor.

## A WEEK IN BLOOM

**S**t Dunstan's Gardening Week blossomed with a mix of visits and practical gardening sessions.

Nineteen people joined in the practical activities day on May 21st, planting up the hanging baskets for the inner garden. Ten baskets were filled with white ivy leaf geranium, dark blue trailing lobelia, fuchsia Winston Churchill, lavender, campanula, cineraria and helichrysum. St Dunstaner Vincent "Robbie" Robins, a participant of Gardening Week and a volunteer with the gardening charity Thrive, ran the session and had plenty of helpful advice about planting up, composts and so forth. The group was split up, so whilst this was going on the other people were touring the inner garden with Ness Young and hearing about the new design which has been drawn up. After coffee the groups changed over, so everyone had a chance to get their hands dirty.

In the afternoon, Robbie hosted an open forum, where people could air their gardening problems or solutions. This led to a lively and useful discussion.

By the end of the day a number of people had pledged money and/or plants for the inner garden project, and several would like very much to be involved in its development.

### Poetry competition

At the beginning of the week Ness Young announced a competition for the best poem relating to gardening and/or Gardening Week. Time was short, as people were kept busy with hanging baskets, local visits and, of course, the Chelsea Flower Show. However, seven entries were



Picture by Jenny Low

St Dunstan's Widow Marjorie Hordyniec enjoys the floral displays at the Chelsea Flower Show 2003.

received, and two prizes of garden centre vouchers were awarded. These had been donated by Wyevale, who also contributed many of the plants for the activities day. Gardening Week participants met in the Blue Room on Friday for the reading of the poems and the awarding of the prizes. The two prize winners were Albert Hobson and Cynthia Robins.

### Albert's garden by Albert Hobson

In the glory of the garden is the place I like to be  
Feeling the plants and flowers and listening to a bee  
Plenty of new shoots growing  
An assortment of flowers blooming  
Clematis and honeysuckle climbing well  
And what is this flower in the shape of a bell?  
Tomatoes and runners coming along nicely

Must be sure to check on them daily  
Plus a few 'Oh dears' where plants have been eaten  
Those slugs and snails can never be beaten  
And if your garden ends up in a mess  
All we can do is blame Robbie and Ness.

### Appreciation by Cynthia Robins

Although I'm not a gardener  
I do enjoy the sight  
Of other people's hard work  
Producing such delight

Colours, perfume, grand displays  
Of every hue and scent  
Make it such a pleasure  
For one without intent.

Gardening is a therapy  
For those who can and do  
Continue with the good work  
I leave it all to you.

St Dunstan's Clive Jones reports on recent Archery Club challenges

# Aiming for gold

**O**N MAY 11TH, four St Dunstan's archers competed in the Disabled Sport England, North West Area Championships at Asheton Archery Club. St Dunstan's four archers were Clive Jones, Dave Poyner, John Lilley and Tony Parkinson.

The shoot began with a touching and heartfelt minute's silence for Mr Brian Mills, the late Chairman of Asheton Archery Club, who sadly passed away recently. Our deepest sympathies and condolences go out to his family and friends.

A big thank you goes to Mr Vinnie (Vin) Henry, who took up the challenge of organising the shoot and seeing to it that all passed off extremely well.

All St Dunstan's Archers came away with Gold Medals after enjoying a good day shooting. All archers would like to personally thank their Spotters, Asheton Archery Club, Lindsay Poyner and Sue Lilley, as the shoot would not have been a success without them. Thank you all.

**F**IVE ST DUNSTAN'S Archers on May 18th were invited by the Worshipful Company of Fletchers to take part in a shoot at the shooting grounds of the Royal Toxophilite Society in Burnham, Slough, Berkshire.

The Five Archers were Clive Jones, David Poyner, Harry Docherty, Tom Roddy and Tony

## St Dunstan's Archery Club keep winning in their tactile sights

Parkinson. They all travelled from their respective areas to shoot, and I am sure that it was worthwhile.

The day started with a morning session practice, then all Archers were offered sherry before a beautiful dinner. We then resumed to shoot a Burntwood Short National round.

Tom Roddy came second and was presented with a large goblet

engraved with the crest of the respective Societies, David Poyner came third receiving a Whisky Tumbler, again engraved with the respective crest.

All Archers would like to thank, the Worshipful Company of Fletchers, all members of the Royal Toxophilite Society, Pauline Edwards, the event organiser and their individual spotters for their help and dedication.

## Targeting the world

BRITISH BLIND SPORTS hosted an International Visually Impaired Archery competition on May 31st - the first of its kind!

Archers from France, Italy and Belgium took part and there were observers from Denmark and the Netherlands. All kinds of equipment and archery styles were used.

A Burntwood FITA Round was shot, which was extremely tiring in the intense heat with no wind. After the shoot everyone was given a "goody bag" before being served a beautiful three course meal and waiting for the results and presentations.

All St Dunstan's archers shot well picking up three golds, (Steve Moseley, Dave Poyner, Terry Ottewell); three silvers, (Derek Hagger, Clive Jones, Norman Perry); one bronze (Nigel Whiteley), and a fifth for Cliff Ford. There was a National record for Steve and a Best Gold for Nigel. The UK took the first place in the invitation shoot.

All St Dunstaners would like to thank the BBS Committee for making the event possible, and all spotters and coaches who once again enabled us to take part so successfully. Also a large thank you goes to Mrs Barbara Degenhardt, who did a marvellous job of not only spotting, but translating for some of the visiting countries.



# ST DUNSTAN'S Council

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



## Colin Low

**I** WAS BORN in Edinburgh in 1942. I was brought up single-handed by my mother, my father having been killed in the war. A Territorial, he saw active service with the Seaforth Highlanders in the 5th Division during a military career in which he received the MC and the DSO and Bar. He finally succumbed to a sniper's bullet in the Italian Campaign of 1944.

My sight was defective from the first and a number of eye operations only served to get rid of what little was left. I attended schools for the blind from the age of three. First the Royal Blind School, Edinburgh, then an RNIB Sunshine Home in England, then back to the RBS before moving on to Worcester for my secondary education. In later life, I have always given thanks for the superior grounding in the three Rs I got from a Scottish education, and for the Latin I studied at Worcester which taught me how to think and write logically.

After Worcester, I read Law at Queen's College, Oxford. I would far rather have read History, but in those days there wasn't the choice of careers open to blind people there is today, and aspiring youngsters were channelled firmly in the direction of the Law. I then studied Criminology at Cambridge as the best route out of the Law!

From 1968 to 84, I taught Law and Criminology at Leeds University. During most of this time I was very

active in organisations of blind and disabled people such as the National Federation of the Blind and the Disablement Income Group. I also played a leading part in the foundation of the Association of Blind and Partially Sighted Teachers and Students, the Disability Alliance and Skill. I also served on a number of committees, of which the most important was probably the Committee On Restrictions Against Disabled People (CORAD), which was the first official body to recommend anti-discrimination legislation on grounds of disability in this country.

In 1984, I moved to the Greater London Council to head up its Disability Resource Team. Initially its role was to sensitise the GLC to disability issues, but after the Council was abolished we turned ourselves into a free-standing consultancy providing information, advice and disability-related services, first of all to London boroughs, but ultimately, as a charity, to the world in general.

After ten years at the DRT, I returned to academe - this time at City University, London. I was lucky enough to get a grant which gave me the opportunity to think and write about some disability issues which had long interested me. It has been fashionable to present disability as something social - the result of processes of discrimination and exclusion emanating from society and nothing to do with the individual at all. It had long seemed to me that this was a distortion.

Certainly blind people would feel that there were many problems

flowing directly from blindness itself - though of course they are often exacerbated by social factors as well. At all events, I was happy to have the opportunity to argue for a more balanced approach.

With the softening of Thatcherism in the mid-Nineties. I also found myself back on the quango circuit - the National Disability Council, the new Labour Government's Task Force on civil rights for disabled people and finally the Disability Rights Commission. Since 1994, I have also been a member of the Special Educational Needs (now the Special Educational Needs and Disability) Tribunal, the body which hears appeals from parents about the provision being made for their children with special needs.

Throughout this, I have been heavily involved with the Royal National Institute of the Blind. I joined the Council in 1975 when we were instrumental in securing increased representation of organisations of the blind. For 12 years, I was Chair of the Education and Employment Committee, and in 1990 I became Vice-Chairman, ultimately becoming Chairman in 2000.

My chief relaxations are listening to music and drinking wine.

## Review Story Competition Second Prize Winner

WE PRESENT THE second story to be selected by Frederick Forsyth, author of popular thrillers such as *Day of the Jackal* and *The Odessa File* when he judged the **ST DUNSTAN'S Review Story Competition**. *Half As Old As Time* by St Dunstaner Betty C. Parkin was feted for her account of a visit to Petra. "The writer well captured the mystery of a rock-hewn ancient city," said Mr Forsyth. Betty won £30 for her entry. The third story will appear next issue.

# HALF AS OLD AS TIME

By Wanderer  
(Betty C. Parkin)

Match me a marvel  
Save in eastern clime  
A rose red city  
Half as old as Time

Dean Burgon

**T**HE SCHOOLGIRL dream of visiting Petra was long delayed. Delayed but not forgotten through the years, then unexpectedly the chance came.

A transport delay during a holiday tour gave two spare days in Jordan. Local trips were hurriedly arranged by the tour manager. "Anyone fancy a day in Petra?"

Age, arthritis, lack of horsemanship were ignored. My name was first on the list.

Early next morning we were driving through the mountainous lands where Moses once led the Children of Israel and where he and his brother Aaron are buried. Bible stories came readily to my mind and I enjoyed the commentary. Mohammed, our guide gave during the two hours drive to El-Ji.

All roads to Petra end at El-Ji, a large plateau fringed by tall sandstone cliffs. At one side stood a group of men and horses - our

transport - to Petra. Some horses were eager to be on their way, most of them seemed, as the men, to be quietly dozing.

Mohammed urged the group towards a line of stone mounting blocks. I spoke rapidly "I shall need a very - quiet - horse." His eyes ranged over my white hair, short plump stature. "You madam, need an elderly horse with an elderly owner." He called loudly "105."

Elderly horse, elderly man, weary was the word I could add. The man's shabby robe was the colour of the sand around us, his head scarf as frayed as the tattered blanket covering a strange saddle on his dejected looking horse.

With Mohammed's help I scrambled from mounting block to saddle. "He will lead you down, stay in the city, do not give any money until he brings you back here. 105 remember." And Mohammed was gone.

I tried English, French, my few poor words of Arabic none brought any response then the horse's head was pulled and very slowly we started off. Some youngsters were already trotting briskly across the plateau, the men running behind. Most of my party

were being led in an orderly line. At our slow pace 'tail end Charlie' looked most likely.

I was puzzled, really puzzled as I tried to settle in the uncomfortable saddle. Where was the Siq? Every book in the many I had read had spoken of the Siq. A two-mile gorge, the only way to Petra which has been her guardian and defender for centuries. There was no sign of it until the line of riders ahead vanished. A few more paces a sharp turn into a cleft in the rocks and there was the Siq.

A downward track wound across the tall crags, there was no sign of a city. The track was rocky, the horse slipping on loose stones, I grasped the metal rod on the saddle firmly. This was no time or place for a fall.

The man raised a limp arm, pointing to some huge boulders by the path, still no words. I did not need them, my hours of reading told me these were the culverts by which the mountain rains flowed down to feed the river Musa and make Petra a mighty place of refuge, trade and culture. Only when the pride of the Roman army anxious to use that land as a base, dammed these culverts was the city forced to surrender.

The arm was raised at times but with that and my book learning few ruined tombs, caves or guardposts went unnoticed as we travelled downwards, always downwards. The morning mist had gone and the heat of day was beginning. It was cool enough in narrow places when no one could pass us but when the way broadened into wide grassy swards, the air seemed trapped between the towering cliffs and even my horse quickened his steps to reach the shadier path ahead. Surely this journey must end soon?

The path grew narrow again and there was little light as overhead the rocks met in a thick arch. Man and horse were picking their way very carefully, slowly, to what seemed a small aperture in the dimness ahead and then with almost a bound we broke through into Petra.

Petra does not just welcome you, it holds you in a close embrace whilst colour explodes around you. I slid from my mount to stand, staring, across a wide sandy space where some men and laden camels rested. Beyond them stood a range of tall cliffs, their sides completely covered by a mass of buildings, houses and villas carved deep into the rocks. There are no back doors in Petra. Staircases stood like towers, some pointing nowhere, the buildings once attached crumbled away.

Colour was everywhere: pink, cream and mauve gleamed from every aspect, every facet, where the sunlight flickered on striated rocks.

Mohammed came to urge me across to the huge building facing us. Once thought to have been the city's treasury, it is now known as an assembly hall of justice and government. The sculpture of El-

Khazma is wonderful. The upper floors showing the influence of Greece and Rome. It shows little of the earthquakes which over centuries have done much damage to other parts.

The group moved on to other places. I elected to walk alone on what had once been the main streets. There were patches of tiled roads where Roman soldiers marched to Damascus, ruined arches that once spanned them. I walked in streets of shops still bearing signs that denoted their trades. There were few tourists and only a small girl glanced at me with dancing eyes, a member of one of the few nomads still welcome to rest there for a while.

Tired of Roman baths, crumbled tombs, I was sitting in a tiered seat in the theatre built for thousands when Mohammed came. "We are going to the High Place of Sacrifice, the royal tombs, the path is very steep -"

"And the views are magnificent," I interrupted him! "I will come part of the way."

The path was steep, the steps too high for my short legs but I saw the High Place, the Temple, fingered the stone crosses that marked the path of Christianity, before I sought a place to rest, where the rock was smooth to my aching back.

Far overhead kites wheeled in the blue sky. Below, spread like a tablecloth lay the Valley of Jordan, the Negev, Sinai, Western Arrabas, and the far-off coast of Africa. The ruby eyes of a lizard peered from a crevice and a pink flower bowed in a sudden breeze, a breeze that carried scents of perfumes, oils and incense. Incense! Maybe the Three Kings

rested here when they brought their gifts to Christ? Sound came then, soft but insistent, noise of camels, heavily laden, feet marching on paved roads, the clash of steel on armour. I felt no fear for in-between came laughter, song, the whisperings of love, the smoke of small fires curling up to smother the flames of battle.

It was all here. Time past. Time now encircling me, strengthening me for the Time to come.

The smoke thinned, vanished and Mohammed's voice woke me. "We must start back now," he said as I shook my head to clear my vision. The lizard's eyes glinted as I left and the pink flower bowed slowly, for the breeze had gone.

The return journey through the Siq took longer, the horse slipped more often. Only once the man stopped to point, backwards, and I saw the brilliant tints of cream, azure and mauve turn into rosy red in the last rays of the setting sun

My dues paid, with added tip, I held out to the horse an apple I had carried for him all day. His owner snatched it before he pulled his horse away.

I was silent as we drove back, my mind too full for words. I had seen and walked in the rose red city of my dream, had for one rare moment been half as old as Time.

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## Flora Smith

WE REGRET to announce the death of Flora Smith in January. Many St Dunstaners will recall the tireless efforts of Flora and her late husband Norman at the London Club and Harrogate Bridge drives. Our sympathy goes to all members of their family.

# Welcome to ST DUNSTAN'S

**Raymond Brookes** of Oldbury, West Midlands served with the Royal Air Force in 1955. After completing his basic training in Shropshire he went to Blackpool where he maintained safety equipment such as parachutes and dinghies. Whilst he was off duty he was involved in a motorcycle accident. He trained as a toolmaker and was involved as a Contract Engineer Maintenance Fitter in heavy engineering firms in Birmingham. He enjoys the countryside and related activities such as fishing and shooting and used to enjoy swimming and rowing.

**John Brown** of Orton Brimbles, Peterborough served as a Corporal with the Royal Army Service Corps from 1955 to 1957. He was a trainee mechanic before his National Service, a profession he returned to on completion of his military duty. He later worked in financial services and security. His hobbies used to be snooker and cycling, now he contents himself with bowls. He and his wife Jenny have two daughters.

**Frederick Buxton** of Norwich, Norfolk served in the Royal Artillery and the Devonshire Regiment between 1940 and 1946. A member of the TA, he was called up to serve with the Royal Norfolk Regiment at Dunkirk. He was then transferred to the 7th Devonshire Regiment and posted to the Middle East. He was with the 8th Army throughout North Africa, including Tobruk, and then Sicily and Italy. He returned to the UK to prepare for the Normandy landings. He was wounded later at the Nijmegen Bridge when his Bren-carrier was hit. After hospitalisation, he re-joined his unit in Germany before he was transferred to a vehicle company. After leaving service, he returned to his job as a construction engineer. As a young man he enjoyed sport, particularly boxing.

**Dorothea Clayton** of Edinburgh served with the Queen Alexandra Royal Army Nursing Corps as a Captain in the UK, India, Japan, Germany and Jordan from 1942 to 1949. Before her service with the QARANC, she was a Staff Nurse at the Edinburgh Royal Hospital and returned after taking a nursing degree. She was appointed Director of

Nursing to the Jordanian Medical Corps, 1960 to 1965 in the rank of Lieutenant Colonel. She had to leave because of a motor accident.

**Clive Frost** of Twickenham, Middlesex served with the Royal Air Force from 1956 to 1958. He trained at West Kirby, before being posted to Carnarvon disposing of old munitions. Training as a Marine Engineer, he then maintained equipment in support of sea rescue stations. Leaving the RAF, he joined the Merchant Navy, travelling the world as an Engineer on oil tankers for five years. Later, he trained as a physiotherapist. He used to enjoy sports, is a good walker, enjoys work in the garden and listening to classical music and talking books. He has always had an interest in craftwork. He and his wife Patricia have a son and daughter.

**Hedley Gelsthorpe** of Skegness, Lincolnshire served with the Royal Corps of Signals in the UK, Middle East in Benghazi, Port Said and Ismailia from 1951 to 1955 and left as a Signaller. Originally a farm worker, he became a miner after leaving the RCS.

**Martin Goodman** of Camborne, Cornwall served with the Royal Army Ordnance Corps from 1958 to 1964 as a Bandsman. He joined as a National Serviceman and decided to do a regular engagement. He did his training at Kneller Hall and was an oboe player who regularly played at many of the major sporting events and whenever massed bands were required. In civilian life he worked in engineering. He is married to Jenny.

**Ronald Hitchcock** of Wheathampstead, Hertfordshire is an 82-year-old married man who served with the Royal Air Force from 1940 to 1946. He completed postings in the UK, Singapore, Rhodesia and Germany with "Johnnie" Johnson's Squadron, and left as a Flight Lieutenant. In civilian life he worked in engineering. His great interests were boats, building boats, sailing boats, old aeroplane restoration and collection and his garden. He now contents himself with his garden and retains an interest in old aircraft. He is married to Rita.

**Kenneth Jay** of Saffron Walden, Essex served with the Royal Artillery in the UK, North Africa, Greece, Italy and Germany from 1942 to 1954 and left as a Sergeant. Before the war he worked in an aircraft factory. Returning to civilian life, he became a joiner. He later became a licensee and kept four public houses before retiring. He and his wife, Jesse have son and daughter.

**Jack Jenner** of Brighton served with the Royal Sussex Regiment from in the UK from 1955 to 1957 and left as a Corporal. Before he joined up he worked for a furniture company in Worthing and was a keen member of the TA, on leaving he worked for Times Furnishing as a manager. He is married to Barbara.

**Walter Lankester** of Bristol served as a Corporal with the Royal Air Force in the UK and Sierra Leone 1940 to 1946. Before he joined up, he worked for South West Trains and had also run a general store. After the war, he took over an off licence in Bristol. He then worked for Rolls Royce as a store man and later as a draughtsman. He used to enjoy golf and snooker. He has two daughters and has a number of grandchildren and great grandchildren.

**Raymond Price** of Truro, Cornwall served with the Royal Air Force in the UK, South Africa, and Palestine from 1942 to 1947. He qualified as navigator air bomber and later achieved his flying wings, leaving the Service as a Flight Sergeant. Before joining the RAF, he was an apprentice toolmaker, an occupation he returned to after the war.

**John Robinson** of Buckingham, Buckinghamshire served with the Royal Air Force from 1940 to 1946. He was as a wireless operator in Bombers and Transport Command. He left the Service as a Flight Officer V/R. Before the war, he worked as a clerical officer and later in the Austin Car Company as a statistician. After the war he trained as a secondary school teacher and went on to specialise as a remedial teacher working in Nottingham and later Canterbury. He used to enjoy outdoor pursuits, walking, gardening and DIY.

**Denise Rosser** of Waterlooville, Hampshire served with the Women's Royal Air Force in Ismailia, Egypt and Habbanya, Iraq and Nicosia, Cyprus from

1951 to 1957 as a Flight Officer. Prior to joining the RAF, she worked in the personnel branch of British Thompson Marston. She met and married her husband, Walter in the RAF. She left the RAF in anticipation of her marriage, and worked at the RAF Officers Hostel in Wildenrath, Germany. She has also worked as the domestic bursar at Durham Girls Public School. Thereafter she was involved with hotel management. She and her husband lived in France for eight years.

**James Sabourin** of Peacehaven served with the Royal Air Force from 1936 to 1969. During the war he flew in Burma, India, Canada, UK, France and Germany and left as a Warrant Officer. In civilian life, he worked for McAlpine as Operations Officer. He and his wife Dorothy have a daughter.

**Henry Williams** of Brighton served with the Grenadier Guards from 1938 to 1946. After the Salerno landing he went up as far as Naples before returning to North Africa where he received training in explosives. He was then parachuted into Yugoslavia and the Dalmatian Islands where he operated with SOE. Before the war he worked with the Palace Pier Company repairing their amusement machines. After the war, he worked for Pickfords for a year before joining the Post Office where he remained until he retired. He and his wife Joan have two daughters, nine grandchildren and five great-grandchildren.

**Colin Williamson** of Hebburn, Tyne & Wear served with the Royal Artillery in the UK, BAOR and Northern Ireland from 1972 to 1977. He joined the army as a Junior Leader at Gamecock Barracks, Bramcote. He works for British Telecom. He and his wife Brenda have two daughters.

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## Ten answers

### Quiz answers from page 9.

- 1) 1971; 2) Wren; 3) £1 coin;
- 4) Braille - the coin features Helen Keller who was born in Alabama in 1880 together with her name in English and in Braille. When Helen was a small child an illness destroyed her sight and hearing, but despite these disabilities she learned to speak and read using Braille.
- 5) Spain; 6) Guinea; 7) Peso; 8) Pennies;
- 9) £10 note; 10) ABBA.

# Oh, we do like to be beside the seaside



St Dunstaner Dorothy Wright samples her first soft ice cream.

**Right:** St Dunstaner Lawrence Huck stops for a drink.



St Dunstaners Frank Swindell and Tony Newland made a complete lap of the pier. Close on their heels are Reg Packman and Norman Wallbridge with the Workshop's Adrian Tilford.



ONE OF THE advantages of life on the South Coast is being able to take a leisurely stroll around Brighton Pier on a sunny afternoon. Between the cries of the seagulls, the bleeps and bells of the rides, the laughter of the patrons and the rattle of the boardwalk, it's a pleasant way to while away an hour or so.

It can also offer new experiences. St Dunstaner Dorothy Wright was able to taste her very first soft ice cream on the Pier. "It's very nice" was her verdict.

# St Dunstaner Bill Griffiths reports on the Handless Reunion A trip down memory lane

IT WAS NOT a happy start to the annual reunion of St Dunstan's Blind Handless Group. After arranging the reunion details for May 8th to 12th, our Chairman Mrs Gwen Obern was unable to attend owing to a fractured leg. She was taken to hospital a few days before the Reunion. Unfortunately, she is still in hospital. Needless to say, she was missed very much. We all send our love and wish her a speedy recovery.

Iris and Ted Miller's attendance was in doubt – Iris broke her hip, Ted fell at home. Both were in hospital for a while, but after a spell of TLC at St Dunstan's they were fit enough to join us.

As is traditional, we had our regular meeting Thursday morning. In the evening, our little group had the usual scampi and chips (served by Trevor). The food was good and beautifully presented. On Friday, David Vinall took us for a drive through the lovely Sussex countryside; ending up in Hove for lunch, then back to St Dunstan's.

Saturday morning we had another meeting, but the best meetings were round the dining room table with shared memories of previous reunions and our friends. We had such fun, we miss them still.

When it comes to memories, Ted is the best! He remembers where we've been, what we have eaten, who was with us, etc, etc. His good memory must be the result of his training as a guide at Warwick Castle, particularly in the Armoury section. Saturday evening, Gwen and David Vinall had arranged a delicious meal at the Grand Hotel, Brighton. They certainly looked after us.

Sunday, David took us to that lovely Sussex village, Alfriston, for a cream



Wally, Bill, Ted, Audrey, Iris and Pam with their guests.

tea. As we chatted, we discovered that Wally and Pam Lethbridge had spent part of their honeymoon at the Star hotel in Alfriston. Our tearoom was opposite the hotel.

Sunday evening, the Welsh Male Voice Choir came to entertain us. Gwen and Linda had booked them the year before. Gwen was certainly in our thoughts that night. Wally knew a couple of the songs, it was good to hear him singing.

Monday afternoon was our private meeting with St Dunstan's Chief Executive Mr Robert Leader and Sir John Gingell, our President; they listened intently to our little problems with compassion and understanding.

We were delighted to have St Dunstan's Chairman, Captain Michael Gordon-Lennox, RN, our President Sir John Gingell and Lady Gingell, Chief Executive Robert Leader and Mrs Leader, Heads of departments and staff from Headquarters with us at our final dinner. They had travelled to Brighton just to be with three handless men, two wives and our good friend Audrey Gaygan, our late

handless friend Tom's wife (Like us, she must have been going down Memory Lane).

Alice not being with me, I had the assistance and delightful company of Lady Gingell and Mrs Sue Leader. They did a great job; Alice will have to get some training in.

Sir John introduced the proceedings with sadness and humour and referred to the absence of Gwen and Alice. Mr Robert Leader read out a letter of appreciation from Gwen.

Though few in numbers we enjoyed the Reunion and being together. Our thanks to David Vinall for his care organising and driving, to Paul and Patrick who are always ready to assist us. Owing to Wally's recent illness, Jock Carnochan accompanied him. We thank Jock, he also helped us all. Thanks to Paul, Trevor and their staff for an excellent meal and good service. Thanks to PBK, to the Heads of St Dunstan's departments and staff at Headquarters and Ovingdean (particularly the Nursing Staff) and to all who helped make our Reunion a happy one.

# Directory

A quarterly  
listing of useful  
organisations

## British Wireless for the Blind Fund

Supports blind people with the provision of adapted and custom built radio sets and cassette players

British Wireless for the Blind Fund, Gabriel House, 34 New Road, Chatham, Kent ME4 4QR  
Tel: 01634 832501  
Fax: 01634 817485  
E-mail: info@blind.org.uk

## The British Retinitis Pigmentosa Society

The British Retinitis Pigmentosa Society (BRPS) seeks to help those with RP overcome their visual problems. Apart from encouraging research into the condition, they offer advice on benefits and pensions, everyday living skills, career and employment, children and education, mobility and communication needs and more.

The British Retinitis Pigmentosa Society, PO Box 350, Buckingham MK18 1GZ.  
Tel: 01280 821334  
Fax: 01280 815900  
Helpline: 01280 860363 (Manned 9.30am to 5pm, then 6pm to 9.30pm, Monday to Friday).

## SPECS (Specific Eye Conditions)

SPECS provides a 'one-stop-shop' for visually-impaired people trying to find out more about their specific eye condition – however rare – and possible support groups for that condition.

Specific Eye Conditions, PO Box 379, Margate, Kent CT9 1WD.  
Tel: 01843 292435  
E-mail: info@eyeconditions.org.uk  
Website: www.eyeconditions.org.uk

## The Disability Rights Commission

The Disability Rights Commission (DRC) is an independent body, established by Act of Parliament to eliminate discrimination against disabled people and promote equality of opportunity. The DRC provides an advice and information service for disabled people, employers and service providers. It also supports disabled people in securing their rights under the Disability Discrimination Act (DDA), often without resorting to legal action.

DRC Helpline, FREEPOST MID02164, Stratford-upon-Avon CV37 9BR.

Tel: 08457 622 633  
Textphone: 08457 622 644  
(You can speak to an operator at any time between 8am and 8pm, Monday to Friday).  
Fax: 08457 778 878  
Website: www.drc-gb.org

## The British Council of Disabled People

The British Council of Disabled People is the UK's national organisation of the worldwide Disabled People's Movement. Set up in 1981 by disabled people to promote full equality and participation in UK society, they represent some 122 groups run by disabled people in the UK at national level.

The British Council of Disabled People, Litchurch Plaza, Litchurch Lane, Derby DE24 8AA  
Tel: 01332 295551  
Fax: 01332 295580  
Website: www.bcodp.org.uk  
E-mail: general@bcodp.org.uk

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

## FAMILY NEWS

### BIRTHS

#### Congratulations on the birth of:

Bailey Blackwell on April 3rd. He is the great-grandson of Margaret Smith of Lancing, West Sussex and the late *Leslie Smith*.

Corban on May 23rd. He is the great-grandson of *Clifford and Irene Gower* of Westbury, Wiltshire.

Samuel Thomas in January. He is the first great-grandchild of Doris Brook of Dereham, Norfolk and the late *Roy Brook*.

### RUBY ANNIVERSARIES

#### Congratulations to:

*Gordon and Ann Parr* of Highbridge, Somerset on June 8th.

### GOLDEN ANNIVERSARIES

#### Congratulations to:

*John and Patricia Harris* of Reading, Berkshire on May 30th.

*Mervyn and Elizabeth Goddard* of Salisbury, Wiltshire on June 6th.

*Alan and Monica Stretton* of Wigston, Leicestershire on June 6th.

### DIAMOND ANNIVERSARIES

#### Congratulations to:

*Norman and Joan Wallbridge* of Hailsham, East Sussex on June 5th.

### SPECIAL ANNIVERSARIES

#### Congratulations to:

*Samuel and Grace Keating* of Exmouth, Devon who celebrated 67 years of marriage on June 6th.

*Harold and Mary Wren* of Birmingham, West Midlands who celebrated 64 years of marriage on June 10th.

*Hugh and Jane Rance* of Rottingdean, East Sussex who celebrated 64 years of marriage on June 17th.

*Arnold and Edna Stratton* of Alvechurch, Worcestershire who celebrated 65 years of marriage on June 18th.

### ACHIEVEMENTS

#### Congratulations to:

Daniel Peers on obtaining a BSc(Hons) in Media and Media Technology recently. In May, whilst off the Great Barrier Reef in Australia, he also passed a diploma in Scuba Diving. He is the grandson of *Clifford and Irene Gower*.

### DEATHS

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

**Ann O'Neill** of Birmingham, West Midlands on May 16th. She was the widow of *Laurence O'Neill*.

**Louisa Bice** of Wimborne, Dorset on May 20th. She was the widow of *Thomas Bice*.

**Mary Fowler** of Cranbrook, Kent on May 28th. She was the widow of *Hugh Fowler*.

**Lavinia Fitzpatrick** of Barrow-in-Furness, Cumbria on May 31st. She was the widow of *Bernard Fitzpatrick*.

**Lilly Webb** of Eastborne, East Sussex on June 4th. She was the widow of *Frank Webb*.

**Winn Scull** of Canterbury, Kent on June 5th. She was the widow of **Frederick Scull**.

Our sympathy goes to their family and friends.

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## IN MEMORY

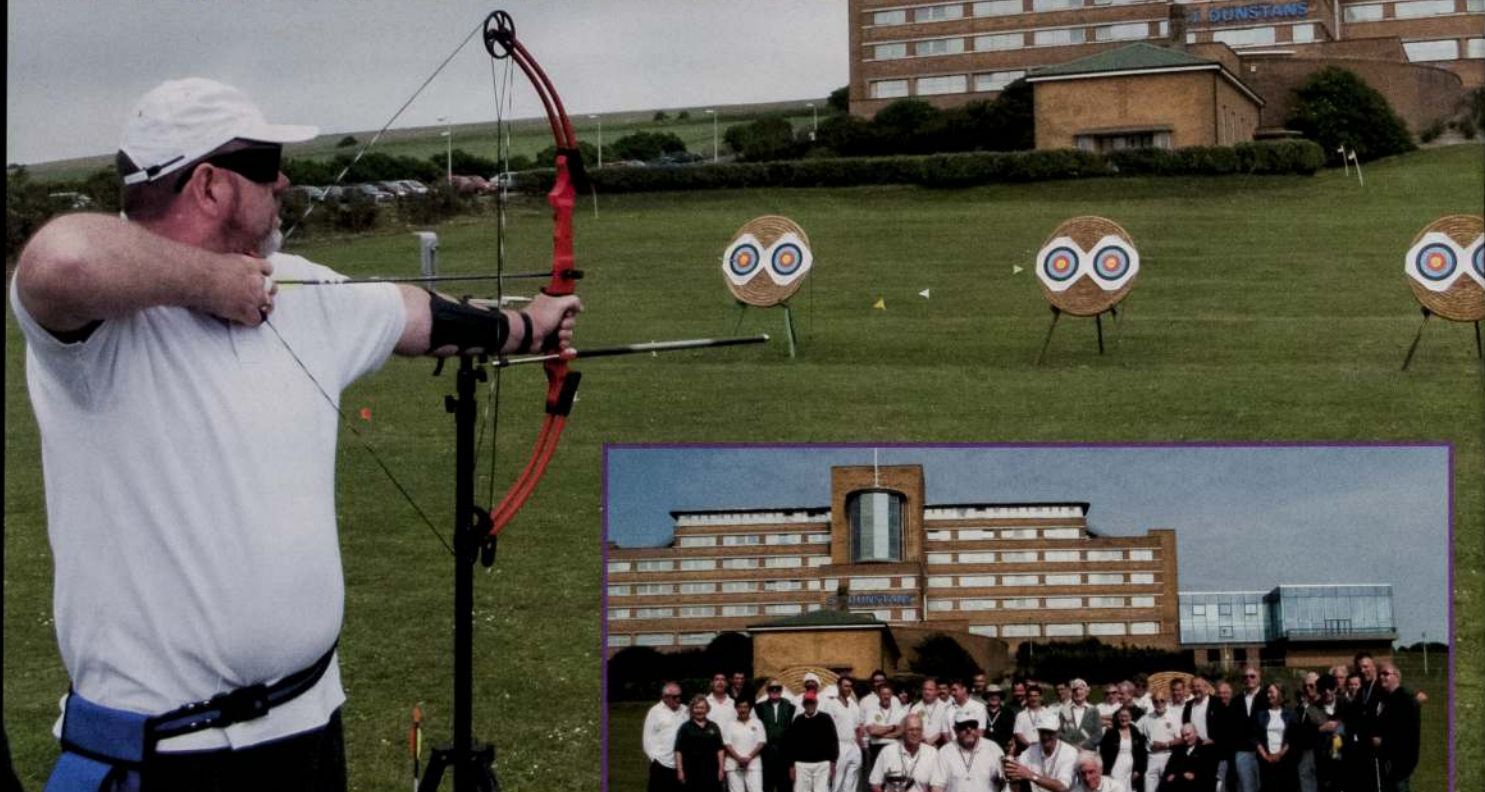
### Herbert Mead Wiltshire Regiment

Herbert George Mead of Taunton, Somerset died on May 20th, aged 90. He served in the East Surreys, Queen's Regiment and the Wiltshire Regiment between 1931 and 1945. He was evacuated from Dunkirk and subsequently took part in the D-Day invasion on Sword beach with the Canadian Forces. On leaving the services he worked in industry. Our sympathy goes to his widow Joan, daughters, son and all other members of the family.



The Archery Club have a Tri-service toxophily triumph

## Three Services are on target with St Dunstan's Archers



**S**T DUNSTAN'S ARCHERS beat the Army, Navy and Air Force in St Dunstan's Annual Tri-Service Archery Challenge. St Dunstaners Tom Roddy, Peter Hammond, Dennis Crouch and Leslie George won the day on June 10th.

Last year it was the Royal Air Force who were flying high, but this year it was St Dunstan's who were victorious. They achieved a sixty point lead over the RAF and bigger leads over the Army and Navy teams.

Over 30 archers, blind and sighted, took part in the event with the best four scores being used to determine the winning teams. The Navy were at a slight disadvantage, since they only had two representatives.

Of course, all three Services seemed determined to improve their game for next year's match at Sandhurst.

**Top left:** St Dunstaner Peter Hammond draws back his bow for a winning shot. **Above:** The Tri-Service team with St Dunstan's victors. **Below:** Army archer Lee Miller takes aim.

